

ISMCenter Faculty Bios

Julio Alexis Muñoz, Pianist:

Studied piano in the Conservatories of Las Palmas and Madrid. In 1986 the International Menuhin Music Academy awarded him a scholarship to work at its site in Gstaad (Switzerland) with Albert Lysy, David Gueringas, Ana Chumachenko, Rado Aldulescu and Louis Kentner, among others, in chamber music. He continued his advanced training at the Academy Franz Liszt in Budapest, Hungary (1988-91) in postgraduate studies with Marta Gulyas, Peter Nagy and Ferenc Rados, as well as with master teachers Felix Lavilla, Miguel Zanetti and W. Rieger. In 1986 he was awarded the highest diploma and first prize at the II Pianist Competition "Pedro Espinosa" and in 1989 was awarded the second prize at the long-standing Competition of Juventudes Musicales in chamber music.

The pianist continues to develop an intense concert life as an interpreter of chamber music and collaborates regularly with important singers. With chamber organizations, in Song recitals, and as a soloist he has offered concerts in halls and festivals throughout Europe, America and the Near East. Outstanding experiences include a tour as soloist of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Gran Canaria throughout France and Slovakia, the Teatro Bellas Artes of Mexico and the National Auditorium of Madrid with Manuel Cid and Inaki Fresan, as well as International Festivals in Geneva, Santander, Granada, Torroella de Montgri, Leon and Segovia. He performed at the 150th Anniversary of the Philharmonic Society of Las Palmas with the Trio Urman, the Spanish College in Paris with Miguel Zanetti, the Chopin Conservatory in Warsaw with Elisa Belmonte, the Nieuwe Kerk of The Hague with Lucrecia Garcia and Ismael Jordi, the Teatro Maestranza y Cuyas with Maria Jose Moreno, at the Palau de la Musica de Valencia with Jose Julian Frontal, the Teatro Colon de Buenos Aires with Teresa Berganza and at Suntory Hall in Tokyo, among others.

Maestro Muñoz has premiered numerous works by contemporary Spanish composers and has recorded for R.N.E., Radio Bratislava, E.M.E.C. and Sony Classics. He recently recorded a cd featuring works by 20th-21st Century Spanish and American composers with mezzosoprano Helen Tintes. Muñoz has been professor of piano at the Conservatory of the Community of Madrid, pianist in the International Courses of Music in Santiago de Compostela and a collaborator with Teresa Berganza and Manuel Cid in the Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia. Since 1991 he is professor of vocal repertoire at the Escuela Superior de Canto in Madrid.

Avelina Vidal Seara (Guitar)

Was born in Montevideo (Uruguay), the daughter of Spanish immigrants. She began her music studies at a very young age at the Ravel Conservatory in Montevideo. After moving to Madrid, she enrolled in the Royal Conservatory of

Music, where she studied piano, cello and continued her guitar studies under the direction of Rocio Herro, finishing her studies with excellent qualifications. With the support of a MEC scholarship she was able to expand her studies with Eliot Fisk at the Hochschule fuer Musik in Vienna and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. She has participated in intense courses with John Williams, J.L. Gonzalez-Mohino and Leo Brouwer. She has also studied chamber music with F. Arizcuern and contemporary music with J.P. Dupuy.

As a soloist she has performed concerts throughout Europe, specializing in the music of the Twentieth Century. Her interest in chamber music has led her to include diverse unique themes (works of N. Paganini and M. Castelnuovo-Tedesco) and she has been a member of varied chamber groups. For the last few years she has dedicated her work to the promotion of contemporary music, receiving dedications of new repertoire for and with the guitar. In this area, she has been a member of the Duo Vidal-Asensio (Flute and guitar), the Aequaliter Duo (two guitars) and Trio Hispalia (Violin, Guitar and Accordion).

Prof. Vidal Seara has given masterclasses with the Oaridge International Scotland's Guitar Festival (2003) and the IV International Course of Muisic-Pirineos-Classic (2005), as well as with the ISMCcenter. Since 1993 she is professor of guitar at the Conservatory of Muisic "Teresa Berganza" in Madrid.

Amy Morris, Flute

Has performed in and coached many chamber music collaborations. In 1999, she formed The Second Winds, a woodwind quartet that prepares and presents educational programs to school children of all ages throughout the Twin Cities (MN). The Indãnde Duo, a flute/oboe collaboration started in 2005, has performed on several Twin Cities concert series and in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 2009, the Duo received a Subito grant from the American Composers Forum to perform at the annual convention of the National Flute Association in New York City. Ms. Morris' latest collaboration, the Prairie Song Project, commissions and performs music for flute, voice and piano. The Project received a grant from the Scottish Arts Council to fund one of its two new commissions. Since its inception in 2007, the Project has performed for audiences in the US and Europe. Since 2000, Morris has taught at Hamline, Concordia and St. Catherine Universities in St. Paul, MN where she coaches flute choirs in addition to her studio teaching. She also performs with the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and has released two solo cds with pianist Susan Garrelts.

Ana María Otamendi Sánchez

After her orchestral debut at age 12, Ana Maria performed as a soloist and collaborative pianist in many important concert halls in Panama, USA, Spain and Venezuela. She won 3 First Prizes in Venezuelan Piano Competitions as well as the USC Concerto Competition, the Ouro Branco Festival Competition (Brazil) and the Alternate Winner of the MTNA Regional Division.

Her training includes a MM in Piano Performance at the U. Wisconsin (Judit Jaimes), an Artist Certificate from the University of South Carolina (Marina Lomazov) and currently she is working on a DMA in Collaborative Piano at the U. Michigan with the renowned pianist Martin Katz. She earned full assistantships at all these universities. She is also a *cum laude* Geophysical Engineer. Otamendi was Principal Keyboard of the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra (2007-2008 season), as well as Assistant Professor at the University of Musical Studies in Caracas.

Helen Tintes-Schuermann, Mezzosoprano and ISMCenter Director

Has over 25 years experience as a singer and accompanist in Spanish and Latin American repertoire. Please visit her complete biography on this website.