

Alex Jimenez Ruanova
Composer
Mexico City, 1979

Alex's music is marked by his attention to the finest of technical details. His bold, inventive and unmistakably distinctive sound is a favorite among performers and listeners alike. He has already received several prizes and commissions and his music is performed both nationally and internationally.

Alex has several works to be premiered in 2016, among them "Music Interruptions to Aventuras de Clavileño" for piano 4 hands commissioned by Duo Cervantes, and to be premiered in Spain, Poland and Mexico. As well as Concerto for Piano N°1 that is in progress, commissioned by the pianist Daria Iossifova. Furthermore, the premier of his "Music Interruptions to Diana Cazó Cabeza en el Circo" for Orchestra, commissioned and to be premiered by the Symphony Orchestra of Oaxaca, Mexico.

Last May (2015) Alex was resident composer at the Dora Maar House Fellowship (The Brown Foundation) in Ménerbes, France.

One of the last projects that Alex led was the tour to Mexico of the Polish ensemble "Cracow Duo" (Jan Kalinowski and Marek Szlezer)

His composition 'Music for Theater (Music interruptions to Diana Cazadora de Cabezas)' won honorable mention in the fourth annual call for scores by the 'New Music Ensemble of the Bowling Green State University.

In 2013 Duo LUXA premiered "LUX a Duo", composition commissioned by the 41 Festival Internacional Cervantino in Guanajuato, Mexico. Around this project, Alex imparted several conferences about Polish Composers from 20th and 21st Centuries and the relation with his own compositions in different music schools and universities in Mexico.

In 2012 his "Partita" for solo violin was premiered in the festival "Dni Muzyki Kompozytorów Krakowskich" in Krakow, Poland.

Among the different music ensembles and orchestras that have premiered Alex's compositions are Askó | Schönberg ensemble, National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, Philharmonic Orchestra of Mexico City, RE: Orchestra, "triO+", Sounds of Mexico, Carlos Chavez Orchestra and Hi-Lo trio.

The Festival 'Instrumenta Oaxaca' in Mexico commissioned him "Trombone Concerto and Small ensemble" premiered by Faustino Diaz and Jose Luis Castillo.

"Ritmato a 3" for Flute, Bass Clarinet and Piano, wins the workshop - competition organized by Juan Trigos in collaboration with Ensemble 3 and premiered at the Italian Cultural Institute in Mexico City in 2010.

In 2010 Alex did an artistic residency at Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France.

As an entrepreneur, Alex has done an extensive work producing, organizing and leading several projects. In 2009 he organized the tour for the Dutch ensemble "trio-to-go" to Mexico, presenting concerts, seminars and workshops of his piece "Trio Ritmato 2" in the International Festival Chihuahua (FICH), at the Conservatorio de las Rosas in Morelia, Seminario Abierto de Música Contemporánea in the Escuela Nacional de Musica and in the Instituto Cardenal Miranda in Mexico.

In 2011 Alex worked as program curator and producer of concerts' series and master classes as part of the Expo "Crisssis – America Latina, Arte y Confrontación" at Bellas Artes and the Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana in Mexico, imparted by the guitarist Dieter Hennings.

In 2012 he also worked as project leader of the trio LUXA 21 for its tour Mexico – US together with the Orquesta Sinfónica de la Universidad de Guanajuato and its principal conductor Juan Trigos.

Some of the former teachers of Alex are Georgina Derbez, Xavier Gonzalez, Gustavo Morales, Jorge Torres and Horacio Uribe, Jose Suarez and Mario Lavista, he also participated in courses of Analysis and composition with Luca Cori, Victor Rasgado, and the master classes and workshops with Paul Barker, Alfredo Del Monaco, Stefano Scodanibbio, Steve Reich, Brian Ferneyhough, Yinan Leef and Juan Trigos.

Between the Institutions Alex attended are the Instituto Cardenal Miranda and Escuela Superior de Musica in Mexico City, the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

In 2010 he obtains a Master Degree in Composition with Klaas de Vries as main teacher, and Rene Uijlenhoet, Peter Jan Wagemans, and Carlo Balemans at the Rotterdam Conservatoire (CODARTS) in the Netherlands.

Alex obtained a grant from the minister of culture FONCA - CONACYT in Mexico to accomplish a doctorate in composition at the Akademia Muzyczna w Krakowie, in Poland with professors Wojciech Widlak and Krzysztof Penderecki.

“Music Interruptions to Diana Cazadora de Cabezas” (Music for Theater of Hemofiction)

2012

Instrumentation:

- Clarinet in Bb
- Bass Clarinet Bb
- Horn
- Percussion 1 / Percusión 1: Vibraphone (Vibráfono), Crotales 2 octaves (Crótalos 2 octavas), Cowbells C1-C2 (Do1-Do2), Tam-tam, Gran Cassa, Susp. Sizzle Cymbal (Platillo Sizzle suspendido), Susp. Splash Cymbal (Platillo Splash suspendido), Medium Word-block
- Percussion 2 / Percusión 2: Claves, Susp. Small Crash Cymbal (Platillo Crash pequeño suspendido), Susp. Bigg Crash Cymbal (Platillo Crash grande suspendido), Susp. China Cymbal (Platillo China suspendido), 5 Temple-blocks, Gran Cassa (shared with percusión 1 / Compartida con percusión 1), 4 Boobams different pitches (diferentes alturas), Marimba, Gongs Low F, medium D, E, F and G (Fa grave, Re, Mi, Fa y Sol medios)
- Violin
- Viola
- Violoncello
- Contrabass

Duration: 10 minutes c.a.

Place and year of recording: Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 2012

Premiered by Asko/Schoenberg Ensemble and Bas Wieger, conductor

Synopsis of Diana cazó cabeza en el circo.

She is a lady of sword, bow, and arrows, female of the circus. She is a Huntress, Bad woman, bad fiancé. She lifts weights. She is a lonely creature of the circus, Amazon from a comic strip. She is fierce, blond. She thinks herself a friend of Richard the Lionheart. She made love to all men and to none. Germans and Italians have submitted to her grace. She has started to get old. She shaves her face nastily. Her beauty is vanishing. She has the opportunity to get married to an inferior brunette man, and to return home as a hard-working madam. Jorge, her victim, rejects her so she kills him in a nice way. Nothing is more insulting to her than the disdain from an inferior being. Diana, emerging from a comic strip as a warrior, cuts Jorge's head, Inferior Mexican who just wanted to commit adultery, to possess the huntress sexually and return home to his boring marriage with his wife, bringing a new trophy. He wanted to kiss Diana's mouth and get into her vagina. She steps forward and kills him. Jorge's head is a huntress's trophy. Diana puts the head to rest for a century inside the wardrobe, where the head speaks like a parrot every time she pinches, bites, or slaps it. After she sliced it, Diana howled like a wolf. Jorge's Head reclaims for justice.