

Concert Quick Guide[®]

Música Mexicana SAT 10/5/24 at 7 PM & SUN 10/6/24 at 2 PM

Performances #278 & #279 Season 10, Concerts 5 & 6 Fisher Center at Bard Sosnoff Theater

LEON BOTSTEIN conductor

CONCERT TIMELINE

2 hours and 20 minutes

Ferial	Horsepower Suite	Intermission		The Night of the Mayas
15 min	26 min	20 min	15 min	31 min

Brief remarks by **Samuel Boeger** bass trombone



Manuel Ponce

Born 12/8/1882 in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico Died 4/24/1948 at age 65 in Mexico City

Ferial

Written 1940, at age 57 Premiered 8/9/1940; Symphony Orchestra of Mexico; Carlos Chávez conductor



Carlos Chávez

Born 6/13/1899 in Mexico City Died 8/2/1978 at age 79 in Mexico City

Suite de Caballos de Vapor (Horsepower Suite)

Danza del Hombre (Dance of the Man) 7 min Barco hacia el Trópico (Boat to the Tropics) 11 min El Trópico (The Tropics) 8 min No pause between movements

Written 1926–32, in Chávez's late 20s and early 30s; revised 1954 Ballet Premiered 3/31/1932 in Philadelphia; Philadelphia Orchestra; Leopold Stokowski conductor

Intermission

MEET & GREET some of the musicians in the lobby SHAREA PHOTO @TheOrchNow #TheOrchNow REFRESHMENTS available in the lobby WIFI BardWireless

RESTROOMS located on either side of the lobby

Brief remarks by Samuel Boeger bass trombone

Manuel Ponce Chapultepec

Primavera (Spring) 5 min Nocturno (Night) 6 min Canto y Danza (Song and Dance) 4 min

Written 1934, at age 51 Premiered 1934 in Philadelphia; Philadelphia Orchestra;

Leopold Stokowski conductor



Born 12/31/1899 in Santiago Papasquiaro, Mexico

Died 10/5/1940 at age 40 in Mexico City

La noche de los Mayas (The Night of the Mayas)

- Noche de los Mayas (Night of the Mayas) 7 min
- Noche de Jaranas (Night of Merrymakers) 6 min
- Noche de Yucatán (Night of Yucatán) 7 min
- Noche de Encantamiento (Night of Enchantment) *11 min*

No pause between the last two movements

Written 1939, at age 39

- Film Premiered 1/13/1941
- Orchestral Suite Premiered 1/31/1960; Orquestra Sinfónica de Guadalajara; José Ives Limantour conductor





All timings are approximate.

TON.BARD.EDU

Our new album, *Exodus*, is now available!

Heard in concert in Fall 2023, these works were written by Jewish composers while they were in exile from their homelands during World War II: Josef Tal's *Exodus*, Walter Kaufmann's *Indian Symphony*, and Marcel Rubin's Symphony No. 4, *Dies irae*.

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Bard's Orchestral Masters

Música Mexicana

SAT 10/5/24 at 7 PM & SUN 10/6/24 at 2 PM Performances #278 & #279 Season 10, Concerts 5 & 6 Fisher Center at Bard Sosnoff Theater

The Music

MANUEL PONCE'S FERIAL

Notes by TŌN clarinetist Dávid Kéringer

Mexico in 1940 was a period marked by significant cultural developments, particularly in music. This era highlights the nation's ongoing efforts to define a unique cultural identity through the arts. Manuel Ponce, a leading figure in Mexican classical music, was actively composing works that blended Mexican folk music with European classical styles. Most of his compositions are piano and guitar pieces, songs, and arrangements of folk songs, but he also made his mark as an orchestral composer. The influx of European artists during this time due to the war created new opportunities for cultural exchange and collaboration. Many European musicians found new homes in Mexico and contributed to the vibrant musical environment of the time.

Ferial is a lively depiction of a festival, filled with a mix of musical styles. Over its 15-minute span, Ponce honors various genres. The piece begins with drum patterns that suggest tribal ceremonies, followed by woodwind melodies that echo European Renaissance and Baroque music. It also includes waltzes, marches, and fugato sections, effectively combined with Latin American music, brass instruments in a big band style, and elements from movie and Broadway scores. The two oboes play a key role throughout, often paired together in a style similar to the soli parts in Brahms' *Haydn Variations* or the klezmer-like tunes in the third

TŌN's 10th Anniversary Season

#TON10 @TheOrchNow

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Ferial is a great example of the integration of European music traditions with one's own heritage. Ponce skillfully combines diverse musical elements, creating a dynamic and engaging concert experience.

CARLOS CHÁVEZ'S SUITE DE CABALLOS DE VAPOR (HORSEPOWER SUITE)

Notes by TON percussionist Nick Goodson

Rev up your engines! But not so fast, hold your horses. This piece is no ordinary day at the races. It relies heavily on a collaboration with visual artist Diego Rivera, and is a definitive statement for both Chávez and modernism as a whole. The premiere would be seen by Rivera, Gershwin, and Chávez's friend Aaron Copland, who championed Chávez as a unique voice. Our performance is a suite from a 1932 ballet which bears the same name. The ballet reflected the interest in the genre after landmark scores by Stravinsky and Ravel, and Chávez's desire to break new ground in this genre for his own country.

The first movement depicts the hustle and bustle of the industrial north (the U.S.), but the atmosphere is dystopian. As the piece goes on, the percussion signals a return to the southern hemisphere, where the atmosphere is more relaxed, less mechanized. The simple arc of the plot is an exploration of how different cultures evoke different aural sensations that might be associated with them. Most simply, it is an indictment of the economic exploitation of Mexico and the negative feelings it might have inspired in Chávez. This is no surprise, considering the politically charged environment that he operated in. The piece was begun in the wake of the Mexican Revolution, when many were trying to decide how best to draft a vision for Mexico's future, and what role the U.S. should play in that future. Another concept apt to this discussion, and a theme in classical music, is the concept of nationalism and the need for a "national music." Chávez is no different than many composers in that he served to create a unique voice for his country's classical repertoire.

This music and the composer himself could be compared to someone like Copland, and I believe there are some real similarities in concept, and sonically. However, I think it gives us a better perspective to compare Chávez to Bartók or Revueltas. All three composers are probably most remembered for their ability to incorporate the folk music of their countries into the orchestral scores.

MANUEL PONCE'S CHAPULTEPEC Notes by TŌN oboist David Zoschnick

Dubbed the "Creator of the Modern Mexican Song," perhaps no other composer is as responsible for popularizing Mexican concert music as Manuel Ponce. Ponce's work to bring traditional rural cánciones into urban concert halls came at a time when the modern Mexican identity was being uprooted. The Mexican Revolution, which lasted from 1910 to 1920, saw the expansion of voting rights, workers' rights, land reform, and the encouragement of education in indigenous languages. The result of these political changes was a Mexican identity that embraced and promoted Mexico's indigenous and rural heritage and shunned the traditional white, Spanish, and urban culture that had dominated. Ponce's perhaps best known orchestral work, the 1934 symphonic poem Chapultepec: Tres bocetos sinfónicos (Three Symphonic Sketches) is an example of how the Mexican composer contributed to this movement and celebrated indigenous culture.

Chapultepec portrays the vast, forested park of the same name, located in Mexico City, in three movements. The first movement is titled *Primavera*, or Spring, and Ponce uses the orchestra to great effect to portray this. Shimmering string ostinati create a dense jungle-like texture, through which woodwind solos dip and weave, like tropical birds of paradise dancing to impress each other. Horns and trumpets come to the forefront as the forest comes alive in a blooming crescendo, spring coming to life.

The second movement, titled *Nocturno* (Night), is full of lyrical pleading melodies in the strings, reminiscent of the love songs that Ponce was most well-known for during his career. One cannot help but picture a moonlit night at Chapultepec castle, the colonial palace that looms over the park, as a dashing *caballero* serenades his *amor* up in a balcony from the garden below.

The final movement, *Canto y Danza* (Song and Dance), begins with a lone oboe singing a somber melody while percussion hints at the raucous dance rhythm to come underneath. This somber song is passed around the winds until string pizzicati join the jaunty four-against-three dance rhythm, and the entire orchestra can't help but join in the dance.

SILVESTRE REVUELTAS' LA NOCHE DE LOS MAYAS (THE NIGHT OF THE MAYAS) Notes by TÕN cellist Elvira Hoyos Malagon

When Silvestre Revueltas composed *La* noche de los Mayas (The Night of the Mayas) in 1939, he not only created a

soundtrack for the cinema, but captured the soul of Mexico. This work, originally written as a film score, has transcended its cinematographic context to emerge as a vibrant musical statement about the cultural richness of the ancient Mayans.

Born in Santiago Papasquiaro, Mexico, in 1899, during a period of revolutions and modernization, Revueltas embraced these changes in his music. His compositions capture both the brutality and the beauty of life in Mexico, integrating indigenous traditions into a musical language that is both modern and direct. Through his work, Revueltas sought to reflect the spirit of his nation.

La noche de los Mayas comprises four movements. The first movement is solemn and mysterious. The music seems suspended in an unknown dimension, with strings and winds tracing melodic lines as echoes of a lost antiquity. The second movement opens as an explosion of life and celebration. Inspired by popular Mexican dances, the rhythm is festive and cheerful, an authentic manifestation of vitality. The third movement introduces a melancholic lyricism, reflecting the shadows and history of the ancient peoples of Yucatán. While Revueltas employs a modern harmonic language, the connection with the ancestral language remains present. The final movement is full of energy, with a vast percussion assembly that evokes a ritual ceremony. The frenetic rhythms and orchestral climaxes culminate in a catharsis that transports the listener to the experience of an ancient Mayan ritual.

Revueltas makes use of an enormous percussion section, especially in the fourth movement. This massive instrumentation gives *La noche de los Mayas* its distinctive rhythmic texture and its almost visceral energy, particularly during the ritual moments.

The Artists

LEON BOTSTEIN conductor



Matt Dine

Leon Botstein is founder and music director of The Orchestra Now (TON), music director and principal conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra (ASO), artistic codirector of Bard SummerScape and the Bard Music Festival, and conductor laureate and principal guest conductor of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (JSO), where he served as music director from 2003 to 2011. He has been guest conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre, Russian National Orchestra in Moscow, Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Taipei Symphony, Simón Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, and Sinfónica Juvenil de Caracas in Venezuela, among others. In 2018, he assumed artistic directorship of Campus Grafenegg and Grafenegg Academy in Austria

Recordings include acclaimed recordings of Othmar Schoeck's *Lebendig begraben* with TŌN, Hindemith's *The Long Christmas Dinner* with the ASO, a Grammy-nominated recording of Popov's First Symphony with the London Symphony Orchestra, and other various recordings with TŌN, ASO, the London Philharmonic, NDR Orchestra Hamburg, and JSO, among others. He is editor of The Musical Quarterly and author of numerous articles and books, including The Compleat Brahms (Norton), Jefferson's Children (Doubleday), Judentum und Modernität (Bölau), and Von Beethoven zu Berg (Zsolnay). Honors include Harvard University's prestigious Centennial Award; the American Academy of Arts and Letters award; and Cross of Honor, First Class, from the government of Austria, for his contributions to music. Other distinctions include the Bruckner Society's Julio Kilenyi Medal of Honor for his interpretations of that composer's music, the Leonard Bernstein Award for the Elevation of Music in Society, and Carnegie Foundation's Academic Leadership Award. In 2011, he was inducted into the American Philosophical Society.

THE ORCHESTRA NOW (TON)



Founded in 2015 by Bard College and led by Leon Botstein, TŌN is a graduate program that is training the next generation of music professionals. It offers young musicians a fulltuition fellowship toward a master's degree or an advanced certificate. TŌN's curriculum combines rehearsal, performance, recording, and touring with seminars, masterclasses, professional development workshops, teaching, and more. The members of the orchestra are graduates of the world's leading conservatories, and hail from countries across North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Many have gone on to have successful careers in orchestras around the world.

TŌN performs dozens of concerts a year at venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Fisher Center at Bard. In 2023, TŌN appeared in the Academy Award-nominated film *Maestro*, and was featured on the Deutsche Grammophon soundtrack, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. The orchestra has performed with numerous distinguished guest conductors and soloists, including Leonard Slatkin, Gil Shaham, Neeme Järvi, Stephanie Blythe, Fabio Luisi, Vadim Repin, Joseph Young, Peter Serkin, Naomi Woo, Peter Moore, Tan Dun, and JoAnn Falletta.

Among TŌN's many albums on the Hyperion, Sorel Classics, and AVIE labels are May 2024's *The Lost Generation*, rare recordings of Othmar Schoeck's *Lebendig begraben* and Bristow's *Arcadian Symphony*, and the soundtrack to the motion picture *Forte*. Recordings of TŌN's live concerts from the Fisher Center can be heard regularly on Classical WMHT-FM and WWFMThe Classical Network, and the orchestra has appeared over 100 times on *Performance Today*, broadcast nationwide.

More info at ton.bard.edu.





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Cheng Wei (Ashley) Lim*

Celeste/Piano

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¹Ferial

- ² Horsepower
- ³ Chapultepec
- ⁴Mayas
- * not performing in this concert

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As we begin our celebration of the orchestra's 10th Anniversary season, TÕN gratefully acknowledges the generosity of each and every donor who makes our work possible. Ticket sales cover less than a quarter of the expenses for our concerts and educational initiatives. With the sustained support of audiences like you, we can continue this unique educational program for classical musicians on the cusp of professional careers. **Thank you for making this important investment in the future of classical music.**

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Josh Foreman Lighting Supervisor

Scholars in Residence 2024

Francesca Brittan Sarah Hibberd

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Walli Daniels Electrician Nick Hawrylko Head Electrician

Orchestra

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Kat Pagsolingan Video Supervisor John Gasper Video Engineer Will Oliva Video Engineer May Pocsy '22 Assistant Video Engineer

Theater & Performance and Dance Programs

Jennifer Lown Program Administrator Sabrina Sa Artistic and Administrative Assistant

Richard Wilson

James Bagwell

Vocal Casting Joshua Winograde



Upcoming Events

NOV2at7PM&NOV3at2PM A Broadway Celebration

James Bagwell conductor Stephanie Blythe mezzo-soprano Vocalists from Bard Conservatory's Graduate Vocal Arts Program

Various selections by **Stephen** Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein, Frank Loesser, and others

NOV 16 at 7 PM & NOV 17 at 2 PM Charles Ives' America

Leon Botstein conductor William Sharp baritone Donald Berman piano J. Peter Burkholder host

All-Ives Program

The Fourth of July from the Holidays Symphony Central Park in the Dark Orchestral Set No. 2 Symphony No. 2 Plus performances of songs quoted in Ives' music DEC 8 at 2 PM at The Metropolitan Museum of Art **Siena, Wagner &** *Parsifal*

Leon Botstein conductor

Wagner Selections from Parsifal: Act I Prelude Good Friday Music Artwork from the exhibition Siena: The Rise of Painting, 1300–1350

All programs and artists subject to change. The Charles Ives concert is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Bard

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