

October 16, 2024

*Newsletter Announcement*

The LAMC in cooperation with Torcuart presents

**Flamenco Gala Dinner**

Dear Friends of the Latin American Music Center,

As we continue to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and the **40th Anniversary of the LAMC**, we are pleased to announce our first production of Fall 2024. We will be presenting the **Gala Dinner on October 26**, organized by **TorcuArt** in full cooperation with the LAMC. This will be a night to celebrate **Flamenco and its influence on Ibero-America**.

Also I'd like to underline that on Monday, October 21 from 2-8 pm, **ILAIS will host a Latin American Festival at CUA** to celebrate the Hispanic/Latin American Heritage.

For more information on this upcoming event and announcements, please refer to the end of this newsletter.

God bless,

Gustavo Ahualli

LAMC Director

TORCUART  
In collaboration with

**Latin American Music Center**  
Catholic University of America

Presents

*Flamenco Gala Dinner*

Annual Recognition Award Ceremony Honoring  
**Mrs. Natalia Monteleon**  
Dancer, Teacher and Choreographer

Key Note Speaker  
**Mrs. Leticia Pico de Coaña Suarez**  
Counselor of Spanish Embassy to the United States

Musical Program  
**Thomas Rhode**  
**SonDeBaril**

*End of Gala Dance Party!*

Oct 26th, 2024 7 pm  
Fr. O'Connell Hall  
597 Ave NE, Washington DC

With the Support of

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA  
Latin American Music Center

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The LAMC has established a collaboration with TorcuArt to help promote Flamenco art in the United States. Flamenco's strong influence on Latin American music provides the foundation for this partnership, highlighting the Latin American genres shaped by Flamenco.

This will be a fantastic event, so we encourage you to mark your calendar and get your tickets soon, as this event tends to sell out quickly.

This year, we are proud to honor **Mrs. Natalia Monteleon** with the TorcuArt Annual Recognition Prize for her decades of tireless contribution to the knowledge and appreciation of Flamenco in the DMV area.



**About Natalia Monteleón:**

Natalia has been involved in flamenco for over 30 years, as a dancer, teacher and choreographer. Her teachers have included Flamenco with Ana Martinez, Paco del Puerto, La Tati, Carmela Greco, Maribel de Sevilla, and Raquel Pena, and Classical Spanish Dance with Maria Morales. Natalia has been a soloist at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater, Wolf Trap Theater, George Washington University's Lisner Theater, the Warner Theater of Washington, the Embassies of France and Spain, the University of New Orleans, and the Contemporary Arts Center of New Orleans. As director of Arte Flamenco, Ms. Monteleón has staged performances at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the University of Maryland, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and at all major Hispanic and international music venues throughout the mid-Atlantic region. She has recorded with Brother Ah's New World Ensemble cd "Celebration", and was dance director for the GALA Hispanic Theater production of the House of Bernarda Alba, and coached actors in Arena Stage's production of Yerma.

The keyNote speaker will be **Mrs. Leticia Pico de Coaña Suarez** who is the Counselor of Spanish Embassy to the United States



The LAMC is proud to present our distinguished alumnus, renowned guitarist **Dr. Thomas Rohde** performing at this Gala.



**About Dr. Thomas Rohde:**

**Rohde** is an American classical guitarist and musicologist who specializes in Brazilian music and culture. He has toured throughout Brazil, Taiwan, and the United States and he has performed with the New World Symphony, the New Bedford Symphony, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and at venues such as the 92nd Street Y in New York City, the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. While living in Boston he was a member of the New World Guitar Trio with whom he recorded the CD, *Exiled*, and he also performed

with the Brazilian group Choro Democrático. Mr. Rohde earned a Ph.D. in musicology with a minor in Latin American music from Catholic University, a Master's of Music degree from the New England Conservatory, and a Bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and he teaches music history courses at Stevenson University and Catholic University.

We will also have the fabulous **SonDeBaril**:



**About SonDeBaril:**

SonDeBaril (Francisco “Yiyi” Orozco and Ela Razon) arose out of the elements that drew us together: the rhythms, sound, and movement of the age-old art form of flamenco. It is the space in which music and dance are merged, creating an opening where a multitude of raw emotions are invited and allowed. SonDeBaril is an expression of where we come from, the space we inhabit, and our unified path.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of tapas, dinner, live performances, and a dance party to close the night!

If you're not a member yet, you can become one here and start benefiting now.

[Get Your Tickets](#)

## Upcoming Events

- **November 2**, The LAMC, in collaboration with the **Sonus International music Festival**, at **Ward Recital Hall, 7:30 pm** .Presents:“Music From Argentina: Carlos Guastavino and his Time”

**Nancy Roldán**



**Lilia Salsano**



**José Cueto**



**Gustavo Ahualli**



- **November 9**, The presentation of Uruguayan scholar and Rome alumnus **Dr. Leonardo Manzano**, who comes back to his Alma Mater after many years to give a lecture on "**The research advancements in the field of Latin American opera**" at **Ward Recital Hall, 7:30 pm**



- **November 23**, the LAMC will present, in collaboration with the **Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain**, countertenor **Mikel Uskola Cobos** in concert accompanied by noted Portorican pianist **Jose Ramos Santana** at **Ward Recital Hall, 8:00 pm**





# Announcements

## ILAIS Hispanic/Latin American Heritage Month Celebrations

Once again this year, ILAIS will host a Latin American Festival at CUA to celebrate the Hispanic/Latin American Heritage Month. The 2024 edition has **literature** as its centerpiece, in collaboration with AACIA (Association of IberoAmerican Cultural Attaches).

One of the goals of our ILAIS is bringing academic opportunities focused on Latin-American studies to our students while partnering with University's departments and Schools to advance our University profile in the Latin American region.

### SAVE THE DATE:

On Monday, October 21, from 2-8pm.

There will be 3 literary panels featuring authors representing their countries, tables from the Embassies with cultural materials, regional food and drinks, as well as Ambassadors addresses prior to each panel. Countries represented will be Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and Mexico.

The Nest link to the 2024 ILAIS Latam Festival

<https://nest.cua.edu/event/10581702>



*Presentations will be held in English.*

**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA** Institute for Latin American and Iberian Studies

**Latin American Festival**  
*Literature in the spotlight*  
*in cooperation with AACIA*

Program:

**Panel 1 - 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm:**  
**Argentina, Brazil and Chile**  
Tentatively Hon. Ambassadors remarks  
Authors: **Argentina** - Claudia Yelin, "Emigrar"  
**Brazil** - Valeria Macedo, "A falta que ela faz"  
**Chile** - Daniel Cano, "El Rugido de Lautaro"

**Panel 2 - 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm:**  
**Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras**  
Ambassadors' remarks:  
**Hon. Ambassador Dr. Catalina Crespo (Costa Rica)**  
Authors: **Costa Rica** - Daniel Quiros, Creative Writing  
**Guatemala** - Alvaro Montenegro, Poetry  
**Honduras** - Keyla Sanders, "Mojada"

**Panel 3 - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm:**  
**Ecuador, Peru, Mexico/Cuba**  
Ambassadors' remarks:  
**Hon. Ambassador Cristian Espinosa (Ecuador)**  
**Hon. Ambassador Alfredo Ferrero (Peru)**  
Authors: **Ecuador** - Gabriela Polit, "Los libros de otros"  
**Peru** - Claudia Pellegrino, "Mamá a los 16".  
Gustavo Rodríguez, "Cien cuyes"  
Moderator: **Mexico/Cuba** - Author Gabriela Guerra, Fiction

We are thrilled to announce that the LAMC has received an important donation made by the Puerto Rican composer **Carlos Alberto Vazquez**.



Symphonic, solo, choral, chamber, theater and electronic music composer **Carlos Vázquez** is one of the most outstanding Latin American contemporary composers coming from the Caribbean basin. He has composed and presented the two most ambitious works done in his country; the opera *La Mina de Oro* and the *Requiem domesticus*. Born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, Vázquez studied music at the University of Puerto Rico, University of Pittsburgh, New York University and La Sorbonne in Paris, where he earned a Doctoral degree. His composition teachers have been Rafael Aponte Ledée, Frank MacCarty and Bruce Saylor. Under the sponsorship of the Rockefeller Foundation, he attended a seminar on new computer music techniques at Stanford University in 1995.

Since 1972 his works have been premiered and played among different countries in the Americas and Europe. He has been invited to a variety of international events such as the First Latin American Contemporary Music Festival (Venezuela, 1977), Charles Ives Center (1983-85), the International Electroacoustic Music Festival of Varadero, Cuba (1985, 87, 89, 91 and 1993), the II and VI Caribbean Composers Forum (Costa Rica), the IV Caribbean Composers Forum, Venezuela, the VII Caribbean Composers Forum, El Salvador, the V, VII, IX and XI Latin American Music Festival of Caracas, the XII Festival of Contemporary Music of Havana and the II International Contemporary Music Festival of El Salvador. He has been commissioned by the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra (twice), the Inter American Music Council of the Organization of American States, the University of Puerto Rico Choir and the Casals Festival, International Computer Association and Mexico CMMAS among others. A multimedia work that he created as guest composer at LIEM, Madrid's electronic music center, was premiered in the 2000 International Contemporary Music Festival of Alicante, Spain. Dr. Vázquez has also been an active organizer, producer, lecturer and editor. He was founder and first President of Puerto Rico's National Association of Composers. At the present, he is Executive Director of the Caribbean Composers Forum Organization, Musical Director of the International Electroacoustic Music Sample and was a member of the board of Directors of the Iberian-American Music Council based in Madrid. As a scholar he has lectured in Latin America, Spain and the USA on his electronic music as well as Puerto Rican traditional and contemporary music. He was Artist

in Residence at Kean University in 1993, Bogliasco Foundation in Italy in 2007, Fundación Valparaíso in Spain in 2011 and CMMAS, Mexico in 2014. He organized 7 international festivals, produced six contemporary music concerts, edited two Caribbean music books (one containing scores, the other articles) and was the producer, writer and narrator of five of a series of radio programs which featured Puerto Rican and Latin American music. His works have been played by prestigious orchestras such as: The Philharmonisches Staatsorchester Mainz, Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Simón Bolívar, Orquesta Sinfónica de Panamá, Orquesta de EAFIT, Orquesta Sinfónica del Valle, and Orquesta Nacional de El Salvador among others. He has been guest lecturer on composition at the Gerhart Munch workshop at the Conservatorio de la Rosas in Morelia, Mexico, the Jornadas de Informática y Electrónica Musical of Madrid, Seminario de Composición de Costa Rica and UNEAC in Cuba. From 1978 to 2013 he was Professor at the University of Puerto Rico Music Department, where he has been the Founder and Director of the Electronic Music Lab. Founding Member of the Colegio de Compositores Latinoamericanos de Música de Arte . Retired from UPR he lives in Mclean, Virginia (DC area).

## Criminal Violence and Attitudes Toward Immigrants in Mexico

**Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024**

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

**Elliott School,**

**Suite 501 Conference Room (5th floor)**

Presenter: [Omar García-Ponce](#), Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University



Latin American and  
Caribbean Studies Initiative  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## **Criminal Violence and Attitudes Toward Immigrants in Mexico**

**October 22nd, 2024  
12 pm - 1 pm  
Elliott School  
Suite 501 Conference Room**

[Register Here!](#)



**Dr. Omar García-Ponce**

**Undocumented migrants traveling through Mexico face discrimination, exclusion, and violence, challenges worsened by rising criminal violence. This study explores the prevalence of dehumanization, how exposure to crime shapes public attitudes, and whether humanizing interventions can reduce negative perceptions. Join us to explore the complex relationship between migration, violence, and public opinion, and discuss strategies to promote empathy for vulnerable migrant populations.**

**Refreshments will be provided!**

Over the past two decades, poverty and violence have forced hundreds of thousands of people from Central America and the Caribbean to flee to Mexico with the ultimate goal of reaching the United States. The path through the Mexican corridor is perilous. Undocumented migrants often face systemic discrimination, social exclusion, and heightened vulnerability to violence during their transit. Concurrently, Mexico has experienced an increase in criminal violence, potentially exacerbating negative attitudes toward migrants. This study employs a series of survey instruments and experiments with a nationally representative sample of Mexican citizens to achieve three main objectives: (1) assess the prevalence of dehumanization and discrimination against undocumented immigrants; (2) determine whether exposure to crime and violence shapes these attitudes and beliefs; and (3) evaluate the effectiveness of humanizing interventions in reducing negative perceptions of these marginalized groups. By investigating these dynamics, the study aims to illuminate the complex interactions between migration, violence, and public opinion in Mexico while identifying potential strategies to foster more empathetic attitudes toward vulnerable migrant populations.

RSVP HERE!

## How Incremental Police Reform Can Save Lives: Lessons from Brazil

October 31st, 2024

12 pm - 1:00 pm

Elliott School,

Suite 501 Conference Room (5th floor)

Presenter: Jessie Trudeau, Assistant  
Professor of Political Science, Syracuse  
University

Latin American and  
Caribbean Studies Initiative  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

### How Incremental Police Reform Can Save Lives: Lessons from Brazil



October 31st, 2024  
2 pm - 3pm  
Elliott School of  
International Affairs,  
501 Suite Conference Room

Jessie Trudeau  
Assistant Professor,  
Syracuse University

Register Here!



Aggressive policing remains a common tactic in the Americas. This talk explores how restricting such approaches, paired with internal, non-police oversight, can reduce police and civilian violence. In areas with organized crime, these reforms may also help slow criminal conflicts and make violence more predictable.