

June 23, 2020

Dear Friends of the Latin American Music Center,

I hope this note finds you well and healthy.

We are continuing our series called "Friends of the Latin American Music Center in Performance," here at LAMC. Today, I want to present one of our faculty members, the wonderful Portorican pianist, Jose Ramos Santana. Santana has collaborated with LAMC teaching Ibero-American piano repertoire to many of our accomplished pianists.

I consider Jose Ramos Santana an asset to any institution that values not only his talent but his experience in the diverse world of Ibero-American music.

I trust you will enjoy reading about this beloved artist and teacher and listening to some of his wonderful recordings.

Stay safe,

Gustavo Ahualli

Director Latin American Music Center

Voice Faculty

Rome school of Music, Drama, and Art

The Catholic University of America

Jose Ramos Santana
Pianist



Photo Credit: Kevin Allen

Jose Ramos Santana is one of the most acclaimed pianists of his generation and an acknowledged master of Spanish Piano Music. He is the recipient of the 2020 Isaac Albeniz Medal awarded by the Fundación Isaac Albeniz in Camprodon Spain. Mr. Ramos Santana is also the founder and artistic director of the Puerto Rico International Piano Festival. Recent performance and masterclasses include the 2018 summer festival Maestros del Norte y Pianistas del Sur in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Mr. Ramos Santana has established his career as a soloist with major orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London, Detroit Symphony, Saint Louis

Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, 92nd Street Y Orchestra, The New York Virtuosi, Casals Festival Orchestra, Puerto Rico Symphony, and the orchestras of New Mexico, Sioux City, Utah, Syracuse and many others. Additional solo performances include the Moscow Philharmonic Latin-American tour, Orchestra of L'Hermitage of Saint Petersburg, the Orchestra of Guatemala, the Orchestra of San Salvador, and the Orquesta de los Reyes in Lima, Peru. His recital work has taken him to major venues throughout the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Central and South America, China, and Japan. He has collaborated with distinguished musicians and conductors such as Krzysztof Penderecki, John Adams, Dennis Russell Davies, Jerzy Semkow, Dimitri Kitaenko, Joseph Silverstein, cellist Arto Noras, violinist Gregory Zhislin, and pianist Vladimir Viardo.

Mr. Ramos Santana's much lauded guest appearance with the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall during the Sonidos de las Americas Festival was his third Carnegie Hall performance in one year. Mr. Ramos Santana has also performed at Zankel Hall and the Weill Recital Hall under the auspices of La Gesse Foundation.

A top prize winner of the Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and a participant in the Xerox Piano Artist's Program, he has appeared in music festivals such as Spoleto, Caramoor, Casals Festival, Grant Park Festival in Chicago, International Keyboard and Institute Festival at Mannes College, Washington International Piano Festival, Inter-American Music Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and The Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy.

As an active member of Musica de Camara, Inc., Mr. Ramos Santana has served as jury member of the *Gershwin International Music Competition*, *Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition for Young Pianists*, *Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition*, *Liszt-Garrison International Piano Competition*, *Louisiana International Piano Competition* and *William Kapell International Piano Competition* selecting jury.

Mr. Ramos Santana is also an established recording artist. His world premiere of "Glosas" by Roberto Sierra on the Fleur de Son Label received critical acclaim. His collaboration with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra also includes recordings of Ravel's Piano Concerto in G and Saint-Saens Piano Concerto in G minor op. 22. He has also recorded the complete works for piano and violin by the Spanish Catalanian composer Xavier Montsalvage with violinist Eva Leon on the Naxos Label. He has also been featured in documentaries on the PBS network, A&E channel and CBS Sunday Morning.

Jose Ramos Santana is a graduate of the Juilliard School where he studied with Adele Marcus, William Masselos, and Sylvia Rabinof. He has also coached with Leon Fleisher and Alicia de Larrocha.

He is Artist Faculty at New York University Arnold Steinhardt School of Music, The Catholic University of America, and Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ramos Santana is a Steinway Artist.

I have asked Maestro Santana to express in his own words about his experience at Rome School of Music, Drama and Art and in particular at LAMC...

I have held the Rome School Of Music,Drama and Art, very close to my heart.

My memories go back to the early 80's when I use to come down from New York City to study with the great american pianist William Masselos.

It was during these times that I became acquainted with the LAMC and their founders Mr. Efrain Paiesky and his wife Ms Emma Garmendia de Paiesky and their wonderful contribution to Catholic University of America by establishing this prestigious and unique institution dedicated to the study and promotion of music and artists from Latin America. I am honored and proud to be part of the LAMC.

Maestro Santana has shared with us this recording of him playing...

Prokofiev Sonata No. 6 IV. Vivace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvfcxZ7tl6g>

and

Albeniz Iberia-Book 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywj6gNBCzbk&feature=youtu.be>

