



# TAMBUCO Percussion Ensemble

## RICARDO GALLARDO, director

Born in Mexico City, Ricardo Gallardo studied at The Conservatory and The School of Music of The University of Mexico. He also studied in Canada, on a Scholarship from The Banff Centre for The Fine Arts, where he played and collaborated with outstanding musicians and composers. He moved to London where he completed a Masters Degree in Performance at The City University.

To date, he has performed widely in the Americas and Europe in solo concerts, record releases, as well as many radio and T.V. broadcasts.

In 1993, he founded Tambuco, one of the world's leading percussion ensembles. At present, Ricardo Gallardo performs constantly in Europe, Asia and the Americas, collaborating closely with several composers on new percussion pieces that have been written especially for him.

Due to his outstanding trajectory as percussionist, he has received several awards such as The Mexican Council for the Arts and Culture scholarship, The British Council fellowship, the Stipendienpreis by the Darmstadt New Music Institute, The University of Mexico's Award for Artistic Creation and the Mozart Gold Medal, in degree of excellence, awarded by the Austrian Embassy and Domecq Cultural Institute. As part of Tambuco Percussion Ensemble, Ricardo Gallardo was nominated three times for the Grammy Award, including Best Classical Album, Best Small Ensemble and Best Latin Classical Album for the recording of *Carlos Chavez Chamber Music* in collaboration with Southwest Chamber Music.

Ricardo Gallardo is one of the most dynamic percussionists of today and one of Latin-America's leading performers. He has appeared as soloist in special radio broadcasts for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), National Radio of Spain, Swedish Radio, and the South German and Mexican Radio Corporations.

He has performed in some of the most important new music festivals in Europe and America, including Festival Internacional Cervantino in Mexico; Het Slagwerk Festival in Holland; Electrifying Exotica Festival, The Nettlefold Festival and The Henley Festival in England; Voices in Scotland; Festival International de Musique Experimentale in Bourges, France; Elektrisk Helg, in Sweden; Percussive Arts Society International Convention in the USA; Festival Europalia in Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland; Festival Latinoamericano de Música in Venezuela; The ISCM World Music Days in Mexico City; and Festival Inventionen in Berlin; The Green Umbrella concerts in LA plus many performances as soloists with symphony orchestras.

Ricardo Gallardo's repertoire includes all the principal works for solo percussion, percussion concerti and diverse chamber music combinations. He has commissioned a great number of pieces written by Latin American and European composers who often employ ethnic percussion instruments, combined with electronic and computer media resources.

Both as soloist as well as artistic director of Tambuco Percussion Ensemble, Ricardo Gallardo focuses his priorities on expanding the creation of music for percussion and its performance for all audiences, as well as promoting percussion works of Latin-American composers.

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### ALFREDO BRINGAS

Alfredo Bringas' musical activity is centered in the creation and promotion of Mexican and international repertoire of contemporary music for percussion ensemble. As a founding member of Tambuco, he has recorded eight CDs and received several awards for his cultural activity with the Ensemble.

In addition to Tambuco, Alfredo Bringas has shared the stage with such outstanding international artists as Eduardo Mata, Keiko Abe, Stewart Copeland, Robert van Sice, Glen Velez, Steven Shick, Valerie Naranjo, Nanae Yoshimura, Nawang Khechog, Katalin Karolyi and Celso Machado.

With Tambuco, he has performed as soloist with the Montpellier Philharmonic Orchestra, the Santa Barbara Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic, UNAM Philharmonic, Camerata de las Américas, Guanajuato Symphony and Orquesta de Cámara de Bellas Artes, among others.

As main percussionist with Camerata de Las Américas he has premiered more than fifty contemporary works and recorded twelve CDs of latin-american contemporary music.

Alfredo Bringas studied at the the University of Mexico's (UNAM) School of Music. (BA) where he now teaches percussion. At UNAM's School of Philosophy, he completed a Masters degree in Art History and at present is completing a Ph. D. degree in performance studies.

### MIGUEL GONZALEZ

Miguel Gonzalez was born in Mexico City in 1973. He started his musical training at age 4, and since then, it has been a non stop activity and a way of life for him.

His amazing versatility comes from the many musical situations he has found himself in throughout his life. Before he grabbed a pair of sticks, he spent years as an oboe and recorder player, then came the dramatic switch to percussion. With the drum set as his main instrument, he spent a year at the musicians' institute in Los Angeles CA, learning styles with Efrain Toro, sight reading and swing with Joe Porcaro, independence and odd meters with Ralph Humphrey and funk with Takashi Numazawa. Back in Mexico, already working as a professional drummer, he met Tambuco, a international renowned percussion quartet, which he would join some years later, and being exposed for the first time to a 5 octave marimba among several other percussion instruments and new repertoire, he changed his musical path for good.

He received his bachelor's degree at the University of Veracruz, with teachers Jesus Reyes and Alvin Krueger, and he started teaching percussion in the same school at the age of 19. About his teaching experience, Miguel says "...after 15 years I've come to the conclusion that teaching has helped me so much to become a better musician and a wiser person. It is a great way to know yourself and learn about human relations, it keeps you thinking and analyzing, creating and discovering, practicing and looking for new repertoire. By teaching I have probably learned more than my own students. The more I've given the more I've received. Everyone should teach!"

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During those years he founded XOC Percussion Ensemble; and with one of the charter members, Juan Martinez (a former student of Miguel's), won first prize at the international marimba duo competition in Belgium in 2001, then recorded *XOC Marimba Duos*. XOC disappeared when three of the members moved to The Netherlands and later formed the "Ear Massage Percussion Quartet".

He also played as a percussionist and assistant timpanist for the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra for 6 years, and freelanced around the country before receiving his master's degree from the Lemmensinstituut in Belgium with teachers Leo Ouderits and Ludwig Albert. After this, he developed a unique marimba technique. "I use my whole body in the more organic way I can to produce different kinds of sounds, phrasing and a big dynamic range. It all reduces to a crazy and endless weight-speed relationship..."

In 2003 he joined Tambuco Percussion Ensemble, with whom he has toured the world, performing in India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, China, Australia, Peru, Colombia, most of the Western European countries, the US and Canada. His recordings with Tambuco include the "Best Classical Album" Grammy nominee CD, *Chavez Complete Chamber Music vol. II* in collaboration with Southwest Chamber Music, and the Tambuco *Iberoamerican Series Vol II*.

Miguel is currently head of the percussion department in the Las Rosas Conservatory in Morelia, Mexico where he teaches marimba and percussion full time, and is a member of Exacta Duo with Lynn Vartan. Exacta Duo released its debut CD in December, 2008.

## RAÚL TUDÓN TOLEDO

Born in Mexico City, Raúl Tudón Toledo began his musical studies in 1983 at the National School of Music in the UNAM, and then continued his studies on his own.

From 1985 to 1989 he was a member of the Percussions Orchestra of the UNAM. From 1990, he began to play solo marimba recitals in festivals and cultural halls in Mexico and other countries, mainly interpreting his own compositions, together with works in the international repertoire.

A fruit of this work was the recording of three compact discs: *Voces del Viento*, *Voces de la tierra Vols. 1 and 2*, and *Naturaleza acústica, Naturaleza eléctrica* (Quindecim Recordings), where he assembled the most significant of his marimba pieces.

By the end of 2010 he will have released four new Cd's with a series of 9 new works for electronics and electroacoustic for diverse instruments.

In 1993, Tambuco Ensemble was formed by him and other three distinguished Mexican musicians, with whom he has realized a long recognized path worldwide.

He has appeared with Tambuco in concert halls around the world, playing his works dedicated to them as well as important international repertoire for percussion.

To date, he has released eight recordings in a series of "Música Iberoamericana" featuring the most important music for percussion of each Iberoamerican country. His collaborations in-



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clude Eduardo Mata, Enrique Diemeke, Keiko Abe, The Kronos Quartet, Southwest Chamber Music, Glen Velez, Valerie Naranjo, Steven Shick, Michael Nyman, Stewart Copeland and others.

As a composer, he has written more than 80 works distinguished for his novel and particular use of the percussion family, specially the marimba, some of which are considered among the most important of the genre and which have been interpreted by numerous soloists and ensembles around the globe.

In 1998, he formed with the Swiss drummer Georg Hofmann and the North American flute-player Steve Gorn, the improvisation trio "Shades of Time" with whom he has made two recordings, *Dreaming Mexico* and *Siladette Awakening* (both with Quindecim Recordings) and has given concerts in Mexico City and Europe.

Miguel will release a solo marimba CD next year.

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