

# PIANO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE STUDIO OF DR. JOVANNI-REY DE PEDRO

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO'S LIONEL HAMPTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC

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## Master Nick!

MM candidate Nicholas Zollo is on course to graduate next month after completing his pedagogy workshop and performing a beautiful recital featuring works by Haydn, Scarlatti, and (of course) Ginastera. Nick will be a featured student in next month's newsletter. Congrats!

## Keeping Up w/ Dr. J

- April 11:** Lecture at Marymount International School in London, UK
- April 12:** Solo Recital at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on London's Trafalgar Square
- April 19-21:** Recital, Masterclass, and Keynote Lecture at the Western Australia Piano Pedagogy Conference in Perth
- April 22:** Masterclass at the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts
- April 23:** Western Australia Music Teachers Association Piano Festival

## Viva Ginastera!

April 11, 2016 marks the 100th birthday of one of my all-time favorite composers: Alberto Ginastera. A native of Argentina, he gained global popularity by skillfully fusing dance rhythms and folk music with western compositional techniques to create a distinct sound.



However, this unique musical language did not come easy for him. He spent years experimenting and learning - at first, drawing inspiration directly from his Argentine heritage (Objective Nationalism, 1934-1948), then later using these elements in only abstract forms (Subjective Nationalism, 1948-1958).

Even 30 years after his death, his influence is still vibrant! In my research and performance of his works over the past decade, I have encountered composers who have created music with clear "Ginaster-ian" influences. I will be featuring these pieces in celebratory recitals throughout 2016, so keep your eyes peeled! Here's a little glimpse of the program:

Boise State University composition professor, **David Biedendender**, attributes much of his early influence to Ginastera, which is heard in *Rhapsody for Piano* (2006). The third movement of New Zealand-born British composer **Christopher Norton's** Piano Sonata (2013) pays tribute to Ginastera's rhythmic and dissonant qualities. Malaysian-born Australian composer **Sonny Chua** captures Ginastera's percussive virtuosity in *Byte Me!*.

## Upcoming events

- Saturday, April 2: **trlaD** competes @ MTNA in San Antonio, TX. 1:00pm
- Sunday, April 3: **Dr. de Pedro** performs @ Dunkley's Stars of Steinway Series. Meridian, ID. 4:00pm
- Saturday, April 9: **Preparatory Division Masterclass**. Haddock Performance Hall. 10:00am
- Saturday, April 9: **Nick Zollo** accompanies flutist Sarah Chae in her MM recital. Haddock Performance Hall. 1:00pm
- Sunday, April 10: **Elizabeth Brown** (voice and piano extraordinaire) gives senior voice recital. Haddock Performance Hall. 1:00pm
- Friday-Sunday, April 22-24: **Moscow Music Teachers 2016 Adjudication** with Greg Presley. Various locations throughout Moscow.

## Looking ahead...

- Saturday, May 7: **Piano Preparatory Recitals**. Haddock Performance Hall. TBA.
- Saturday, May 14: **Graduation!** Kibbie Dome. TBA.

**Greg Presley** of Gonzaga University captures the life of the Argentine gauchos and Ginastera's harmonic language in his 3 *Homages to Ginastera* (1993). **Darren Bloom**, a childhood friend studying at the University of Cambridge, is writing a piece evoking the mysterious atmosphere of the Argentine *Pampas*. Talks are in progress to add works by Argentinian composer **Martin Gendelman** of Georgia Southern University, and University of Idaho Distinguished Professor **Dan Bukvich**.

## *Listen, Learn, Love...*

Whether you've never heard Ginastera's music and would like to get started, or are a Ginastera aficionado, there's something for everyone! Here are my top picks for the...

New Listener: "**Malambo**" from *Estancia, Op. 8*. Nothing warms my heart more than watching Gustavo Dudamel and the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra throw a *fiesta* on the concert stage! (YouTube keywords: Dudamel Malambo)

Seasoned Listener: *Don Rodrigo*. Despite unsuccessful reviews in Argentina, it was praised in New York where, in its 1966 premiere, Placido Domingo launched his international career singing the title role.

Piano Student: *Danzas Argentinas, Op. 2*. These three portraits of Argentina are easily his most successful early piano works. The beautifully haunting *Danza de la moza donosa* is starkly contrasted by the virtuosic *Danza del gaucho matrero*.

Piano Teacher: *American Preludes, Op. 12*. Twelve short gems of varying difficulty levels, with each prelude dedicated to a style, technique, mood, or person.

Orchestral Musician: *Estancia, Op. 8*. The Spanish word for "Ranch," *Estancia* is the orchestral suite from a one-act ballet. Highly nationalistic and beautifully orchestrated.

Choral Musician: *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. Seldom-performed, this unaccompanied work is based on biblical text and shows Ginastera's fire and mastery of counterpoint.

Chamber Musician: *String Quartet No. 3, Op. 40*. Well into his third phase (Neo-Expressionism) where he embraces serialism, Ginastera sets four poems for soprano.