

Luis Ramirez

Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Director of the Brandon University Orchestra, Brandon University

Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) in Composition, York University

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Education

Ph.D. Composition (ABD) , York University, Toronto, ON	2018–present
Expected completion Spring 2027. Advisor: Randolph Peters. Dissertation: “Video Editing as an Extended Compositional Technique”	
Online Artist Diploma (Composition) , OAcademy / Harvard University Gabriela Ortiz Composing Studio	2023
M.Mus. Composition , Brandon University	2017
Instructor: Dr. Patrick Carrabré. Gold Medal, highest GPA.	
M.Mus. Piano Performance , Brandon University	2016
Instructor: Alexander Tselyakov.	
B.Mus. Piano Performance , Brandon University	2014
Instructor: Alexander Tselyakov. Greatest Distinction. Honour Society.	

Academic Appointments and Professional Positions

Director of the Brandon University Orchestra , Brandon University	2026–present
Assistant Professor of Music Theory , Brandon University	2025–present
Undergraduate courses: 64:110 Materials of Music; 64:180 Foundations of Tonal Melody and Harmony; 64:182/183 & 282/283 Aural & Keyboard Skills I-IV; 64:362 Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis; 64:332 Formal Functions in Tonal Music. Graduate courses: 63:628/629 Applied Composition III & IV, 63:690 Music Bibliography and Research Methods.	
Graduate Teaching Assistant / Course Director / Research Assistant , York University	2018–2025
Course Director: Composition Studio I (2021–22; 2024). Designed a new first-year course focused on compositional concepts and skills applicable across a diverse range of musical genres and styles. Graduate Teaching Assistant: Music of Bollywood Films (2023–24); Rock and Popular Music (Summer 2022, Summer 2023); Theory II keyboard skills (2022–23); Workshop in Musicianship I (2018–19, grading and tutorials); Intro to Scoring for Films, Games, and Motion Media; Composing for Film (2018–19, technical support). Research Assistant: video editing and tech for ensembles (technical support and video editor for Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and Digital Music I, 2020–21); assistant conductor, Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony (2019–20).	
Orchestra Conductor and Board Member , Brandon Community Orchestra	2017–2018
Art Gallery Administrator , Wasagaming Community Arts, Onanole, MB	2017
Research Assistant , Institute for Research in Music and Community, Brandon University	2016–2018
Web maintenance, development of research profiles, and general assistance to the director.	
Music Director , Redeemer Lutheran Church, Brandon	2015–2017
Sound Engineer Assistant , Brandon University New Music Festival	2015–2017
Graduate Teaching Assistant , Brandon University	2014–2016
Director of the New Music Ensemble, Brandon University.	
Piano Instructor , Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory, Brandon, MB	2014–2018
Collaborative Pianist	2012–2018
Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory Chorale, 2014–18; Suzuki Talent Education, 2014–17; Brandon University students, 2012–18; Western Manitoba Youth Choir, 2015–17; Steppin’ Time Dance School, 2015–18.	
Backstage Assistant and Equipment Manager , Brandon University	2012–2017

Commissions

Orchestral / Large Ensemble

- Florence Price *Fantasie no. 1*, arr. for violin and symphony orchestra 2025
Commissioned by Amy Hillis; performed with Regina Symphony (Gordon Gerrard).
- The Mechanics of Bloom*, string ensemble 2025
Commissioned by Brandon Chamber Players; premiere in the Brandon spring season.
- Picante*, symphony orchestra 2023
Commissioned by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Performed by TSO (Gimeno); Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México, Palacio de Bellas Artes; Edmonton Symphony Orchestra; Calgary Philharmonic; Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.
- Koatl*, symphony orchestra 2022
Commissioned by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. HPO Composer Fellow (Kulesha).
- Mi Piñata*, symphony orchestra 2022
Commissioned by TSO. Performed by TSO (Gimeno); San Francisco Symphony (Bartholomew-Poyser).
- Chido*, symphony orchestra (not commissioned) 2018/rev.2026
Winner, CMC Prairie Emerging Composer Competition; 1st Prize, SOCAN Sir Ernest MacMillan Award.
Premiere: WSO (Mickelthwate), Winnipeg New Music Festival, January 30, 2018. Later: Calgary Philharmonic (2022).
Recordings: Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (Wijeratne); NACO EarShot (Henry Kennedy, 2025).
- Symphonic Speedrun*, concert band 2017
Commissioned and premiered by BU Symphonic Band.

Chamber

- Drawn*, fl/ob/cl + vn/va/vc 2025
Commissioned and premiered by The Happenstancers (Toronto). SOCAN Canadian New Music Workshop recording, Glenn Gould New Music Ensemble (Brian Current).
- Trazos*, two pencils 2025
Premiered by BU New Music Ensemble, Brandon University New Music Festival, January 2026.
- Leaven*, string quartet 2024
Commissioned by Atlys. Streaming release. Upcoming: WSO string players, Winnipeg New Music Festival, Jan 31, 2027. Nominated for Western Canadian Music Awards Composer of the Year 2026.
- Iridescence*, violin and piano 2024
Commissioned and premiered by Duo Concertante (premiere: Tuckamore, 2024). Tuckamore; Longshadow (Yellowknife); East Coast tours NS/NL 2025–26.
- Internal Galaxies*, soprano and piano 2024
Commissioned by Sarah Jo Kirsch and Madeline Hildebrand. Music on Main, Vancouver.
- Volador*, flute, viola, harp 2023
Commissioned and premiered by Trio Kalysta. SMCQ In memoriam Jocelyn Morlock, Montréal, 2025.
- Immigration Suite* (tango cycle and arrangements) 2019–2022
Commissioned by Amarras Tango Quintet. OAC Music Creation Projects Grant. Movements include *Sola*, *Insidia*, *Infierno*, *Espera*, *Choque*, *Asilo*, *Malicia*, *Éxodo*, *Astenia*, *Zozobra*.
Arrangements for clarinet for Brandon Chamber Players; *Sola* and *Insidia* for string orchestra + bandoneon for the Orchestre Classique de Montréal; and a selection of them for two violins, cello, bass, and piano for Rosamunde Summer Festival.
- Prompt*, two tenor saxophones + audio 2022
Commissioned by GroundSwell. 3rd Prize, SOCAN Solo & Duet. Duo d'Entre Deux.
- Nanotrek no. 1*, string quartet 2022
Commissioned and premiered by Strong Harbour String Quartet, St. John's. Later performed in the Contemporary Music Initiative, Winnipeg, 2025.

- Azure*, viola and piano 2019
Commissioned by David Wilson, AugustFest. US premiere: Ezra Duo, Emerald Coast Chamber Music Festival, Florida, 2025.
- ¿Viva?, string quartet (not commissioned) 2013
Nuestra América prize; José White String Quartet; recorded in their album in 2017.

Multimedia / Solo / Interdisciplinary

- New Work, piano solo 2027
Commissioned by Katherine Dowling, for the Women's Musical Club of Toronto.
- Doomsurfer*, piano + audio/video 2022
Commissioned by GroundSwell. Video/performance by composer.
- Singularity*, guitar + audio 2019
Commissioned by CMC Class Axe. Barlow Prize Honourable Mention 2023. Premieres: Daniel Ramjattan, An-Laurence Higgins, Craig Visser. Recorded by Ramjattan in his *Inspirations* album.

Performance History

2027 (upcoming)

- Jan 31, 2027** *Leaven*, WSO string players (quartet), Winnipeg New Music Festival, Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg, MB.

2026

- Oct 2026** *Picante*, Orquesta Sinfónica de Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, Mexico.
- Aug 2026** World premiere of a new arrangement of *Immigration Suite* (excerpts) for two violins, cello, bass, and piano. Mark Fewer & Elation Pauls, violins; Denise Djokic, cello; Matt Baker, bass; Luis Ramirez, piano. Rosamunde Festival, Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, MB.
- May 2026** *Dogwalk*, SunDog Ensemble, Cluster Festival.
- May 2026** *Sola* (*Immigration Suite*, arr. string orchestra + bandoneon) released on ATMA Classique (*Solstice*). Orchestre Classique de Montréal, Jean-Marie Zeitouni; Leni/Denis Plante, bandoneon.
- 2026** *Chido* recording (from the Jan 2025 Winspear Centre performance) published by Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (Dinuk Wijeratne).
- Jan 2026** *Trazos* world premiere, BU New Music Ensemble, Brandon University New Music Festival, Brandon, MB.
- 2026** *Iridescence*, Duo Concertante (Longshadow, Yellowknife; Tuckamore, St. John's).

2025

- Dec 10, 2025** *Iridescence*, Duo Concertante, The Music Room Chamber Players Series, Halifax, NS.
- Nov 2025** *Chido*, NACO EarShot (Henry Kennedy), Ottawa; recording.
- Nov 2025** *Insidia* & *Sola* arr., OCM, Zeitouni / Plante, Montréal.
- Nov 2025** Florence Price *Fantasie no. 1* arr., Amy Hillis + Regina Symphony (Gerrard).
- Nov 2025** *Drawn* recorded, Glenn Gould New Music Ensemble (Current).
- Oct 19, 2025** *Iridescence*, Duo Concertante, Collines-en-musique, Chelsea, QC.
- Jul 31, 2025** Recital of Marika Galea's compositions, Marika Galea & Luis Ramirez, Casa Galería, Aguascalientes, Mexico.
- Jun 2025** *Drawn* premiere, The Happenstancers, Toronto.
- May 2025** *Volador*, Trio Kalysta, SMCQ Morlock tribute, Montréal.
- May 2025** *Nanotrek no. 1*, Contemporary Music Initiative, Winnipeg.
- May 2025** *Azure* US premiere, Ezra Duo, Emerald Coast Chamber Music Festival, Florida.
- Apr 2025** *The Mechanics of Bloom* premiere, Brandon Chamber Players.
- Mar 2025** *Iridescence*, Duo Concertante, East Coast.
- Jan 31, 2025** *Chido*, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (Dinuk Wijeratne), "Fantasy" program, Winspear Centre, Edmonton.
- Jan 2025** *Iridescence*, Duo Concertante, Lyell Gustin House, Saskatoon, SK.

2024 and Earlier

- 2024** *Picante*, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México (OSN/INBAL), 2024 season, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City.
- Oct 2024** *Prompt*, Prisms Festival (featured composer), Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.
- 2024** *Iridescence* premiere, Duo Concertante, Tuckamore Festival, St. John's; *Volador* premiere (Trio Kalista, Ottawa Chamberfest); *Internal Galaxies* (Music on Main); *Leaven* recording (ATLYS).
- 2023** *Picante*, TSO (Gimeno); *Immigration Suite*, Brandon Chamber Players (Brandon and Denver); *Koatl*, Brandon University Orchestra (Zacharias).
- 2022** *Mi Piñata*, SFS and TSO; *Prompt*, GroundSwell; *Nanotrek* premiere, Strong Harbour; *Doomsurfer*, GroundSwell; *Koatl*, HPO; *Immigration Suite*, Luis Ramirez Quintet; *Chido*, Calgary Philharmonic.
- 2019** *Azure*, AugustFest; *Singularity*, Class Axe (Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, Vancouver).
- Jan 30, 2018** *Chido* world premiere, WSO, Winnipeg New Music Festival, Winnipeg.
- 2017** Graduation recital cycle, Brandon; *The ending*, BU New Music Ensemble / Winnipeg New Music Festival.
- 2014** *Three Paraprosdokians*, AugustFest; *First Steps*, Casalmaggiore / CIME.

Recordings and Discography

- *Sola* – ATMA Classique, 2026; OCM / Zeitouni / Plante; *Solstice*.
- *Chido* – Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Youtube Channel, 2026.
- *Leaven* – ATLYS, 2024, streaming.
- *Singularity* – Daniel Ramjattan, *Inspirations* (2022).
- *¿Viva?* – Cuarteto José White, *Nuestra América 2013–2014* (2017).

Publications and Presentations

Peer-reviewed Publications

Ramirez, Luis. "The Humans and the Machine: Perceptual Differences Between Collective and Solo Performances." In *Popular Music Climates. Proceedings from the XXI Biennial Conference of IASPM, Daegu South Korea, 5th – 9th July 2022*. Edited by Kimi Kärki. Turku: International Institute of Popular Culture, 2023.
<https://iipc.utu.fi/iaspm2022/Ramirez.pdf>

Ramirez, Luis. "The Online Composer-Audience Collaboration." In *Innovation in Music: Future Opportunities*, edited by Russ Hepworth-Sawyer, Justin Paterson, and Rob Toulson. London, UK: Routledge & CRC Press, January 2021.
<https://www.routledge.com/Innovation-in-Music-Future-Opportunities/Hepworth-Sawyer-Paterson-Toulson/p/book/9780367363352>.

Articles

Ramirez, Luis. "Internet Culture and Music | Research Connection." Brandon University, 2018.
<https://www.brandonu.ca/research-connection/rc-article/internet-culture-and-music/>.

Ramirez, Luis. "Thank You, Internet." Institute for Research in Music and Community (blog), 2018.
<https://irmc.ca/2018/01/25/thank-you-internet/>.

Conference Presentations

Conference presentations, including video editing as compositional technique and Prokofiev analysis (Innovation in Music, London; Lisbon; and others). Selected papers:

- Jul 2022** "The Humans and the Machine: Perceptual Differences Between Collective and Solo Performances." IASPM XXI Biennial Conference, Daegu, South Korea.
- Jun 2021** "The Online Composer-Audience Collaboration." Canadian University Music Society (MusCan) annual conference, Congress 2021, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB. Awarded the George Proctor Prize for original research in musical scholarship.
- Jun 2021** "The Online Composer-Audience Collaboration." IASPM-Canada 2021: "Big Sounds from Small Places," International Association for the Study of Popular Music Canada, Cape Breton University, Sydney, NS.

Oct 2020	"The Online Composer-Audience Collaboration." "Like, Share and Subscribe: YouTube, Music and Cyberculture Before and After the New Decade," Research Cluster in Music and Cyberculture (CysMus), Centre for the Study of Sociology and Aesthetics of Music (CESEM), Lisbon, Portugal.
Dec 2019	"The Online Composer-Audience Collaboration." Innovation in Music 2019 Conference, University of West London, London, UK.
Apr 2019	"The Online Composer-Audience Collaboration." Research Gala: New Directions in Ethnomusicology and Musicology, York University Music Program, Toronto, ON.
Apr 2019	"The Evolution of Style in Manuel M. Ponce's Intermezzi." American Musicological Society, New York State/St. Lawrence Chapter (NYSSL) conference, Kingston, ON.
Mar 2019	"The Online Composer-Audience Collaboration." Carleton Music and Culture Symposium, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON.
2014	"The Five Styles of Sergei Prokofiev's Piano Music." Invited presentation, 6th World Piano Conference, Novi Sad, Serbia.
2013	Mexican Contemporary Music Piano Recital, in collaboration with the Center for Research and Musical Studies (CIEM), Mexico City; premiered six works. Brandon, MB.

Published Scores

- Canadian Music Centre (CMC) published scores: *Leaven*, *Prompt*, *Azure*, *Koatl*, *Mi Piñata*, *Singularity*, *Chido*, and *Immigration Suite*.

Awards, Grants, and Honours

Awards and Honours

2026	Nominated, Western Canadian Music Awards Composer of the Year (<i>Leaven</i>).
2025	Finalist, TLN Top 10 Hispanic Canadians.
2025	1st Prize, Arts & Letters Club of Toronto Emerging Canadian Composers Competition (<i>Azure</i>).
2023	3rd Prize, SOCAN Solo & Duet (<i>Prompt</i>).
2023	Barlow Honourable Mention (<i>Singularity</i>).
2022	1st Prize, Morelia Orchestral Composition Competition.
2022	TSO NextGen Composer, with commission.
2021	George Proctor Prize, Canadian University Music Society (MusCan), for original research ("The Online Composer-Audience Collaboration").
2019	1st Prize, SOCAN Sir Ernest MacMillan Award (<i>Chido</i>).
2018	CMC Prairie Region Emerging Composer Competition (<i>Chido</i> / WSO premiere).

Grants and Scholarships

- York University CUPE Ph.D. Completion Fund (2024).
- SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral.
- OAC Music Creation Projects (Amarras Tango, The Happenstancers).
- SOCAN travel grants.
- York University: Jacques Israelievitch Graduate Scholarship, Crocker/Hunkin Fine Arts scholarship.
- Brandon University: President's International Music Scholarship.
- Brandon Festival of the Arts piano awards.

Workshops and Fellowships

- HPO Composer Fellowship, 2019–21 (Hamilton, ON).
- Duo526 Sonata Seminar, 2019 (Brandon, MB).
- CMC Class Axe, 2018–19 (Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, Vancouver).
- WSO Composers Institute, 2017, 2018 (Winnipeg, MB).
- Tuckamore Festival, 2016 (St. John's, NL).

- International Keyboard Institute and Festival, 2016 (New York, NY).
- Centric Festival, 2014–16 (Lethbridge, AB).
- Casalmaggiore Festival, 2014 (Casalmaggiore, Italy).
- World Piano Conference, 2014 (Novi Sad, Serbia).

Professional Service and Affiliations

Board Member , GroundSwell, Winnipeg	2023–present
Associate Composer (published) , Canadian Music Centre	2023–present
Member , SOCAN	2023–present
Juror , SOCAN Young Composer Awards	November 2026
Juror , MAKEWAY New Music Concerts	2026
Juror , MusicNL Jazz Artist of the Year	2026
Juror , MusicNL Classical and Group of the Year	2023
Juror , JUNO Classical Composition of the Year	2023
Juror , CMC Ontario Associate Composer applications	2022
Juror , Manitoba Arts Council Create (Music)	2021

Skills

- Sibelius; DAWs; video editing; notation and audio production.
- English (professional), Spanish (native).