

Luis Ramirez

Composer | Pianist | Conductor

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1. BIOGRAPHY

Born and raised in Aguascalientes, Mexico, Luis Ramirez is a Mexican-Canadian composer with an affinity towards rhythmically colorful textures and visually-evocative sonic worlds, which often incorporate elements of Mexican folklore and a cinematographic approach to musical storytelling. He is currently pursuing doctoral studies in Composition at York University in Toronto with Randolph Peters, in which he is exploring the digital landscape for music-making and humanity's often pernicious dynamics with the internet.

Luis has been awarded numerous scholarships and has performed across Mexico, Canada, Italy, and Serbia. He has had multiple works commissioned, with premieres at the *Casalmaggiore Festival* in Italy, *AugustFest* in Manitoba, *Festival Cervantino* in Mexico, and *the Class Axe Workshop* across Canada. His work *Chido* was premiered by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra during the *Winnipeg New Music Festival 2018* as winner of the CMC Prairie Region Emerging Composer Competition, and in 2019 *Chido* was awarded the first prize of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Awards of the SOCAN Foundation. Other prestigious awards include the OAC Music Creation Projects Grant with Amarras Tango Quintet and the Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Award. He was the first recipient of the Jacques Israelievitch Scholarship at York University, established to honour Toronto Symphony Orchestra's longest tenured Concertmaster. Luis was recently selected as a Composer Fellow for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and commissioned by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Gabrielle Israelievitch, and Trio Kalysta.

Luis began his career as a pianist, and his interest in composition emerged as a consequence of performing contemporary music. In 2012 he received a full scholarship to study at Brandon University in Manitoba where he earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance and Master of Music degree in 2016 studying with Alexander Tselyakov. He subsequently obtained a Master of Music degree in Composition with Dr. Patrick Carrabré at Brandon University the following year.

An eclectic musician, Luis has toured as a classical pianist, performed Latin-American music at various festivals, conducted the Brandon Community Orchestra, presented his academic research at conferences around the world, and is the artistic director of the Amarras Tango Quintet.

2. PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

a. Academic Qualifications

Present	Doctor in Philosophy (Composition). York University - Toronto, ON Advisor: Randolph Peters
2017	Master of Music (Composition). Brandon University - Brandon, MB Instructor: Patrick Carrabré
2016	Master of Music (Piano Performance). Brandon University - Brandon, MB Instructor: Alexander Tselyakov
2014	Bachelor of Music (Piano Performance). Brandon University - Brandon, MB Instructor: Alexander Tselyakov

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b. Professional Development

- 2020 Selected as winner of the HPO Composer Fellowship Program. Hamilton, ON
- 2019 Duo526 Summer Intensive Sonata Seminar. Brandon, MB
- 2018 CMC Class Axe Guitar Workshop. Toronto, ON
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Composers Institute. Winnipeg, MB
- 2017 Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Composers Institute. Winnipeg, MB
- 2016 Tuckamore Chamber Music Festival. St. John's, NL
International Keyboard Institute and Festival. New York, US
Centric Music Festival. Lethbridge, AB
- 2015 Centric Music Festival. Lethbridge, AB
- 2014 Casalmaggiore International Chamber Music Festival. Casalmaggiore, Italy
World Piano Conference for Teachers Association. Novi Sad, Serbia
Centric Music Festival. Lethbridge, AB

c. Honours

- 2020 **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)**
Winner of the Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship
Ontario Arts Council
Recipient of the Music Creation Projects Grant with Amarras Tango Quintet
- 2019 **SOCAN Foundation**
1st prize of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Award for *Chido*, for symphony orchestra
- 2018 **Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region Emerging Composers Competition**
Winner and premiere of *Chido* with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
York University Graduate Studies
Jacques Israelievitch Scholarship in Interdisciplinary Arts
The Susan Crocker and John Hunkin Graduate Scholarship in the Fine Arts
- 2017 **Brandon University Graduate Studies**
Brandon University Gold Medal in the Master of Music (Composition) for Highest GPA
- 2015 President's International Music Scholarship
- 2013 **Third International Composition Competition Nuestra América**
First Mention award; premiere and recording of string quartet *¿Viva?* by the José White String Quartet
Brandon University Undergraduate Studies
Brandon University International Undergraduate Student Scholarships
President's International Music Scholarship
Inducted into President's Honour Society
- 2012 President's International Music Scholarship
National Endowment for the Arts and Culture (FONCA), Mexico
Bursary for Studies in A Foreign Country

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3. LIST OF WORKS

a. Chamber

- 10/2019-11-2021 Tangos for violin, violoncello, bandoneon, piano, and bass
- *Infierno* (4')
- *Espera* (4')
- *Choque* (4')
- *Asilo* (4')
- *Astenia* (4')
- *Malicia* (4')
- *Insidia* (4')
- *Éxodo* (4')
- *Zozobra* (4')
Commissioned by Amarras Tango as recipient of the Music Creation Projects Grant by the Ontario Arts Council. Toronto, ON.
- 06/2021 - [Koatl, for small orchestra](#) (8')
Commissioned by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra as a Composer Fellow, sponsored by the RBC Emerging Artists Project. Hamilton, ON.
- 08/2019 - [Azure, for viola and piano](#) (21')
Commissioned by David Wilson for AugustFest 2019. Premiered by Greg Hay and Donna Laube, Brandon, MB.
- 04/2017 - *Reflections of the Internet*, Final Composition Recital
1. [The Internet, for soprano and piano](#) (3'40")
2. [Adagio detestabile, for piano and video](#) (5'10")
3. [Infoxiation, for piano and phone](#) (4'20")
4. [My first Vlog, for basset horn and audio](#) (6'35")
5. [Coquette, for cello and piano](#) (7'20")
6. [Amigos, for violin, cello, and piano](#) (10')
7. [kthxbye, for soprano and piano](#) (4')
Premiered by Jaimie Rose, Catherine Seeley, Alexandra Harrington, Alanna Hunter, Josías Sánchez, and Luis Ramirez. Brandon, MB.
- 06/2015 - [Homage a Neil Degrasse Tyson, for piano four hands and video](#) (7')
Premiered by Jesse Plessis and Luis Ramirez at Centric Festival, Lethbridge, AB.
- 08/2014 - *Three Paraprosdokians*, for clarinet, violin, cello, piano
1. [Jamais Vu](#) (3'20) 2. [Sock](#) (9') 3. [Colorshift](#) (8')
Commissioned by David Wilson for AugustFest, Brandon, MB. Premiered by Gillian Carrabré, Ariel Carrabré, Chris Byman, and Luis Ramirez.
- 08/2013 - [¿Viva?, for string quartet](#) (10'11")
Premiered by the José White String Quartet as winner in the Third International Composition Competition *Nuestra América*.
Recorded in 2017 and distributed in their album *Nuestra América 2013-2014*.

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04/2013 - [Balaboo, for piano four hands](#) (4'40")
Premiered by Jesse Plessis and Luis Ramirez, Brandon, MB. Performed during Casalmaggiore Festival with Madeline Hildebrand and Luis Ramirez.

b. Ensemble

04/2018 - [The Threshold of Sleep, for symphony orchestra](#) (7')
Premiered by the Brandon Community Orchestra, Brandon, MB.

01/2018 - [Chido, for symphony orchestra](#) (5')
Premiered by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra during Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra New Music Festival 2018, as winner of the CMC Prairie Region Emerging Composer Competition.

08/2017 - [Symphonic Speedrun, for concert band](#) (8'30")
Premiered by the Brandon University Symphonic Band, Brandon, MB.

02/2017 - [The ending, for two cellos, soprano sax, melodica, piano, and audio](#) (6'30")
Premiered by the Brandon University New Music Ensemble during the Winnipeg New Music Festival.

c. Solo

04/2019 - [Singularity, for guitar and audio](#) (6'40")
Composed as participant of CMC Class Axe 2019. Premiered by Daniel Ramjattan in Toronto, by An-Laurence Higgins in Montréal, and by Craig Visser in Ottawa.

05/2018 - [My First Vlog, arranged for violoncello and video](#) (6'35")
Premiered by Alanna Hunter, Brandon, MB.

07/2014 - [First Steps, for piano](#) (4'40")
Premiered by Luis Ramirez during the Casalmaggiore Festival in Italy.

4. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

a. Composer

2019 **Premiere** of *Azure* for viola and piano, commissioned by David Wilson for the AugustFest, Brandon, MB
Premiere of *Singularity* for guitar and audio as participant of the CMC Class Axe 2019, Toronto, ON

2018 **Music producer and director** for the Bell MTS five short documentaries, *In the Archives*, directed by Tom Mitchell
Premiere of *Chido* as winner of the CMC Prairie Region Emerging Composer Competition, with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra during the WNMF

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- 2017 **Premieres** of *The Internet*, *Adagio detestabile*, *Infocication*, *My First Vlog*, *Coquette*, *Amigos*, and *kthxbye* during final graduation recital, Brandon, MB
Recording of *¿Viva?* in the Album *Nuestra América 2013-2014* by string quartet "Cuarteto José White" as winner in the composition competition *Nuestra América*
- 2014-2016 **Guest artist/Composer** for the Centric Festival in Lethbridge, AB. Eight concerts performing as a soloist, in chamber music, and as composer
- 2014 **Premiere** of *Three Paraprosdokians*, for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano, commissioned by David Wilson for the AugustFest, Brandon, MB
Premiere of *First Steps*, in Casalmaggiore, Italy, during the Contemporary International Music Exchange (CIME) at the Casalmaggiore Festival

b. Performer

- 2019 **Member** of professional Tango Quintet *Amarras*, Toronto, ON
- 2016 **Piano solo recitals** in Brandon, Winnipeg, Gimli, Saskatoon, and Rosetown as winner of MRMTA's Young Artists Tour Competition
Performer during the Virtuosi Concert Series in Winnipeg, as part of their Young Artists Program
- 2014 **Soloist** with the Brandon University Orchestra as winner of the Brandon University Concerto Competition. Brandon, MB
Performer in several recitals during the International Casalmaggiore Music Festival. Casalmaggiore, Italy
Lecturer/Performer on Prokofiev's music, as member of the World Piano Teacher's Association during the World Piano Conference. Novi Sad, Serbia
- 2013 **Performer** of Mexican contemporary music for piano in recital collaborating with the Center for Research and Musical Studies (CIEM) in Mexico. Brandon, MB
- 2012 **Soloist** with the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes Orchestra as winner of the concerto competition. Aguascalientes, Mexico

c. Conductor

- 2019 **Conductor** of the York University Wind Symphony during the final concert of the semester. Toronto, ON
- 2018 **Conductor** of the Brandon Community Orchestra during the final concert of the season, including two world premieres in the program. Brandon, MB
- 2015 **Conductor** of the Brandon University New Music Ensemble during the Brandon New Music Festival. Brandon, MB

5. WORK EXPERIENCE

Positions

- 2020-Present **Graduate Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant**
Technical support for online *Orchestra*, *Wind Symphony*, and *Digital Music I*
- 2019-2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant**
Assistant conductor for York University's Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony

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- 2018-2019 **Graduate Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant**
Grading and teaching tutorials for *Workshop in Musicianship I* | Technical support for *Intro to Scoring for Films, Games, and Motion Media; Composing for Film*.
York University, Toronto, ON
- 2017-Present **Freelance Composer and Copyist**
Working on several commissioned pieces and as a copyist for private clients
- 2017-2018 **Orchestra Conductor**
Director and board member of the Brandon Community Orchestra. Brandon, MB
- 2014-2018 **Music Director**
Choir conductor and pianist for Redeemer Lutheran Church. Brandon, MB
- 2012-2018 **Collaborative Pianist**
Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory Chorale (2014-18), Suzuki Talent Education Program (2014-17), Brandon University music students (2012-18), Western Manitoba Youth Choir (2015-17), Steppin' Time Dance School (2015-18)
- 2017 **Art Gallery Administrator**
Administrator at Wasagaming Community Arts. Documenting items for inventory, control of sales in the exhibition areas and gallery boutique, daily cash and point-of-sale reconciliation, managing the preparation of promotional materials, marketing materials, social media and website management. Onanole, MB
- 2016-2018 **Research Assistant**
Web maintenance, development of research profiles, and general assistance to the director of the Institute for Research in Music and Community. Brandon, MB
- 2015-2017 **Sound Engineer Assistant**
Technical assistance for the Brandon University New Music Festival. Brandon, MB
- 2012-2017 **Backstage Assistant and Equipment Manager**
Recording manager, lighting operator, facilities inspector, and technical support for Brandon University. Brandon, MB