

Fernando Otero

Fernando Otero is a GRAMMY®-winning Argentine composer, pianist and vocalist based in New York City.

He has been described by many critics as a classically-trained virtuoso pianist and composer who developed his own style by blending elements of classical contemporary music and improvisation while acknowledging Tango as a starting point. He found his voice when he began to incorporate the indigenous sounds of his native Buenos Aires into his work. Otero's pianism displays song-like melodicism, expressiveness and a wide palette of colors. He possesses a particularly strong rhythmic intensity when performing up-tempo pieces, playing notes repeatedly with piston-like precision that contrast with sudden detours into day dreamy pastels.

Otero has recorded 16 albums as a solo artist and performs more than 50 international concerts yearly. His works are published by Warner Chappell Music and his albums have been released by Nonesuch Records, Warner Music, Harmonia Mundi and World Village.

He received two Latin Grammy nominations for his album **Ritual**, released in 2015, as Best Classical Album and Best Classical Contemporary Composition. In 2016, Otero put out another studio work entitled **Enigma** and was nominated for Best Classical Contemporary Composition. His latest album, **Solo Buenos Aires**, came out in April 2017, in which Otero reconnects with the song form, comprising a collection of songs written in the 20th s, 30th s and 40th s, with arrangements for orchestra.

His first contact with music was receiving vocal lessons from his mother Elsa Marval—an internationally acclaimed singer and actress—and started taking piano lessons at age five. He also studied the guitar, bass, drums, and later composition with Domingo Marafiotti.

Otero has received commissions from performers and institutions worldwide and has written music for orchestra, chamber ensembles, string quartet and choir, as well as for solo instruments including piano, violin and cello. Many of his compositions were commissioned by The New York State Council on The Arts, Lincoln Center, Laguna Beach Festival (featuring Otero as composer-in-residence), St. Ursanne International Piano Festival in Switzerland, and by performers such as the Kronos Quartet, the Imani Winds ensemble, Inbal Segev and Jason Vieaux, Paquito D'Rivera, and Arturo O'Farrill.

Shortly after moving to the US in the 1990's he worked with correspondingly diverse collaborators including Paquito D'Rivera, the Kronos Quartet, Quincy Jones, and Eddie Gómez—who in 2005 introduced Otero as one of the great pianists of a new generation. Otero has scored the soundtracks for numerous movies, including *Sin Palabras*, *DD is Dead*, *Unloosened and Root*, *A Strange Turn*, and *Franketienne*.

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