

AROUND THE WORLD ON TWO PIANOS

The guest pianists

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Ariel González

joining Gustavo Corrales Romero for LATINISSIMO on 12 October 2019

Ariel González is a native of Cuba now living in Calgary, Canada. González holds a University Degree in Piano Performance and Chamber Music from the Instituto Superior de Arte (Superior Institute for Art) in Havana, Cuba, where he graduated with the highest honors (Summa Cum Laude) in 1998, as well as a Master's Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Calgary, Canada where he studied under the guidance of Professor Charles Foreman and graduated in 2001.

He has received several awards in numerous piano competitions in his native country and has performed as a soloist and as a member of chamber ensembles in Cuba, Italy, Switzerland and Canada. He currently teaches piano at Mount Royal University Conservatory in Calgary where he has been a faculty member since 2001, as well as in his private studio. He has been invited several times to participate in summer music festivals in Calgary, playing as a soloist and sharing the stage with outstanding musicians from Canada and abroad.

González has been an adjudicator for festivals and competitions in several occasions. His repertoire encompasses a broad spectrum of piano literature from the baroque to modern, contemporary music, as well as a good representation of Cuban and Latin American music. He frequently performs solo recitals in his home city, and keeps a busy performance schedule as a chamber musician.

[Ariel González at Mount Royal University](#)

Henk Mak van Dijk

joining Gustavo Corrales Romero for EAST INDIES - WEST INDIES on 17 November 2019

Pianist Henk Mak van Dijk studied cultural anthropology at Utrecht University as well as piano at Codarts Rotterdam and the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. Masterclasses piano by the famous Hungarian pianists Gyorgy Sandor and Gyorgy Sebok were very inspiring for his further artistic and technical development at the piano. His adventurous spirit brought him to Indonesia, where he taught piano at Institut Seni Indonesia in Yogyakarta and gave concerts on Java, Bali and Sulawesi. Upon his return to The Hague, he started working at the conservatories of Rotterdam and The Hague and performing, also for Dutch radio and television.

His love for music and for Indonesia was combined in his research in co-operation with the Dutch Music Institute (Nederlands Muziek Instituut, NMI) on European (mainly Dutch) composers in Indonesia, which resulted in a pioneering book that was published in 2007: *De oostenwind waait naar het westen; Indische componisten en Indische composities, 1898-1945* (The Eastern Wind blows to the West; Indische composers, Indische compositions 1898-1945). His other book that warrants mention was launched in May 2019: *Tropenjazz, Jazz in Indië, 1919-1950* (Jazz in the Dutch East Indies 1919-1950).

Henk Mak van Dijk publishes regularly about Indische composers and continues to give Indische lectures and piano recitals in The Netherlands as well abroad. He has written articles for *De Gids*, *EPTA Piano Bulletin*, *Akkoord*, *Tijdschrift van de Koninklijke Vereniging van Nederlandse Muziekgeschiedenis*, *Indische letteren* and the Indonesian piano magazine *Staccato*.

During his research about jazz in the Dutch East Indies Henk discovered the manuscript of *Jazz concerto for piano solo and small jazz orchestra* in an attic in his home town The Hague. The concert is written by Indisch composer Ludwig van Zele in Soerabaia in 1932 and 1938 (Third movement).

Henk played this piano concerto with the Galloway Big Band from Amsterdam, conducted by T.S. Galloway at Tong Tong Fair 2017. Three jazz lectures were also part of his performance at the Festival. In 2018 Henk played the arrangement for two pianos, written by the composer himself, with Gustavo Corrales Romero in a concert organized by the Dutch Music Institute.

<https://makvandijk.wordpress.com/>

Ramón Valle

joining Gustavo Corrales Romero for CUBAN CLASSICAL & JAZZ on 7 December 2019

Ramón Valle started studying the piano at the *Escuela Provincial de Arte* in his home town of Holguín, Cuba, at age 7. He graduated from Havana's *Escuela Nacional de Arte* (ENA, National School for Art) in 1984. His exceptional talent was discovered in 1985 when he performed in a double concert with fellow Cuban pianist, Emiliano Salvador.

As solo artist and as leader of the jazz quartet *Brújula*, Valle appeared at numerous festivals (Mexico DF, Bogotá, Havana Jazz Festival) and was soon an established name in the Cuban and Latin American jazz scene. In 1991 Silvio Rodríguez, founder of the *Nueva Trova*, asked him to join his band *Diákara*, which he stayed with until 1993. Valle followed this up with an impressive series of performances and projects in Europe since 1995 and his move to Amsterdam in 1997.

In the meantime Valle has become a seasoned veteran boasting multiple appearances at the North Sea Jazz Festival and a growing list of performances at several important other international jazz festivals including in Montreux, Capetown, Johannesburg and Melbourne. He continues to expand his arsenal of original compositions and has also composed pieces commissioned by the municipality of Amsterdam and the Israeli symphonic orchestra *The Sinfonietta of Beer Sheva*.

Although the influence of his classical background and especially of the triumvirate Jarrett-Corea-Hancock can be heard, the remarkable thing about Valle's music is his ability to weld these diverse influences together to create a unique style that eludes traditional categories.

'The greatest talent among our young pianists.' Words Chucho Valdés, prominent musician and founder of *Irakere*, used to introduce Ramón Valle on his debut album *Levitando* [1993]. His discography now consists of 12 CDs, several of which were published under his own label RVS MUSIC. His recent CDs *Take Off* – with arrangements of music by Stevie Wonder, Leonard Cohen, Michel Legrand and John Coltrane besides own work – and *The Art of Two* (Winner Cubadisco 2018 for Best Instrumental Album), the duo project with his cousin Orlando 'Maraca' Valle, were both published with In+Out Records, as well as his newest CD *The Time is Now*.

www.ramonvallemusic.com