

Cellotonica

A trip to
South America

Trier, 26.05.2019

Cellists and their cellos

Chenni Chen	Peter Staszal, Chicago USA 2001
Nao Sasaki	Yu Iida, Yamanashi Japan 2008
Lillia Held	Gärtner, Germany, 19th century
Sabrina Kratzer	Kreuzinger, Bavaria Germany
Ruth Kremser	Carlo Anstadt, Herne Germany 1991
Charlotte Heinz	Mittenwald Adorf, Germany 2004
Kaia Bustnes	Henderson, Scotland 1834
Joshua Blickle	Helmut Bleffert, Germany 2009

Programme

Chenni Chen, Nao Sasaki, Isabel Arnold (soprano)

Agustín Barrios Mangoré

La Catedral

- i. Preludio saudade
- ii. Andante religioso
- iii. Allegro Solemne

Ernesto Lecuona

Malagueña

Heitor Villa-Lobos

Bachinana Brasileiras No. 5

- i. Aria(Cantilena)
- ii. Dansa

Intermission

Cellotonica and Friends: Chenni Chen, Nao Sasaki, Sabrina Kratzer, Lilia Held, Charlotte Heinz, Ruth Kremser, Joshua Blickle, Kaia Bustnes

Astor Piazzolla

Summer Autumn Spring Winter



Agustín Barrios Mangoré (also known as Agustín Barrios Mangoré and Nitsuga — Agustín spelled backwards — Mangoré; May 5, 1885 – August 7, 1944) was a Paraguayan virtuoso classical guitarist and composer, largely regarded as one of the greatest performers and most prolific composers for the guitar. As a child, Barrios developed a love of music and literature, two arts that were very important to his family. Barrios

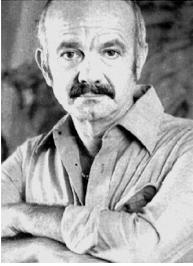
would eventually speak two languages (Spanish and Guaraní), and read three others (English, French, and German). Barrios began to show an interest in musical instruments, particularly the guitar, before he reached his teens. He went to Asunción in 1901, at the age of fifteen, to attend Universidad Nacional de Asunción on a scholarship in music, thus becoming one of the youngest university students in Paraguayan history. Apart from his studies in the music department, Barrios was highly appreciated by members of the mathematics, journalism and literature departments.

Composed in 1921 *La Catedral*, is widely considered to be Barrios' magnum opus. It can be divided into three basic categories: folkloric, imitative and religious. Barrios paid tribute to the music and people of his native land by composing pieces modeled after folk songs from South America and Central America. Imitating the compositional style and techniques of the Baroque and Romantic periods was another side to his craftsmanship. "La Catedral" may be viewed as Barrios' tribute to Bach. It is believed that "La Catedral" was inspired by a religious experience for Barrios; therefore, the piece may also be categorized under religion. Religious beliefs and experiences also played an important role in Barrios' compositional process. *Una Limosna por el Amor de Dios* (Alms for the Love of God) is another example of a religiously-inspired work. Breaking down the works of Barrios into these three categories helps the guitar enthusiast to understand Barrios' musical intent.



Ernesto Lecuona was born in Havana, Cuba. He started studying piano at an early age, under his sister Ernestina Lecuona, a famed composer in her own right. As a child prodigy, he composed his first song at the age of 11. He later studied at the Peyrellade Conservatoire under Antonio Saavedra and the famous Joaquín Nin. Lecuona graduated from the National Conservatory of Havana with a Gold Medal for interpretation

when he was sixteen. He performed outside of Cuba at the Aeolian Hall (New York) in 1916. In 1918 he collaborated with Luis Casas Romero, Moisés Simons, Jaime Prats, Nilo Menéndez and Vicente Lanz in setting up a successful player piano music roll factory in Cuba producing Cuban music and also copies from masters made by QRS in the USA. He first travelled to Spain in 1924 on a concert tour with violinist Marta de la Torre; his successful piano recitals in 1928 at Paris coincided with a rise in interest in Cuban music. He was a prolific composer of songs and music for stage and film. His works consisted of zarzuela, Afro-Cuban and Cuban rhythms, suites and many songs which are still very famous. They include “Siboney” (Canto Siboney), “Malagueña” and “The Breeze And I” (Andalucía). In 1942, his great hit, “Always in my heart” (Siempre en mi Corazón) was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Song. In 1960, thoroughly unhappy with Castro’s new régime, Lecuona moved to Tampa, Florida and lived on West Orient Street in West Tampa with his relative, singer Esperanza Chediak. Lecuona lived his final years in the US, but while traveling in the Canary Islands three years later, he died in the town of Santa Cruz de Tenerife on November 29, 1963 as a result of an attack of asthma, a disorder from which he had suffered his entire life. He was interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York, but his will instructs that his remains be repatriated once the current régime runs its course. A great deal of Lecuona’s music was first introduced to mass American audiences by Desi Arnaz, a fellow Cuban and Lucille Ball’s spouse. Lecuona’s talent for composition has influenced the Latin American world in a way quite similar to George Gershwin in the United States, in his case raising Cuban music to classical status.



Astor Piazzolla is the most well-known tango composer and bandoneonist in the world. He was born in 1921 in Mar del Plata Argentina. In 1925 his family left Argentina for New York, where Piazzolla grew up, a fact which was to influence his later musical career. The spirit of crossing borders followed him throughout his whole life, and he was always searching for new ways of fusing the most varied musical styles which had fascinated him since childhood. In his music he created a synthesis between the traditional danced tango and influences from classical music and jazz. This so-called Tango Nuevo made it possible to reach a new audience, which discovered tango as a concert music. Many of Piazzolla's works have become classics and have been performed worldwide by the stars of the international music scene, such as Gidon Kremer, Daniel Barenboim, and Yo-Yo Ma. Piazzolla's works not only inspired countless performers of his music, but also set the course for his musical heirs. Astor Piazzolla died in 1992 in Buenos Aires.



Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887 – 1959) was a Brazilian composer, conductor, cellist, pianist, and guitarist, described as “the single most significant creative figure in 20th-century Brazilian art music”. Villa-Lobos has become the best-known South American composer of all time. A prolific composer, he wrote numerous orchestral, chamber, instrumental, and vocal works, totaling over 2000 works by his death in 1959. His music was influenced by both Brazilian folk music and by stylistic elements from the European classical tradition, as exemplified by his *Bachianas Brasileiras* (Brazilian Bachian-pieces). His *Etudes for guitar* (1929) were dedicated to Andrés Segovia, while his *5 Preludes* (1940) were dedicated to his spouse Arminda Neves d’Almeida, a.k.a. “Mindinha.” Both are important works in the guitar repertory.

Isabel Arnold, Soprano, was born in 1988 in Ostfildern, Germany. At the age of 5 Ms. Arnold was already on stage with the children's choir for the theater piece “Knasterbax and Siebenschütz “. She received singing lessons from



the age of 12 in her hometown Ostfildern with Mrs. Hilde Scheerer. Her strong passion for performing and singing has been proven by her performance in numerous musical productions. She has performed roles such as “Little Mermaid” in “Strandgut” (2003), “Ado-Annie” in “Oklahoma” (2004), “Yum-Yum” in “Mikado” (2006) and “Gretel” in “Christopher Columbus” (2009). Ms. Arnold was cast as the leading role “Maria” at the premiere of “Maria von Bosnien” 2011 in Wiesensteig, which was a highlight in her musical journey. Between 2000 and 2008 Ms. Arnold has received multiple awards in the music competition “Jugend Musiziert” at state and federal level. For the studies of jewelry design and communication design Isabel set the vocal singing at the back. However, she always remained true to the choral music. She sang, among others, in the oratorio and motet choir Pforzheim under the direction of the Baden state church-music director Kord Michaelis, as well as in the Concert Choir Trier under Jochen Schaaf and in the Collegium Musicum Trier under Mariano Chiacchiarini. In addition, she realized her love of music in various ensemble and small choir projects. After an eight year break in the field of solo singing, Ms. Arnold has been receiving voice lessons from mezzo-soprano Heide Neuhäuser in Trier since this year and is looking forward to new projects.



Chenni Chen is a native Taiwanese. She began her cello studies at the age of 13 with Mrs. Sharon Francis, when her family lived in Belize, Central America. At the age of 14, she became the principal cellist of the Belize Chamber Music Orchestra. At age 18, she continued her cello studies in the US. While she discovered the wonders of cello music, her teachers included Benjamin Karp, Alan Herral, Bryan Dumm, and Anne Williams. Mrs. Chen was a member of Mansfield Symphony orchestra and the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra. She attended music festivals such as the Nice Conservatory Summer festival, the Manchester Music Festival (USA), and Texas Music Festival. Mrs. Chen is also very passionate about chamber music,

she received chamber music coaching with Peter Salaff, Cavani Quartet, Ysaye Quartet and Shanghai String Quartet. She was a guest cellist with the Black River String Quartet. While she stayed in Zurich for three years, she met Professor Claude Starck, who is a retired solo cellist from Tonhalle Orchester Zurich. She continued her private studies with Mr. Starck and learned the essentials of cello pedagogy. Now, Mrs. Chen is the cello teacher at the Dommusik in Trier and St. Georges International school in Luxembourg. She participated with the Schöneck Ensemble, Koblenz from 2016 to 2018, a member of Mosel String Quartet and currently manages Cellotonica with Ms. Sasaki.



Nao Sasaki Cellist, was born in Japan, began playing the cello when she was 9 years old. She attended the Tokiwagi-Gakuen High school, which specialized in music. After obtaining her Abitur, she studied Cello at the “Tokyo University of the Arts” with Professor Fumiaki Kono, and completed with the Bachelor of Music degree. During her time at the university she played numerous chamber music concerts and won the excellence prize at the International Chamber Music Competition in Mozarteum, Salzburg. She also attended many master classes for cello and chamber music in Germany and Austria with Prof. Wolfgang Boettcher, Prof. Wen Sinnyang, Prof. Julius Berger, and Prof. Danjuro Ishizaka.

Nao Sasaki took part in the public master classes with The Leipzig String Quartet and received chamber music coaching from musicians from the Berlin Philharmonic. In 2012 she won a promotional prize of a student competition in Japan. After completing her Bachelor studies, she performs professionally in various concerts in orchestra and chamber music. As a soloist, in 2012 and 2013, Nao Sasaki performed Robert Schumann cello concerto and Tchaikovsky Variations on a Rococo Theme with the Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra. At the moment Nao Sasaki works as a cello teacher, plays in duet with Saif Al-Khayyat and is one of core members of Cellotonica cello group.



Ruth Kremser was born in Bergisch Gladbach, Germany. Ms. Kremser has been playing cello since her childhood, and has been a member of the school orchestra in her school days and was the only cellist in a wind orchestra. After she completed her bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Cologne Ms. Kremser continues her study of her master's degree in psychology at the Trier University. Since then she is part of the Collegium Musicum Trier. Ms. Kremser inspired by the compositions of J.S. Bach and Frédéric Chopin, other works by Zoltán Kodály and Stephen Katz are also much in favorite. Her cello was built by Carlo Anstadt 1991 in Herne, Germany.



Lilia Held started to play the cello at the age of 12, after a musical journey through the stages of violin and piano. Starting from age 14 she always played in youth orchestras and chamber music ensembles and travelled with them to Russia, Poland, the Baltics, Portugal, Croatia and China. Since she started to study psychology in the university of Trier she has been playing in the Collegium Musicum and there she met her fellow cellists from the ensemble Cellotonica.



Sabrina Kratzer, grew up in a musician's family. Her parents provided a natural musical environment for her to learn the flute, piano and the organ. But Ms Kratzer is especially fond of the interplay with others, so she decided to start with Cello at the age of 9. Since then Ms Kratzer has been playing in different orchestras. Later she decided to continue playing the cello as a beloved hobby and not as a profession. Today she is a teacher of Latin and English at the Cusanus-Gymnasium in Wittlich and she enjoys making music with other music enthusiasts.



Charlotte Heinz was born in Jena, East Germany. When she was age of 4, she attended her first Symphony concert, her mother asked her if she would like to play one of the instrument from the orchestra. Ms. Heinz had chosen the Cello while she and her mother was sitting in the front roll. Since then Charlotte took part in a lot of different orchestras in Jena, Weimar and Trier.



Kaia Adriane Bustnes is a native of Karlsruhe. She attended high school with profile subject music from grade 5-12, graduating in music. At the age of two she was given the first violin as the daughter of a violist, later she switched to the viola and since the age of nine she plays the cello. She studied with Gisela Köllenberger (Karlsruhe), Myriam Siegrist (Karlsruhe), Hanna Gieron (Karlsruhe) and Dita Lammerse (Freiburg). Continuous orchestral experience for 13 years; Chamber music courses in Zurich and Jürg-Wolfgang Jahn (Karlsruhe) with piano trio and chamber ensemble.



Joshua Blickle was borned in 1998, Regensburg, Germany. At an early age he moved to countries such as England, America, Canada and moved back to Germany at the age of 6. Once his family settled back in Fulda, Germany, he was very inspired by his older brother, therefore he started to play the Cello at the age of seven. While he attended Rudolf-Steiner-School in Loheland, he participated in the school orchestra, there he had

the opportunity to conduct concerts during the school orchestra tour to St. Petersburg, Russia and also in Mont-Serrat, Spain. He was an active member in the Kammerorchester der Jugend Fulda from 2013 to 2018 and also sang as a Tenor in the Dom Chor in Fulda from 2008 to 2018. Mr. Blickle's favorite cellist is Yo Yo Ma, because he loves Mr. Ma's playing style. Mr. Blickle plays a 2009 Helmut Bleffert Cello. The Bleffert Cello produce a lovely warm tone which attracted him instantly.



few snapshots taken during our rehearsals

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Special thanks to

The wonderful Soprano Isabel Arnold, our assistant Michał Stolorz, our hostess Jessica Gnas, the Schneider family and all the wonderful cellists who performed this evening.

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• Ernesto Lecuona (1935) https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernesto_Lecuona#/media/File:LecuonaE.jpg • Augustin Barrios (1922) https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Agust%C3%ADn_Barrios#/media/File:Agust%C3%ADn_Barrios_1922.jpg • Astor Piazzolla https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Astor_Piazzolla#/media/File:Astor_Piazzolla.jpg • Heitor Villa-Lobos (1922) [https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Heitor_Villa-Lobos#/media/File:Heitor_Vila-Lobos_\(c._1922\).jpg](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Heitor_Villa-Lobos#/media/File:Heitor_Vila-Lobos_(c._1922).jpg) • Pictures of members of Cellotonica and other musicians performing during the concert are their own property.