

Recital of Works
by
HUGO ANTONIO MIRANDA

Saturday, December 7, 2024 • 4:00 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

1715 N Broad St, Philadelphia, PA 19122

PROGRAM

Epic Mountains

Hugo Antonio Miranda

Grace Doerr, horn
Hannah Eide, horn
Aidan Lewis, horn
Nicholas Welicky, horn

4 Horns Fantasia

Hugo Antonio Miranda

Grace Doerr, horn
Hannah Eide, horn
Aidan Lewis, horn
Nicholas Welicky, horn

The Solo Traveler

Hugo Antonio Miranda

Sarah Connors, clarinet

| Intermission |

The Prodigal Son

Hugo Antonio Miranda

- I. The Lost Sheep
- II. The Lost Coin
- III. The Prodigal Son
- IV. Father and Prodigal Son
- V. The Brother

Lucianna Astorga, soprano
Madison Marie McIntosh, mezzo-soprano
Daniel Laverriere, baritone
Benjamin Chen, baritone
Sarah Lee, piano

About the Composer

HUGO ANTONIO MIRANDA is a Mexican American composer who's earned several awards for his music. He earned his undergraduate degree in music composition from Rutgers University and is now working on his master's at Temple University. Over the years, he's had the chance to study with well-known composers like Robert Aldridge, Melissa Dunphy, Matthew Greenbaum, Jan Krzywicki, Erin Busch, William Dougherty and Mark Zaki.

Hugo's love for music started when he was young, and he spent years studying piano at the National Conservatory of Music of Mexico under pianist Alfredo Isaac Aguilar before moving to the USA with his family in 2016. He has also taken piano lessons with pianist Clipper Erickson and master classes with pianist Naoya Seino.

Back in 2014, he placed 4th in the Golden Key International Piano Composition Competition and performed at the winner's recital in Vienna's Ehrbar Hall his piece *Dancing Flowers*. He also received an honorable mention at the IBLA Grand Prize for piano composition that same year. In 2018, he won 3rd place in the Golden Key National Piano Composition Competition, and in 2022, he won 1st prize in the Caneres International Music Competition Vienna, September edition for his orchestra piece *Symphonic Madness*.

Hugo believes music has the power to drive change and bring attention to important social issues. One of his pieces, *Vaquita*, focuses on the world's smallest porpoise, which is on the verge of extinction. Through this composition, Hugo raises awareness about how human actions have contributed to the decline of Vaquitas and calls for a shift in how we treat the environment.

Hugo has also written music centered on mental health, drawing from his own experiences. Through these compositions, he aims to highlight the daily challenges and prejudices that people with certain conditions face. By pushing for more understanding, Hugo hopes to help break the stigma surrounding both mental illness and neurodivergence.

On top of composing, Hugo teaches piano at a small music academy in New Jersey. His teaching style focuses on empathy and compassion, knowing that every student is unique. He tailors his lessons to fit each student's needs and believes that learning an instrument can be life-changing, offering a powerful outlet for mental health and self-expression.

In his free time, Hugo enjoys relaxing with his cats, spending quality time with family, and watching soccer. He's a dedicated fan of Lionel Messi.

Program Notes

Epic Mountains

Scored for 4 French Horns. In 2023, I composed the theme for *Epic Mountains*. I started writing it for orchestra, aiming for a melody that would be both memorable and uplifting. I wrote the piece through October to November of 2024. While working on the piece, I looked at pictures of mountains, especially ones with snow-capped peaks, letting their majesty guide my ideas. The size and power of these mountains sparked a deep feeling in me, an appreciation for nature and what it means to be part of this world.

To me, mountains are more than just part of nature, they represent strength and beauty. They remind me of the challenges we face in life: the steep climbs that test us, the times when moving forward feels impossible, and the rare moments when the path is easier. But reaching the top brings a sense of achievement that makes the struggle worthwhile, showing us the strength we gain along the way.

I wanted *Epic Mountains* to show not just the beauty of nature, but also to encourage people to value and protect it. I also hoped the piece would remind listeners of the strength we have as humans to face challenges and come out stronger.

4 Horns Fantasia

Scored for 4 French Horns. In the fall of 2022, during my first semester of grad school at Temple University, I created what became my first Horn Quartet. During that time, I met many talented horn players, which inspired me to write for the instrument. I aimed for the piece to represent and to express the resilience and strength I've built from the challenges I've faced. As the composition unfolded, it became a reflection of my journey—the highs, the lows, and everything in between.

The Solo Traveler

Scored for solo Clarinet. I composed the piece in November of 2024. When I composed the piece, I did not think much about it being programmatic. But when I finished it, I thought it could represent someone's solo travels and adventures always coming back to a place of peace which is represented by the main theme that is of a calmer quality than the rest of the piece. This could represent home as well.

The Prodigal Son

This composition came to life through an exciting collaboration with Mezzo-soprano Madison Marie McIntosh, who won The American Prize in Vocal Performance in 2020. Her deep love for sacred music and her constant search for new ways to bring sacred texts to life sparked the inspiration for this

project. We first connected in May 2023, and that's when I started working on an oratorio based on a biblical text from Luke 15, which she had suggested. Combining Madison's incredible voice with my composition has resulted in a piece that aims to capture the profound spirit of this sacred story.

TEXT:

The Lost Sheep

Now the tax collectors
and sinners all drew near
to listen to Jesus.

But the Pharisees
and scribes were muttering,
“This man welcomes sinners
and even eats with them.”

So He told them this parable:

“Suppose that one of you
has a hundred sheep
and loses one of them.
Won't he leave the ninety-nine
in the open country
and look for the lost sheep
until he finds it?
And when he finds it,
he puts it on his shoulders
and joyfully goes home.

Then he calls his friends
and neighbors together
and says, ‘Rejoice with me;
I have found my lost sheep.’

I say to you that likewise
more joy will be in heaven
for one repenting sinner
than for ninety-nine
righteous persons who do
not need to repent.

The Lost Coin

Suppose a woman
has ten silver coins
and loses one of them.
Does she not light a lamp,
sweep the house, and search

with care until she finds it?
And when she finds it,
she will call her friends
and neighbors together
and say, ‘Rejoice with me;
I have found my lost coin.’

Likewise, I say to you, there's joy
in the presence of the angels of
God for one repenting sinner.”

The Prodigal Son

“A man had two sons.
The younger told his father,
‘Father, give to me
my share of the estate.’

And so he divided
his property between them.
Not long after that,
the younger of the sons
gathered all he had,
left for a distant country,
and there squandered his
wealth
by living recklessly.

When he had spent it all,
there was a severe famine
in that whole country,
and he found himself in need.

So he went to work
for someone in that country,
who sent him to his fields
to take care of the pigs.

He longed to fill his stomach

with what the pigs were
eating,
but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses,
he said to himself,

'My father's hired servants
have bread enough to spare,
and here I starve to death!

I'm no longer worthy
to be called your son;
take me on as one
of your hired servants.'

Father and Prodigal Son

So he left that place
and went to his father.
But while he was still
a long way from home,
the father saw his son
and was filled with compassion;
he ran to his son,
embraced him, and kissed him.
The son said to him,

'Father, I have sinned
'gainst heaven and 'gainst you.
I'm no longer worthy
to be called your son.'

But the father told his servants,

'Quick! Bring out a robe —
the best — and put it on him,
a ring on his finger,
and sandals on his feet.

Bring out the fattened calf,
bring it out and kill it.
Let's feast and celebrate.
For this, my son, was dead
and has come back to life,
was lost and has been found.'

So they began to celebrate.

The Brother

Meanwhile, the older son
was out in the field.
When he came near the house,
he heard music and dancing.
He called one of the servants
and asked what this might be.
The servant said to him,
'Your brother has come home,
so your father killed
the fattened calf to celebrate
your brother's safe return.'

The older son got angry
and refused to go in.
So his father went out
and pleaded with him.

But he answered his father,

Yet you never gave me
even a young goat
so that I might feast
and celebrate with my friends.

But when this son of yours,
who squandered your estate
with prostitutes, comes home,
you kill the fattened calf!

Then the father said,

'My son, you're always with me,
and all I have is yours.
But we must celebrate
and rejoice, because
your brother, who was dead,
has now come back to life.
I thought that he was lost,
but now he has been found! '"