



# Project Muse Guide

May 2012

## *Aroma Foliado* - Gabriela Ortiz

S O U T H W E S T  
C H A M B E R  
M U S I C

Featuring Southwest Chamber Music's resident String Quartet:

Lorenz Gamma and Shalini Vijayan, violins  
Jan Karlin, viola & Peter Jacobson, cello.

### *Featured Composer*



Gabriela Ortiz is one of the foremost composers in Mexico today, and one of the most vibrant musicians emerging in the international scene. Her musical language achieves an extraordinary and expressive synthesis of tradition and the avant-garde; combining high art, folk music and jazz in novel, frequently refined and always personal ways. Her compositions are credited for being both entertaining and immediate as well as profound and sophisticated; she achieves a balance between highly organized structure and improvisatory spontaneity. Although based in Mexico, her music is commissioned and performed all over the world.

Moreover her music has been played by prestigious ensembles, soloists and orchestras such as: Amadinda Percussion Ensemble, The Hungarian Philharmonic Orchestra, Zoltan Kocsis, Sara Leonard, Alejandro Escuer, Onix Ensemble, Tambuco Percussion

Quartet, The Mexican University Philharmonic Orchestra, La Camerata Chamber Players, Mexico City's Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony, Malmö Symphony Orchestra among others.

Born in Mexico City, her parents were musicians in the famous folk music ensemble Los Folkloristas, which was founded in 1966 to preserve and record the traditional music of Mexico and Latin America. She trained with the eminent composer Mario Lavista at the National Conservatory of Music and Federico Ibarra at the National University of Mexico. In 1990 she was awarded the British Council Fellowship to study in London with Robert Saxton at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. In 1992 she received the University of Mexico Scholarship to complete Ph.D. studies in electroacoustic music composition with Simon Emmerson at The City University in London.

She currently teaches composition at the Mexican University of Mexico City, and at The Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University.

### *Aroma Foliado*

*Aroma Foliado* was a Mainly Mozart commission underwritten by James R. and Frederica Rosenfield for the Cuarteto Latinoamericano and the La Jolla Summerfest. In the summer of 2005, I had the opportunity to see the work of North American visual artist Suzanne Bocanegra. I was especially intrigued by her work: *All the Petals from Jan Brueghel the Elder's Sense of Smell, 1618, 2002*. The process used by Bocanegra inspired me and I used it like a platform for the reinterpretation and the redevelopment of another artist's material, but it gains its own life in my music without losing its essence. The main aspect is not the musical origin in itself, but how the new composition incorporates, develops and acquires new meanings and aesthetic values. - *Gabriela Ortiz*

## About the Musicians



Lorenz Gamma has given master classes in the United States, Europe and Asia and has taught at UCLA, Indiana University in Bloomington and California State University Fresno, before joining the faculties at California State University Long Beach as well as California Institute of the Arts, where he currently teaches violin and chamber music. Living in Los Angeles since 2001 he has also become a much sought-after private violin teacher. As former co-leader of Switzerland's Amar Quartet, Mr. Gamma has performed in many of Europe's most important chamber music venues. Prior to his full-time activity with the quartet he served as principal at the Zurich Opera Orchestra and as concertmaster of the Northwest Sinfonietta in Seattle. As a soloist Mr. Gamma has performed over twenty different violin concertos and holds an extensive record of radio appearances as recitalist and chamber musician, both in Europe and in the United States. He has recorded chamber music for the Cambria Records, Centaur Records, EAR Records, ECM Records, Innova Recordings, Suisa Records and

Tilia Records labels and has performed a string quartet repertoire encompassing more than fifty different composers and most of the standard chamber music repertoire of over eighty composers. Mr. Gamma was born in Switzerland, where he received his initial training as a violinist. His further studies took place in the United States, with Franco Gulli, Steven Saryk and Mark Kaplan. Other important teachers include the Alban Berg Quartet, Walter Levin of the LaSalle Quartet, Rostislav Dubinsky of the Borodin Quartet and Isaac Stern. He has been performing with Southwest Chamber Music since 2002.



Shalini Vijayan deemed "a vibrant violinist" by Mark Swed of the Los Angeles Times, is an established performer and collaborator on both coasts. A native of California, Shalini studied in New York as a scholarship student at the Manhattan School of Music where she received her B.M. and M.M. degrees under the tutelage of Ariana Bronne and Lucie Robert. Always an advocate for modern music, Shalini was a founding member and is Principal Second Violin of Kristjan Jarvi's Absolute Ensemble, having recorded several albums with them including 2001 Grammy nominee, *Absolution*. As a part of Absolute, she has performed throughout the United States and Europe. A member of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida from 1998-2001, Shalini served as concertmaster for Michael Tilson Thomas, John Adams, Reinbert de Leeuw and Oliver Knussen. She was also concertmaster for the world premiere performances and recording of Steven Mackey's *Tuck and Roll* for RCA records in 2000. In Los Angeles, Shalini is featured regularly with Grammy Award winning

Southwest Chamber Music and can be heard on their *Complete Chamber Works of Carlos Chávez, Vol. 3* and the *Encounters* of William Kraft. She is one half of the duo 61/4, with percussionist Lynn Vartan, with performances throughout California and in Mexico. Shalini is a member of the first violin section of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra and served as Principal Second Violin of the Opera Pacific Orchestra from 2003-2008. She has appeared on over a hundred film scores including *The Incredibles*, *Ratatouille*, *Star Trek*, *Up* and *Avatar* as well as on every season of the television show *Lost*. Shalini has been on the faculty of the Sequoia Chamber Music Workshop in Arcata, California since 2003.



Jan Karlin, is a recipient of a James Irvine Foundation "Fund for Leadership Advancement" Award to outstanding Executive Directors in California. Ms. Karlin won a 2004 Grammy Award as producer for Southwest Chamber Music's recording of the *Complete Chamber Music of Carlos Chavez, Volume II*. She also serves on the Grammy Museum Education Advisory Committee. Ms. Karlin has performed throughout the U. S. and Europe, including the Arnold Schoenberg Center in Vienna, Cooper Union in New York City, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Tanglewood, Schleswig-Holstein, Flanders, Brighton and the Vienna Festivals. Ms. Karlin received her Bachelor's Degree from Tufts University in Drama and Music, and her Master's Degree from Boston University as a student of Walter Trampler. She studied chamber music under such notable musicians as Eugene Lehner, Joseph Silverstein and Louis Krasner. A credentialed secondary education teacher, she was Instructor of Viola at the Claremont Colleges for 12 years. Ms. Karlin also performed with the Boston Pops, Opera Company of Boston, Pro

Arte Chamber Orchestra in Boston, the Pacific and Long Beach Symphonies in California and the Wiener Akademie in Vienna. Her recordings are available on Cambria Master Recordings, ORFEO, (Munich) and Novalis, and she performed on Southwest Chamber Music's *Complete Chamber Works of Carlos Chávez, Volumes 1 and 2*, which received consecutive 2003 and 2004 GRAMMY Awards.



Peter Jacobson started on the cello at age nine and went on to graduate from the University of Southern California studying under the late Eleonore Schoenfeld. He also studied at CalArts and at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Peter has studied North Indian classical music with the late sitar master Rahul Sariputra and at the Ali Akbar College of Music. He won the Jennings Butterfield Young Artist competition, the San Diego Musical Merit competition and numerous local scholarships and competitions. Peter has performed as a soloist and premiered concertos by Jeffery Holmes and Roger Prytzytulsky. He has played locally and internationally with a list of fine classical ensembles, orchestras, rock bands, fusion projects, hip-hop producers and jazz artists with the intention of celebrating the wonderful effects of music. Currently, he plays regularly with Southwest Chamber Music, Quartetto Fantastico, and the Arohi Ensemble.

## ***Musical Vocabulary*** (from the California Standards for the Arts, unless noted otherwise)

**DYNAMICS** are various degrees of volume in the performance of music, such as loud and soft.

**EXTENDED TECHNIQUES** are unconventional, unorthodox techniques of playing musical instruments, in order to expand and explore the possibilities of different instruments.

**HARMONICS** are the series of different notes than can be played by fingering one fundamental note and changing air speed/embouchure to reach the higher ones. There is a different harmonic series for each fundamental fingering.

**IMPROVISATION** is the spontaneous creation of music.

An **INTERVAL** is the distance in pitch between two tones.

A **MELODY** is an organized sequence of single notes.

The **METER** is the grouping of beats by which a piece of music is measured.

**PONTICELLO** is a string instrument technique where one plays on the bridge of the instrument to achieve a special effect.

**RHYTHM** is the combination of long and short, even and uneven sounds that convey a sense of movement in time.

**SCORDATURA** is an alternate tuning used for the open strings of a string instrument. It is an extended technique used to allow the playing of otherwise impossible melodies, harmonies, figures, chords, or other note combinations.

A **SCORE** is the written form of the entire composition. All players have a part of the score for their instrument, unless they have memorized the notes.

**SOUND PERCEPTION** is how you interpret what you hear and where you hear it.

The **STRING FAMILY** (also called **Chordophones**) is the group of instruments that uses strings to produce sound. The strings are made of gut, steel, or nylon. Stringed instruments can be played with a bow- a long stick that has horsehair attached to it, or they can be played by plucking or strumming the strings with the fingers.

The **TIMBRE** is the tone color or character of sound heard.

The **TONALITY (KEY)** is the tonal center of a composition.

**TREMOLLO** is a shaking sound which is achieved by repeating the same note extremely quickly or by playing two notes very quickly, one after the other.

**TUNING** is to adjust a music instrument to the desired frequency or pitch.

## ***Continue Learning with these Internet Resources:***

For more information on **Gabriela Ortiz**, visit:

[www.gabrielaortiz.com](http://www.gabrielaortiz.com)

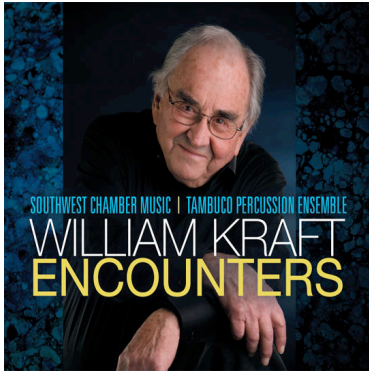
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriela\\_Ortiz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriela_Ortiz)

To try to **create your own composition** at:

[www.creatingmusic.com](http://www.creatingmusic.com)

Another excellent interactive website for kids with **information about instruments** is:

[www.playmusic.org](http://www.playmusic.org)



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**1.800.726.7147** or visit our website [www.swmusic.org](http://www.swmusic.org)

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Watch us on YOUTUBE: [www.youtube.com/swmusic](http://www.youtube.com/swmusic)

***Come To Our Concerts!***

## LA INTERNATIONAL NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL

Monday, March 21 and Saturday, March 26 at 8 p.m.

The Colburn School  
200 South Grand Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Meet Gabriela Ortiz during the pre-concert talk at 7 p.m.

Mention your school to receive complimentary tickets!

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***[www.swmusic.org](http://www.swmusic.org)***