

Latin American Cello Repertoire: Teaching and Performing Music by Latin American Composers



Horacio Contreras
CelloBello Teacher Training Seminar
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Why using Latin American Repertoire?



1. There s lots of GREAT music

Widely known major composers from the past

- ❖ Teresa Carreño (Venezuelan, 1853 - 1917)
- ❖ Manuel Ponce (Mexican, 1882 - 1948)
- ❖ Heitor Villa-Lobos (Brazilian, 1887 - 1959)
- ❖ Alberto Ginastera (Argentinian, 1916 - 1982)
- ❖ Astor Piazzolla (Argentinian, 1921 - 1992)



Major Living Composers

- ❖ Celso Garrido-Lecca (Peruvian, b. 1929)
- ❖ Tania León (Cuban, b. 1943)
- ❖ Roberto Sierra (Puerto Rican, b. 1953)
- ❖ Osvaldo Golijov (Argentinian, b. 1960)
- ❖ Ricardo Lorenz (Venezuelan-American, b. 1960)
- ❖ María Granillo (Mexican, b. 1962)



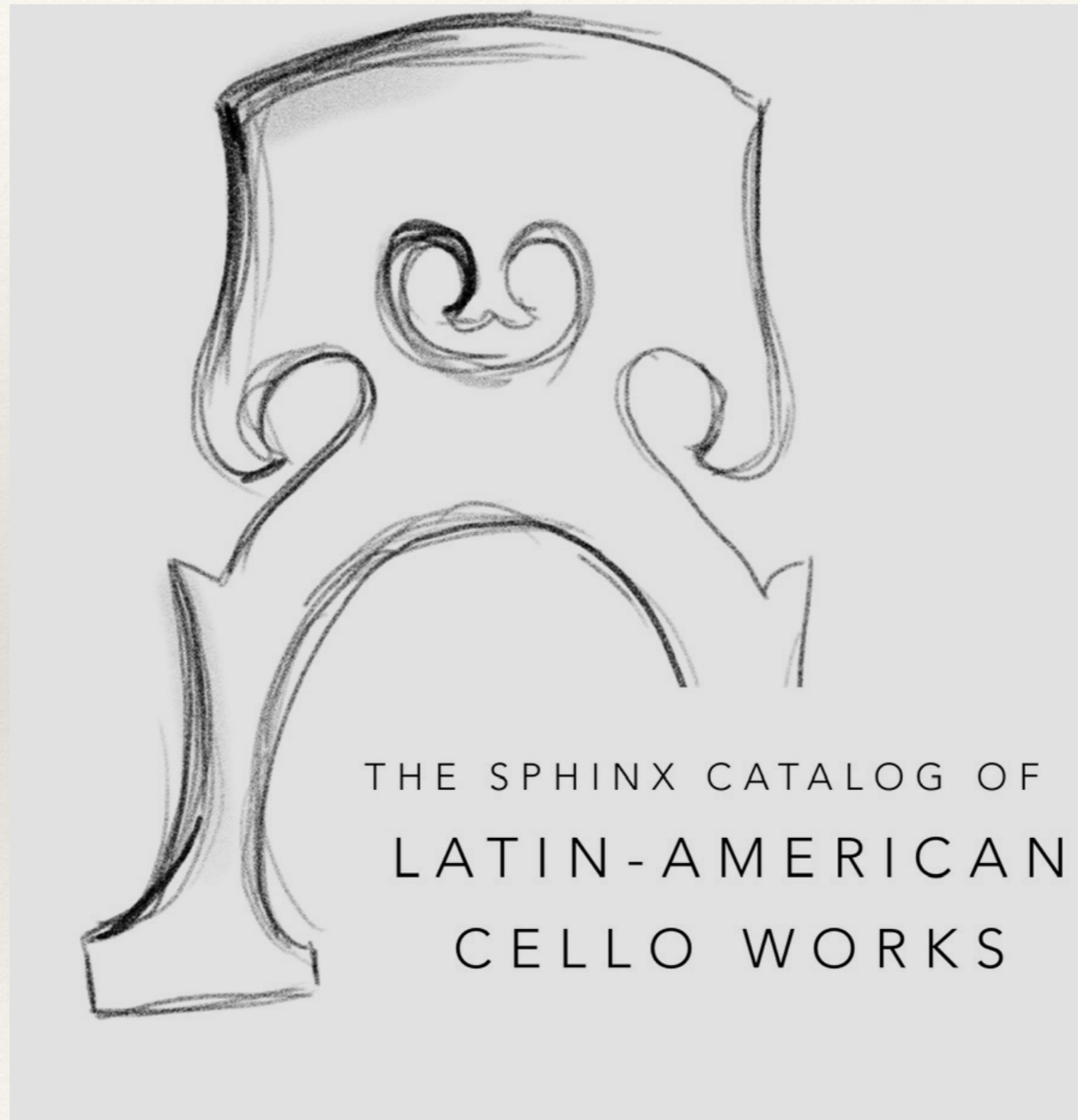
Latin-America and cello works

Latin-America:

- ❖ Around 20 countries
- ❖ Major contributions to arts and music



2. Culturally Engaged Music Performance



Nurturing a sense of social relevance: Latin America and Representation

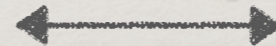
Identity

“Identity involves the *partial* selection of habits and attributes used to represent oneself to oneself and to others by oneself and by others.”

Turino, 2008: 95; 106

Identity Markers

- ❖ Indigenous
- ❖ Iberian
- ❖ African
- ❖ Global



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CELLO WORKS

Indigenous

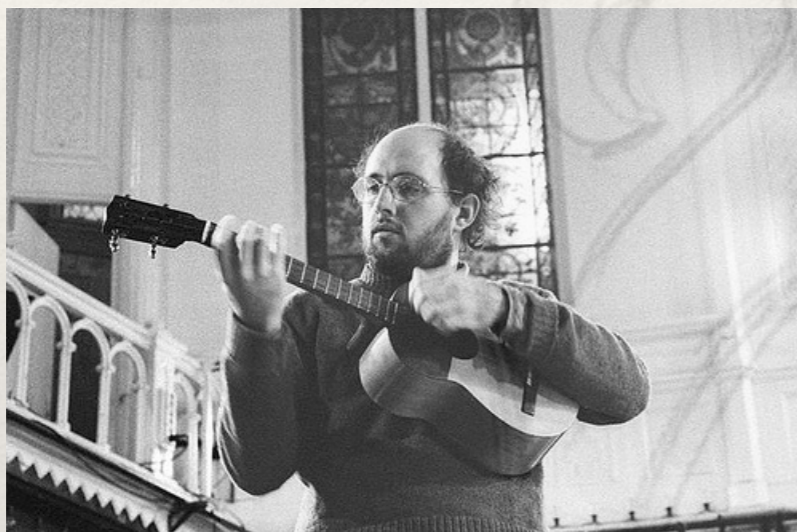
Benzecry's Rapsodia Andina



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Iberian

Desenne's Guitars



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*Track: "Gitane" for cello solo
Horacio Contreras, cello*

African/Syncretic

Desenne's Rhythms and Berimbau

Desenne's use of Brazilian Samba's apito pattern



Tresillo, Hemiola



Habanera



Track: "Birimbao" for cello solo
Horacio Contreras, cello

Global

Ricardo Lorenz “Cecilia en Azul y Verde” and Salsa music



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Track: “Cecilia en Azul y Verde” for cello and piano by Ricardo Lorenz
Horacio Contreras, cello; César Cañón, piano



3. The music is good for you!

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Nurturing your technique: traditional techniques

Heitor Villa-Lobos Pequenha Suite, movements III and VI

Musical score for movement III of Heitor Villa-Lobos's Pequenha Suite. The score is in bass clef, 4/4 time, and B-flat major. It begins with a tempo marking of *Moderato.* and a performance instruction of *(vibrando)*. The first staff starts with a dynamic of *p* and includes a *cresc.* marking. The second staff features a dynamic of *f* and ends with a *p* dynamic and a fermata.

Musical score for movement VI of Heitor Villa-Lobos's Pequenha Suite. The score is in treble clef, 3/8 time, and B major. It begins with a tempo marking of *Tempo de gavotte.* and a dynamic of *f*. The first staff includes a sixteenth-note figure with a '6' below it. The second staff features a dynamic of *ff*. The third staff is in treble clef, and the fourth staff is in bass clef, both in 3/8 time.

Track: "Harmonias soltas" for cello and piano by Heitor Villa-Lobos
Horacio Contreras, cello; César Cañón, piano

Nurturing your technique: traditional techniques

Ricardo Castro's Concerto, 1st and 2nd mov

①9 Allegro

②0 Grandioso

Cadenza

127 *fff*

137 *ten.* *espress.*

141 *ff accel.* *poco rall. - - -*

146

②1 *molto espressivo*

148 *ff* *ff* *fff*

Detailed description: This block contains five staves of musical notation. The first staff shows measures 127-136, starting with a forte (ff) dynamic and a five-measure rest. The second staff (measures 137-140) includes markings for 'ten.' (tension) and 'espress.' (expressive). The third staff (measures 141-145) features 'ff accel.' and 'poco rall.' markings. The fourth staff (measures 146-147) continues the melodic line. The fifth staff (measures 148-152) is marked 'molto espressivo' and includes three instances of forte dynamics: ff, ff, and fff.

④7

314

Detailed description: This block contains one staff of musical notation, measures 314-318. It begins with a circled number 47 and the measure number 314. The notation shows a complex melodic line with various articulations and dynamics.

Nurturing your technique: less-common traditional techniques Paul Desenne's Jaguar Songs (2002)

Gregorian chant
inspired unisons

Musical score for measures 45-47. Measure 45 is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a long, flowing melodic line with a fermata over the final measure. Performance markings include *dim. molto* and *calando molto*. Measure 47 is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. It begins with a fermata and a *p* dynamic, followed by a triplet of eighth notes and a *mf* dynamic. Performance markings include *cuasi a tempo*, *molto libero*, *p espr.*, and *mf*. A tempo marking *circa ♩ = 63 meno mosso* is placed between the staves.

Extended thumb
in fast ostinati

Musical score for measures 10-11 in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of a fast, repetitive eighth-note ostinato. Performance markings include *p*, *sfz*, and *sul ponticello*. A Roman numeral *IV* is written below the first measure.

Fast thumb motion

Musical score for measures 30-31 in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp. The music features a fast, repetitive eighth-note ostinato. Performance markings include *sffz* and *p*. A tempo marking *♩ = 160 subito presto* is placed above the first measure.

Track: "Jaguar" for cello solo
Horacio Contreras, cello

Nurturing a sense of artistic agency: Familiar styles in unknown works

Castro's *Concerto* and Villa-Lobos *Pequenha Suite*

- ❖ Late romantic / impressionistic composition styles → Similar characteristics to some of the most important standards
- ❖ Traditional forms / structures → Not “precooked,” need to be critically understood from the score and a few recordings
- ❖ No *legendary* models of performance → Less burden of tradition, easier to be and feel unique

*Track: “Romancette” for cello and piano by Heitor Villa-Lobos
Horacio Contreras, cello; César Cañón, piano*



Teaching with Latin American Composers

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Method Books

Etudes:

Samuel Máynez Vidal, “90 Studies for cello” (2017)

Eugène Sauzay / Horacio Contreras, “Harmonic Studies” (2022)

Exercise Books:

Roberto Livón, 100 Ejercicios Diarios

Roland Vamos / Horacio Contreras, “Exercises for the Cello in Various Combinations of Double-Stops” (2018)

Horacio Contreras, “Framing your Left Hand” (2019-21)

Graded Repertoire

Beginner

- ❖ Horacio Contreras *Framing your Left Hand*
- ❖ Projected materials by Strings of Latin America

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Graded Repertoire

Intermediate

- ❖ Samuel Máynez Vidal, *90 Studies* (also advanced)
- ❖ H. Contreras / R. Vamos, *Exercises in Various Combinations of Double-Stops* (also advanced)
- ❖ Henrique Oswald, *Elegía* for cello and piano
- ❖ Heitor Villa-Lobos *The Song of the Black Swan* and other works for cello and piano
- ❖ Reynaldo Hahn *Concerto Inachevé* for cello and piano
- ❖ Carmela Mackenna, *Duo* for cello and piano
- ❖ E. Cazzoratti, F. Vollmer and R. Caraballo *Four Venezuelan Pieces*
- ❖ Juan Bautista Plaza, *Elegía* and *Diferencias sobre un Aire Venezolano* for cello and piano
- ❖ José Elizondo, *Crepúsculos* for a variety of instrumentations

*Track: "The Song of the Black Swan" for cello and piano
Jan Vargas-Nedvetsky, cello; Milana Pavchinskaya, piano*

Graded Repertoire

Advanced

- ❖ Heitor Villa-Lobos, *Concertos n. 1 and 2* and *Fantasia* for cello and orchestra
- ❖ Modesta Bor, *Suite* for cello and piano
- ❖ Esteban Benzecry *Rapsodia Andina* for cello and piano and *Concerto* for cello and orchestra
- ❖ María Granillo, *Monólogos* for cello solo
- ❖ Paul Desenne, *Jaguar Songs* for cello solo
- ❖ Joaquín Nin, *Suite Espagnole* for cello and piano
- ❖ Claudia Calderón, *Reuelta Circular* for cello and piano
- ❖ Ricardo Lorenz, *Open Borders* for cello solo
- ❖ Germán Marcano, *Tonadas* for cello solo
- ❖ Samuel Zyman, various works for diverse instrumentations

Track: "Jaguar" for cello solo

Alon Hayut, cello

Graded Repertoire

Advanced

- ❖ Manuel Ponce, *Sonata* for cello and piano
- ❖ Mario Lavista, *Cuaderno de Viaje* for cello solo
- ❖ Arturo Márquez *Portales de Madrugada* for cello and piano
- ❖ Adriana Verdié, *Jira Che Tango* for cello solo
- ❖ José Bragato, *Graciela and Buenos Aires* for cello solo
- ❖ Camargo Guarnieri, *Sonata n. 1* for cello and piano
- ❖ Marlos Nobre, *Poema n. III* and other works for cello and piano
- ❖ Horacio Fernández Vázquez, *Preludio and Bossa Nova n. 2* for cello solo
- ❖ Francisco Mignone *Modinha* for cello and piano
- ❖ Leo Brouwer, *Sonata* for cello solo
- ❖ Ricardo Castro, *Concerto* for cello and orchestra

Researching Latin American music for cello



THE SPHINX CATALOG OF
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CELLO WORKS

The Sphinx Catalog of Latin-American Cello Works

- ❖ Created in 2018 by Dr. Germán Marcano and Dr. Horacio Contreras with the support of the Sphinx Organization.
- ❖ Based on a work by Dr. Germán Marcano dating back to 2004.
- ❖ More than 2,300 works listed dating from 1783 until 2020.
- ❖ Free and available online thanks to the generous support of sphinxmusic.org and CelloBello.org.



What is on the Catalog?

- ❖ Works for cello by composers from Latin America.
- ❖ Cello Solo.
- ❖ Cello as a soloist with orchestra.
- ❖ Duos with another instrument.
- ❖ Cello with electronic media / pre-recorded sounds.
- ❖ Cello ensembles.

What information is available?

On the Table:

- ❖ Composer names, citizenships, genders, dates of birth and death.
- ❖ Name of the work.
- ❖ Date of composition.
- ❖ Instrumentation.
- ❖ Duration.
- ❖ Editions.

What other information is available?

- ❖ Composers' biographic pages.
- ❖ YouTube video interviews with composers and cellists from Latin America.
- ❖ Facebook and Instagram pages to distribute relevant content.

Using the Catalog





A Player's Friendly Tool

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CELLO WORKS

Duration

Works under 5 min:

José Elizondo, “Otoño en Buenos Aires” for a variety of combinations (ca. 4’)

Federico Ruíz “Cello Tango” for cello solo (ca. 3’)

Carmela Mackenna “Dúo” for cello and piano (ca. 5’)

Works under 10 min:

Joaquín Nin “Suite Espagnole” for cello and piano (ca. 8’)

Esteban Benzecry “Rapsodia Andina” for cello and piano (ca. 9’)

Reynaldo Hahn “Concerto Inachevé” for cello and piano (ca. 9’)

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Track: “Otoño en Buenos Aires” for two cellos
Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Ashok Klouda, cellos

Instrumentation

Works for a variety of cello ensembles:

Heitor Villa-Lobos

Paul Desenne

José Elizondo

Ricardo Lorenz

Duos:

Cello and Tuba???

Juan Orrego Salas “Midsummer Diversions” Op. 99

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Track: “*Rawcello/Rochela*” for nine cellos by Ricardo Lorenz

Germán Marcano, cello

Date Searches

Works from a wide variety of historic periods and styles:

Romantic/Post-romantic Period:

Ricardo Castro Concerto for cello and orchestra

Henrique Oswald “Elegia” for cello and piano

Manuel Ponce Sonata for cello and piano

Neoclassicism:

Modesta Bor “Suite” for cello and piano

Avant Garde:

María Granillo “Monólogo” for cello solo

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Research Centers and Libraries

- ❖ Latin American Music Center at Indiana University.
- ❖ Latin American Network Information Center at the University of Texas Austin.
- ❖ Latin American center for Graduate Studies in Music at the Catholic University of America.
- ❖ Cello Music Collections at the Library of the University of North Carolina Greensboro.
- ❖ Strings of Latin America website

Editorial Houses

- ❖ Cayambis Music Press
- ❖ Filarmonika Music Publishing
- ❖ Ponteio Publishing
- ❖ Peermusic Classical
- ❖ Ludwig Masters
- ❖ Self publishing

Our Future Projects



Why is there a canonized repertoire???



Who we are in a diverse world



Stay in touch and up to date!

- ❖ Facebook @stringsoflatinamerica
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