

LOON LAKE LIVE

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



2019

About the composer:

Carlos Chávez (1899-1978), full name Carlos Antonio de Padua Chávez y Ramírez, was a Mexican composer of the Modern era who, already by the middle of his life, was working consistently in international locations and considered to be Mexico's leading composer. He studied with Manuel Ponce and was influenced by Paul Dukas. His early compositional style leaned toward Romantic era writing with influence from Robert Schumann, but his overall output is noted for continuous evolution rather than settling on one single way. About this he said "The idea of repetition and variation can be replaced by the notion of constant rebirth, of true derivation: a stream that never comes back to its source; a stream in eternal development, like a spiral ...". Chávez composed around 175 pieces of music for ballet, opera, symphony orchestra, numerous smaller ensembles, and solo piano. His second symphony, *Sinfonía india*, is considered his most popular major work.

About the piece:

Trio was composed in 1940. It is an inventive and showy arrangement for flute, viola, and harp of 2 solo piano pieces by Claude Debussy and 2 songs by Manuel de Falla. In 1938 Chávez was asked to write a concerto for harp and orchestra to be performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra's then principal harpist Edna Phillips. He threw himself into researching for it, but that was quickly sidelined when he received a Guggenheim fellowship award to spend 2 years entirely devoted to composing a piano concerto. Phillips again asked for a composition in 1940, this time for her trio, and Chávez produced this work. It has had countless performances since then and is a wonderful addition to the surprisingly large and diverse repertoire for the flute, viola, and harp grouping. Debussy's charming solo piano piece "Golliwog's Cakewalk", presented here, is a wonderfully engaging version through Chávez's reimagining for this ensemble. This recording is from a performance in August of 2018 at Historic Saranac Lake Laboratory and features James Hall on flute, Catherine Beeson on viola, and Lynette Wardle on harp. Enjoy this archived recording with images curated by Mel Aman.

About the performers:

Flutist **James Hall** is an international soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, and teacher, having been invited to teach and perform with musicians around the world. He has performed as concerto soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician throughout North, Central, and South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Catherine Beeson is Assistant Principal Viola with the Colorado Symphony, and has performed with Friends of Chamber Music - Denver, Lenape Chamber Ensemble (PA), Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, and Santa Fe Pro Music Chamber Orchestra.

Lynette Wardle is principal harpist of the Richmond Symphony and the Albany Symphony, and as a freelancer performs with New Jersey Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, New York City Opera, American Symphony Orchestra and New York City Chamber Orchestra. She has been the harpist for *A Christmas Story*, the Musical, and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. She also performs regularly at *Wicked*, and with her husband Chad Smith in *Sax-O-Philm*, *Sounds and Sights of the 20's*.



2020