

CD LA GRIS – The Gray

Cole Anderson, piano
Mónica Cárdenas, composer

"La Gris" (The Gray) is the name commonly given to the city of Lima, because it has a very cloudy sky, but that is what makes it so special, a wonderful city.

In this production performed by the excellent pianist Cole Anderson, I make reference to Lima presenting six works brimming with the rhythms and characteristics of Lima's folk music. There's the Festejo, the Lando, the Zapateo, all Afro-Peruvian dances.

With the arrival of the conquistadors in the 16th century to Peru, they brought Africans who stayed and blended their customs with Peruvian culture.

I also present the Tondero, the Marinera, the Waltz and a Berceuse. This last piece represents "a mother working and trying to lull her child to sleep by carrying him on her back".

In the piece "Two Zapateos" (Zapateo is a dance where the feet move from heel to toe to mark the rhythm), I draw a comparison between Afro-Peruvian and Spanish cultures. The origin of Afro-Peruvian Zapateo dates back to colonial traditions, where enslaved Africans used dance to maintain their customs. With this work, I create a fusion, beginning the piece with Afro-Peruvian Zapateo and then suddenly transitioning into Flamenco Zapateo with a little jazz.

As is customary in my compositions, the rhythm sometimes attempts to imitate the Peruvian cajón, the main instrument accompanying Afro-Peruvian dance. I also use European elements, creating an idea, a fusion complemented by a touch of jazz.

"La Gris" es el nombre que comúnmente se le da a la ciudad de Lima, debido a su cielo muy nublado, pero eso es lo que la hace tan especial, una ciudad maravillosa.

En esta producción, interpretada por el excelente pianista Cole Anderson, hago referencia a Lima presentando seis obras llenas de ritmos y características de la música folclórica limeña. Están el Festejo, el Landó y el Zapateo, todos bailes afroperuanos.

Los conquistadores en el siglo XVI trajeron africanos al Perú, quienes se quedaron y fusionaron sus costumbres con la cultura peruana.

También presento el Tondero, la Marinera, el Vals y una Berceuse. Esta última pieza representa a "una madre trabajando e intentando arrullar a su hijo cargándolo sobre su espalda".

En la pieza "Dos Zapateos" (Zapateo es un baile en el que los pies se mueven del talón a la punta para marcar el ritmo), establezco una comparación entre las culturas afroperuana y española. El origen del zapateo afroperuano se remonta a las tradiciones coloniales, donde los africanos esclavizados utilizaban la danza para mantener sus costumbres. En esta obra, creo una fusión, comenzando la pieza con zapateo afroperuano y luego pasando repentinamente al zapateado flamenco con un poco de jazz.

Como es habitual en mis composiciones, el ritmo a veces intenta imitar el cajón peruano, el principal instrumento que acompaña la danza afroperuana. También utilizo elementos europeos, creando una idea, una fusión complementada con un toque de jazz.

BIOGRAPHIES

Cole Anderson – pianist

Dr. Anderson is an exciting innovator in the world of classical piano performance. Influenced by the freedom and imagination of great pianists from the early 20th century, Cole has formed a uniquely expressive style of piano playing that aims to bypass the overtly technical manner of performance common in today's mainstream and instead bring the beauty inherent in the instrument to the fore.

Over a performing career that has spanned 25 years and taken him to multiple continents, Cole has time and again proven the universality of his expressive voice, reaching audience members from all walks of life with a disarming immediacy of poetic expression.

Avoiding hackneyed programs, Cole has focused on combining his insights into the core classical piano repertoire with explorations of unjustly neglected works by composers such as Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Percy Grainger, Federico Mompou, Charles Ives, Nikolai Kapustin, Toru Takemitsu and Einojuhani Rautavaara. This is in addition to his collaborations with currently active composers such as D.A. Wiley, Nahre Sol, Sam Saunders, Mónica Cárdenas and Rafe Fleming.

Dr. Anderson is part of the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's precollege division, acting as a mentor for the highly talented young musicians in the program. In addition, Cole maintains his weekly YouTube channel "The Independent Pianist." Founded during the pandemic, Cole presents weekly performances through the channel along with insights on topics relevant to music lovers of all skill levels and interests.

www.cole-anderson.com

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheIndependentPianist>

Mónica Cárdenas – Composer and pianist

Regarding the award-winning composer Mónica Cárdenas, critics have commented: "She offers us a beautiful blend of cultures," "a work of great beauty that reflects the joy of performance," and "her works are a delightful sonic journey through the vast richness of music" (music magazines).

Her compositions are performed on international stages, and she herself also promotes her piano compositions, both solo and chamber, establishing herself as one of the most renowned composers of the 21st century. Mónica is invited to festivals, masterclasses, and conferences, including at universities in Riverside and Indiana, to showcase her compositional style for piano and chamber music.

Among her productions as a composer and pianist:

- In 2015, she participated in the recording of "Anikousto" (flute and piano) with her sonata "Festejo en sueños," composed that same year.
- In 2020, Mónica presented "Influence," a piece for string orchestra included on the CD "Espiral," with the Camerata Gala de España and produced by Ibs Classical.
- In 2021, she recorded the CD "10 Preludes and Fugues from Latin America" for piano, featuring works she composed in 2020. This production won the Gold Medal at the 2021 Global Music Awards.
- In 2023, Mónica released the production "Chaos," featuring works she composed for cello and piano. On this occasion, she performs with cellist Johann Aparicio Bohorquez, principal cellist of the Heidelberg Orchestra in Germany. "Chaos" won the Silver Medal at the 2023 Global Music Awards.
- In October 2025, the CD "La Gris," featuring piano works composed by Mónica between

2020 and 2025, was recorded in San Francisco (USA) with pianist Cole Anderson.

- In 2025, she participated in the CD "Memoires en Chanson" with her sonata "Mis Recuerdos," a production recorded in Washington, D.C., with bass clarinetist Mélanie Bourassa and pianist Kim Davenport.

- In October 2025, she recorded the CD "Borders" for clarinet and piano with Spanish clarinetist Pau Arroyuelo. The works were composed by Mónica between 2016 and 2025.

Mónica Cárdenas is Peruvian-Spanish and began her piano studies at the National Conservatory of Music in Lima and later at the Tchaikovsky Conservatories in Kiev and Moscow.

In 2019, she received a Fellowship equivalent to a Master's degree in Composition from the University of West London.

She currently resides in Germany, where she maintains a busy schedule as a pianist and composer.

www.monica-cardenas.de

Alea Publishing: <https://bassclarinet.ecwid.com/search?keyword=cardenas>

Spotify and other digital platforms

PIECES:

Sonata Herencia

1.1st mov: Allegro moderato (Festejo) 4'20

2.2nd mov: Waltz moderato 3'53

3.3rd mov: Allegro (Festejo)moderato Allegro 3'47

4.Fusionado 3'43

Triptych "Limeñísima"

5.Pregón y Festejo 3'35

6.Emilia y Cholo 2'01

7.Correteando Lima 1'56

8.Dos Zapateos 4'22

Triptych La Gris

9.Tondereando 2'59

10.Landojazzeando 3'28

11.Marineando 3'24

12.Berceuse 3'42

TECHNICAL DATA:

Booklet in english & spanish

Grand piano: D Hamburg Steinway

Recording: October 2025 in the Hume Concert hall
in San Francisco - USA

Hume Concert Hall sound engineering team

Mastering: Tonada VP Petar Shopov

Web designer: Elvira Cárdenas

CD time: 39 min.

Cole Anderson www.cole-anderson.com

Mónica Cárdenas www.monica-cardenas.de

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