

Octavio Vázquez

MEDIUM BIO · 304 WORDS

Galician-American composer Octavio Vázquez has been praised by *The New York Times* for the “melodicism and rhythmic buoyancy” of his music and by *Soundboard Magazine* for its “astonishing virtuosity.” *The New Music Connoisseur* hailed him as “a burning torch for the next century... stunning... superb.” His music has been performed throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia; released on labels including Naxos, Delos, and Odradek; and broadcast by national radio and television networks in the United States, Canada, Spain, Russia, and China.

Vázquez’s compositions have been championed by leading conductors including Carlos Kalmar, Rossen Milanov, Paolo Bortolameolli, Dima Slobodeniouk, Paul Daniel, and Andreas Delfs, and by acclaimed soloists including Hilary Hahn, Dmitri Berlinsky, Johnny Gandelsman, and Eldar Nebolsin. A frequent collaborator with ensembles such as the American String Quartet, Poulenc Trio, and Verdehr Trio, he has also worked in film scoring and cross-genre projects as an arranger, orchestrator, and producer, notably with acclaimed Galician bagpiper Cristina Pato.

Among the institutions that have awarded, commissioned, or supported his work are the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New Music USA, Aspen Music Festival and School, Orquesta Sinfónica de RTVE, Royal Galician Philharmonic, Galicia Symphony Orchestra, Consello da Cultura Galega, Fulbright Commission, Chi-Mei Foundation, I-Park Foundation, MacDowell, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

Vázquez holds degrees from Madrid’s Conservatorio Adolfo Salazar and Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid. A Barrié de la Maza Foundation Scholar, he completed a master’s degree in composition at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University before earning his doctorate at the University of Maryland, College Park. He has taught at the Eastman School of Music and the University of Santiago de Compostela and is currently Professor of Music and Director of the Composition Program at the Nazareth University School of Music.