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## News

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Digital release date: April 2, 2013

CD release date: April 30, 2013

### **Pianist Jorge Federico Osorio Revives An Electrifying Mexican Masterwork On Cedille Records**

**Osorio and the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México,  
Conducted by Carlos Miguel Prieto, Perform  
Carlos Chávez's 1940 Piano Concerto**

*Album also offers solo piano pieces  
by Chávez, José Pablo Moncayo,  
and Samuel Zyman*

Rarely performed or recorded, Mexican composer Carlos Chávez's thrilling 1940 piano concerto takes center stage on a new Cedille Records CD with pianist Jorge Federico Osorio and the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México, Mexico's flagship orchestra, conducted by its music director Carlos Miguel Prieto.

The album also offers solo piano works by Chávez and two other Mexican-born composers: Chávez's *Meditación*, José Pablo Moncayo's *Muros Verdes*, and the world-premiere recording of Samuel Zyman's *Variations on an Original Theme*. The album was released digitally on April 2 and will be released on CD April 30 (Cedille Records CDR 90000 140).

#### **The Concerto**

In the CD liner notes, Uruguayan-born composer, Latin music professor, and internationally syndicated Chicago radio broadcaster Elbio Barilari writes, "Chávez's music is, at once, austere and extraordinarily energetic; cosmopolitan and up-to-date, while being completely

and unequivocally Mexican.”

Chávez (1899–1978) composed his three-movement Piano Concerto on commission from the Guggenheim Foundation.

The concerto is an electrifying journey through startling tempo changes and a whirlwind of styles. Legendary pianist Eugene List, who gave its world premiere in New York in 1942, marveled at its “immense rhythmic complexity, great technical difficulty and unrelenting thrust and pressure.” Reviewing the premiere, *The New York Times* called the work “imaginatively scored” and praised its “elemental strength and the originality of its orchestral coloring.”

Pianist Osorio, a Mexican-born, European-trained concert artist based in the Chicago area, calls this work “the most dramatic Mexican concerto.” He compares it to “contemplating a mural by Diego Rivera . . . a big work, a big picture also full of small details.” For Osorio, the concerto’s defining characteristic is “la energía!”

### **Solo Piano Works**

Chávez’s *Meditación* (1918), written when he was just 19, is a work whose “romantic garb hides a very original structure,” Barilari writes. The piece is “a remarkable musical discourse in which the right and left hands are often independent.”

A student of Chávez, Moncayo (1912–1958) named his 1951 *Muros Verdes* (Green Walls) for a Mexico City park where he liked to take long walks. According to Barilari, some of Moncayo’s techniques “anticipate . . . the piano-jazz language of McCoy Tyner, Herbie Hancock, and Chick Corea,” while others “prefigure the modal jazz of the 1960s and 70s.”

Zyman was born in 1956 in Mexico City. He studied piano and composition in Mexico and at The Juilliard School, where he received his degrees in composition and now serves on the faculty. Zyman’s *Variations on an Original Theme*, from 2007, is “a vertiginous voyage to a variety of different sonic landscapes,” Barilari writes. Played as a single continuous movement,

it consists of a long, dramatic theme with variations that “offer a kaleidoscopic vision of the original material.”

### **Recording Credits**

This album was recorded in Mexico and the U.S. The Chávez Piano Concerto was produced by Bogdan Zawistowski and engineered by Humberto Terán and Zawistowski in sessions March 7–11, 2011, in the Sala Nezahualcóyotl, Centro Cultural Universitario UNAM in Mexico City. The solo works were produced by James Ginsburg and engineered by Bill Maylone October 24–25, 2102, in the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio at 98.7 WFMT, Chicago.

### **About the Pianist**

Jorge Federico Osorio has been internationally acclaimed for his superb musicianship, powerful technique, vibrant imagination, and deep passion. He has performed with many of the world’s leading ensembles, including the symphony orchestras of Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Seattle; the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México; the Israel, Warsaw, and Royal Philharmonics; the Moscow State Orchestra; Orchestre Nationale de France; Philharmonia Orchestra; and Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw Orchestra. Concert tours have taken him to Europe, Asia, and North, Central, and South America. United States festival appearances have included the Hollywood Bowl, Ravinia, Newport, and Grant Park Festivals.

Osorio began his music studies at age five with his mother and later attended the conservatories of Mexico, Paris, and Moscow, where he studied with Jacob Milstein. His mentors include Bernard Flavigny, Nadia Reisenberg, and Wilhelm Kempff. This is Osorio’s fifth album for Cedille Records. His previous Cedille recordings include *Salón Mexicano*, *Mexican Piano Music by Manuel M. Ponce*, *Piano Español* — which marked him as one of the world’s great interpreters of Spanish piano music — and an album of works by Debussy and

Liszt. Osorio has also recorded for the Artek, ASV, CBS, EMI, IMP, and Naxos labels. His website is [jorgefedericoosorio.com](http://jorgefedericoosorio.com).

### **Cedille Records**

Grammy award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) has been dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area since its launch in late 1989.

The audiophile-oriented label is releasing the album *Carlos Chávez Piano Concerto* as a physical CD; a 96 kHz, 24-bit, studio quality FLAC download; and a 320 Kbps MP3 download.

Cedille Records is distributed in the Western Hemisphere by Naxos of America and its distribution partners, by Select Music in the U.K., and by other independent distributors in major international classical music markets.

An independent nonprofit enterprise, Cedille Records is the label of Cedille Chicago, NFP (formerly The Chicago Classical Recording Foundation). For a free catalog and the locations of local retail outlets, contact Cedille Records, 1205 W. Balmoral Ave., Chicago, IL 60640; call (773) 989-2515; e-mail: [info@cedillerecords.org](mailto:info@cedillerecords.org). Website: [cedillerecords.org](http://cedillerecords.org)

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***CARLOS CHÁVEZ PIANO CONCERTO***  
**(Cedille Records CDR 90000 140)**

**Carlos Chávez: Piano Concerto (36:32); *Meditación* (5:09)**

**José Pablo Moncayo: *Muros Verdes* (6:36)**

**Samuel Zyman: *Variations on an Original Theme* (16:00)**

**Jorge Federico Osorio, piano**  
**Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México,**  
**Carlos Miguel Prieto, conductor**