

Christopher Luna-Mega

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA <i>Music Composition & Computer Technologies</i> Edgar Shannon Fellow, Jefferson Scholars Foundation Dissertation: “Environmental sound notation and composition” Committee: Matthew Burtner, Leah Reid, Judith Shatin, Ted Coffey	Exp. May 2020
M.A.	University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA <i>Music Composition</i>	May 2018
M.A.	Mills College Oakland, CA <i>Music Composition</i> Committee: Fred Frith, Zeena Parkins, John Bischoff, James Fei, Roscoe Mitchell Thesis: “Translations of soundscapes into music for performers”	May 2013
B.M.	Escuela Nacional de Música – UNAM Mexico City, Mexico <i>Music Composition</i> Committee: Ulises Ramírez, Gabriela Ortiz, Arturo Uruchurtu, Sergio Cárdenas <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	May 2010
B.A.	Universidad Iberoamericana Mexico City, Mexico <i>Communications</i> <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	May 2002

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Buckner W. Clay Award in the Humanities (\$3,000)	2019-2020
Jefferson Scholars Foundation Fellowship (\$90,000)	2015-2020
Coastal Futures Conservatory Fellowship (\$3,000)	2019
Environmental Resilience Institute Summer Research Fellowship (\$12,000)	2019
Elizabeth Mills Crothers Award for outstanding musical composition (Mills College)	2013
Escuela Nacional de Música –UNAM (Mexico): Magna Cum Laude	2010
Commission for Symphony Orchestra, 80th Anniversary of Escuela Nacional de Música	2009
Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico): Magna Cum Laude	2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Virginia	
Jefferson Scholars Foundation Undergraduate Research Mentoring Program (Mentor)	Fall 2018-Spring 2020
Summer Transition Program (Instructor)	Summer 2018
Theory I (Instructor)	Spring 2018
New Music Ensemble (Assistant Director/Teaching Assistant for I-Jen Fang)	Fall 2017-Spring 2018
Performance with Computers (Instructor)	Fall 2017
Ecoacoustics (Teaching Assistant for Matthew Burtner)	Spring 2017
Musicianship III (Instructor)	Spring 2016
Digital Music and Sound Art Composition (Instructor)	Fall 2015
The Walden School (NH)	
Musicianship (Instructor)	Summer 2017
Composition (Instructor)	Summer 2017
Mills College (CA)	
Graduate Advanced Orchestration Seminar (Teaching Assistant for Roscoe Mitchell)	Spring 2013
Musicianship I (Instructor)	Fall 2012
Advanced Seminar in Spanish Literature and Senior Thesis (Tutor)	Fall 2011-Spring 2012
Escuela Nacional de Música–UNAM (Mexico City)	
Music composition (Instructor)	Spring 2008
Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico City)	
Music History (Instructor)	Spring & Fall 2007

TEACHING AREAS

Environmental Sound Composition

The course explores how music can incorporate detailed patterns of natural systems, focusing on acoustic analysis of environmental sounds recorded in the field and their translation into music for instruments and electronics. Studies pre-existing literature on soundscape ecology, ecoacoustics, zoomusicology and applied spectral techniques. Examines compositional choices on instrumentation, notation, and performance formats. Applies topics to undergraduate and graduate courses.

Composition and Improvisation

Undergraduate and graduate versions of a course that examines the intersection between composition and improvisation, integrating both practices creatively, historically, and analytically. From the western composition tradition, students learn various types of notation offering different degrees of control, from traditional notation to animated graphic scores. Within a broad range of multi-cultural improvisation traditions, the course explores techniques of development, group communication, and form.

Music Composition

Undergraduate and graduate level, individual lessons and classroom seminar composition lessons. A wide range of styles are offered in individual lessons, depending on the student; seminars focus on contemporary techniques such as sonification, spectral processes, algorithmic and computer-assisted-composition.

History and Composition of Electronic Music

The course studies the history, theory and practice of electronic music and sound art through a wide range of musical genres, traditions and techniques. Students compose original compositions with various software (Audacity, Logic Pro, Reaper, Max MSP, Spear, etc.), midi controllers, and different sound diffusion techniques.

New Music Ensemble

The course introduces students to performance practices including indeterminacy, graphic scores, text scores, conducted improvisation and collective composition. Repertoire includes: indeterminate scores, graphic scores, text scores, and computer generated scores. Students are encouraged to submit work.

Music Theory

Theory I through Post-Tonal Theory and Analysis of contemporary works. For contemporary works, topics include: algorithmic, computer assisted, and spectral composition.

Orchestration

Undergraduate and graduate level courses ranging from basic concepts such as instrumental groups, transposition and notation to stylistic exercises ranging from the Classical to the contemporary periods.

Musicianship

Basic through advanced levels, blending aural skills, traditional musicianship and improvisation.

Music notation

Traditional notation (handwritten and in music engraving software), proportional notation, indeterminate notation, graphic scores, text scores, computer-assisted scores. Music engraving software: Sibelius, Finale, Keynote, and OmniGraffle.

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

“Geysir: musical translation of geological noise.” Computer Music Multidisciplinary Research (CMMR), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (Marseille). Fall 2019

“Investigating the Effects of Increasing Forest Cover on Climate, and Translating the Results into Music”. Environmental Resilience Institute, Univ. of Virginia. Fall 2019

“François-Bernard Mâche’s *Korwar*”. South Central Graduate Music Consortium (SCGMC). Fall 2018

“Sound-model-based instrumental composition.” Jefferson Scholars Foundation Symposium. Spring 2018

“Oceanic partial analysis & composition,” for the Music Dept, Univ. of Virginia. *Sound Studies* course. Fall 2017

“Audio workshop.” Research Design Studio at the School of Architecture, University of Virginia. Fall 2017

“Geysir—compositional electronic processes,” for the Music Dept, Univ. of Virginia. *Ecoacoustics* course, Spring 2016

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

- Sounding Science: Listening for Coastal Futures** | BIC, Machipongo, VA September-December 2019
Sonification, *PO₄³⁻* | *NH₄⁺* and *Piano étude no. 2: tidal flow*, for electronics and video
- Coastal Futures Festival** | Charlottesville, VA September 2019
Chamber, *Under the sea ice*, for string quartet & electronics. Rivanna String Quartet; Christopher Luna-Mega, electronics
- Splinter Reeds** | Charlottesville, VA February 2019
Chamber, *Night music*, for reed quintet & electronics. Splinter Reeds; Christopher Luna-Mega, electronics
- National Student Electronic Music Event** | Charlottesville, VA February 2019
Spatialized installation in five channels, *Through summersultryings*. Christopher Luna-Mega, electronics
- Twisted Branch Tea Bazaar** | Charlottesville, VA October 2018
Improvisation, *Sound model improvisations*. Diego Villaseñor, flute; Christopher Luna-Mega, e. guitar, electronics
- New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival** | New York, NY July 2018
Electroacoustic, *La torre de Chitor*, for flute & electronics. Gianni Trovalusci, flute; Christopher Luna-Mega, electronics
- Spectrum** | Brooklyn, NY February 2018
Ensemble, *Waves Break Aural Shores*, for saxophone quartet and electronics. New Thread Quartet
- Seoul International Computer Music Festival** | Gwanju, S. Korea October 2017
Electroacoustic, *La torre de Chitor*, for flute and electronics. Byung-Chul Oh, flute; Hyang-sook Song, electronics
- EcoSono Festival of Environmental Music and Sound Art** | Anchorage, Alaska July 2017
Ensemble, *Geysir*, for flute, alto sax, trumpet, cello and electronics. Ecosono Ensemble
- ACcelerate Creativity and Innovation Festival** | Washington, DC April 2017
Electronic, *Diadrone*, for laptop ensemble. Mobile Interactive Laptop Ensemble (University of Virginia); Christopher Luna-Mega, conductor, mix
- AngelicA** | Bologna, Italy May 2017
Orchestral, *Splatter* (in collaboration with Roscoe Mitchell), Orchestra del Teatro Comunale di Bologna; Tonino Battista, conductor
- Tectonics** | Glasgow, Scotland February 2017
Orchestral, *Splatter* (in collab. with Roscoe Mitchell). BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra; Ilan Volkov, conductor
- Avant X** | Toronto, ON, Canada October 2016
Chamber orchestra, *Splatter* (in collab. with Roscoe Mitchell). Montreal Toronto Art Orchestra
- L'Off** | Montreal, QC, Canada October 2016
Chamber orchestra, *Splatter* (in collab. with Roscoe Mitchell). Montreal Toronto Art Orchestra
- Tectonics** | Reykjavik, Iceland April 2016
Orchestral, *Splatter* (in collaboration with Roscoe Mitchell), Iceland Symphony Orchestra; Ilan Volkov, conductor
- Mills Music Now** | Oakland, CA September 2016
Vortex, for The William Winant Percussion Group
- Manuel Enríquez International Festival of New Music** | Mexico City, Mexico October 2013
Ensemble, *Water Studies 1 and 2*, for string quartet, Arcano Quartet
- Surco, Candelario Huizar Festival of Concert Music** | Mexico City, Mexico June 2011
Orchestral, *Topografías*, Aguascalientes Symphony Orchestra (Mexico); David Rocha, conductor
- Manuel Enríquez International Festival of New Music** | Mexico City, Mexico October 2010
Orchestral, *Topografías*, National Symphony Orchestra (Mexico); José Luis Castillo, conductor

PUBLICATIONS

“Musical Aesthetics of the Natural World,” paper (with Eli Stine) in the *Jefferson Journal* (Charlottesville, VA), 2019

“Geysir: music translation of geological noise,” paper (with Jon Gomez) in *Proceedings of the Computer Music Multidisciplinary Research 14th International Symposium* (Marseille, France), 2019

Splatter, for chamber orchestra. Performed by the Montreal Toronto Art Orchestra, in Nessa Records’ Roscoe Mitchell release *Ride the wind*, 2018

Water Study no. 2, for string quartet. Performed by The Luna Ensemble, in Cutty Strange Records’ release *Vol 1*, 2017

COMMISSIONS

Coastal Futures Conservatory. Long Term Ecological Research sonifications 2019

The William Winant Percussion Group. *Vortex*, for 5 percussionists 2015

Roscoe Mitchell. *Splatter*, orchestration of an original free improvisation 2016

Orquesta Sinfónica de Aguascalientes. *Topografías*, for the Surco New Music Festival 2011

Orquesta Sinfónica de la Escuela Nacional de Música. UNAM (Mexico) 2009

The Lightbulb Ensemble. *A run*, for gamelan ensemble 2012

Escuela Superior de Música (Mexico). *Laberinto y Pasacalle*, in collab with Ulises Ramírez, for youth orchestra 2011

ADMINISTRATION

Coastal Futures Conservatory, University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA | *Festival committee* 2018-2019

- Co-curated repertoire
- Co-directed technical design for the sound art exhibition
- Co-edited sound art exhibition written material

Department of Music, University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA | *Visiting ensembles committee* 2016-2019

- Programmed and produced visiting ensemble concerts
- Managed departmental budget for ensemble residencies
- Directed PR and advertising for concerts

Department of Music, University of Virginia | Charlottesville, VA | *Colloquium committee* 2015-2016

- Participated in selecting guest speakers for the colloquium series
- Assisted with colloquia production

The Luna Ensemble | Oakland, CA | *Founder & Director* 2013-Present

- Curated repertoire and produced the ensemble’s concerts
- Managed the ensemble’s budget
- Directed PR and advertising for the ensemble’s activities

Radio UNAM | Mexico City, Mexico | *Program Designer & Broadcast Researcher* 2009-2011

- Designed contemporary music special broadcasts
- Programmed classical and contemporary music
- Hosted contemporary music programs, interviews and special broadcasts

Radar: Festival of experimental music | Mexico City, Mexico | *PR and Radio committee* 2007-2008

- Designed, wrote and hosted the festival’s series of radio programs

INTERVIEWS

Sound Archive Selections, Radio UNAM, Mexico City 2013

Huet, Dulce. “Christopher Luna-Mega”, Mexican Institute for the Radio, Mexico City 2010

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Audio/Notation: Logic Pro, Open Music, Audiosculpt, Orchids, Acousmographie, Audiosculpt, Sibelius.

Plug-ins: Izotope-RX, GRM tools, Soundmagic Spectral

Sound Recording: Multi-microphone recording techniques, mixing, on-stage amplification

Computer/Media: MS Office, G Suite (Google Apps), Mac OS X

FILM SCORES

The keeper of the sheep, by Iván Espinosa
10/24, by Pablo Alberti,

2009
2007

LANGAUGES

Fully bilingual in Spanish and English

AFFILIATIONS

Computer Music Multidisciplinary Research (CMMR)
American Composers Forum (ACF)
American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)
Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS)
Nessa Records
Cutty Strange Records
Estudio Rizoma (Mexico)
Radio UNAM (Mexico)

LIST OF WORKS

Orchestra

Splatter (2016), 5 min.

Orchestra

(3.3.3.3.- 4.3.3.1. – 3 perc., strings – 14.12.10.8.6)

Premiere: April 15, 2016. Iceland Symphony Orchestra, cond. Ilan Volkov. Harpa Concert Hall, Reykjavik

Performances:

May, 2017. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, cond. Ilan Volkov. Grand Hall, Glasgow

May, 2017. Orchestra del Teatro Comunale di Bologna, cond. Tonino Battista. Teatro Manzoni, Bologna

Topografías (2009), 14 min.

Orchestra

(2.2.2.2.- 4.2.3.1. – 1 perc., strings – 10.8.6.6.4)

Premiere: September 30, 2009. Orquesta Sinfónica de la Escuela Nacional de Música, cond. Sergio Cárdenas. Sala Nezahualcóyotl, Mexico City

Performances:

February, 2011. Orquesta Sinfónica de Aguascalientes, cond. David Rocha. Teatro Hinojosa, Jerez, Mexico

May, 2010. Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional (Mexico), cond. José Luis Castillo. Sala Blas Galindo. Mexico City

Chamber Orchestra

Splatter – chamber orchestra version (2016), 5 min

(fl, cl, bn, alto sax, bass, sax, tpt, trm, tb, 2 perc., vb, pno, e. gtr, vla, db)

Premiere: October 15, 2016. Gesù, Montréal, Canada. Montréal-Toronto Art Orchestra, cond. Gregory Oh

Performances:

October, 2016. The Music Gallery. Toronto, Canada. Montréal-Toronto Art Orchestra, cond. Gregory Oh

Jatyantara parinamah (2013), 20 min.

(cl, ten sax, tbn, 2 perc, elec. guit., ac. guit, harp, pno, 2 vl, 2 vc, electronics)

Premiere: March 7, 2013. Littlefield Concert Hall, Mills College, Oakland, CA

Mills College Contemporary Ensemble, cond. Christopher Luna-Mega

Freeway and stop sign (2012), 9 min.

(cl, 2 ten sax, horn in f, 3 perc, 4 elec. guit, 2 pno, vl, vc, db, electronics)

Premiere: November 26, 2012. Littlefield Concert Hall, Mills College

UC Berkeley JIM/Mills College MIE joint ensemble, cond. Christopher Luna-Mega

Performances:

June, 2014. The Luggage Store Gallery, San Francisco, CA. The Luna Ensemble

August, 2014. San Francisco Community Music Center. The Luna Ensemble
November, 2017. The Bridge, PAI, Charlottesville, VA. University of Virginia New Music Ensemble, cond.
Christopher Luna-Mega

Ensemble (4–8 players)

Night music (2019), 9 min.

(ob, cl, alto sax, bass cl, bn, spatialized electronics)

Premiere: February 2, 2019. Old Cabell Hall, University of Virginia. Splinter Reeds

Waves Break Aural Shores (2018), 10 min.

(saxophone quartet –soprano, alto, tenor, bass–, electronics)

Premiere: February 19, 2018. Spectrum, Brooklyn, NY. New Thread Quartet

The arrow of time (2017), 11 min.

(2 percussionists, 2 pianists)

Premiere: January 27, 2017. Old Cabell Hall, University of Virginia. Yam | Wire

Geysir (2016), 8 min.

(7 pianists –telematic–, electronics –spatialized)

Premiere: October 20th, 2016. Old Cabell Hall, University of Virginia. Esther Kim, piano 1; Tim Booth, piano 2; Seung-Hye Kim, piano 3; Gabrielle Chen, piano 4; John Mayhood, piano 5; Nick Anderson, piano 6; Nancy Zhu, piano 7; Zhen Wang, electronics; Christopher Luna-Mega, electronics.

Performances:

July, 2017. EcoSono Festival of Environmental Music and Sound Art, Anchorage, Alaska. Ecosono Ensemble

Under the sea ice (2016), 11 min.

(string quartet, electronics)

Premiere: January 29, 2016. Old Cabell Hall, University of Virginia. JACK Quartet

Performances:

September, 2019. Coastal Futures Festival, University of Virginia. Rivanna String Quartet

Vortex (2015), 6 min.

(5 percussionists – glock., 2 mar., 2 roto tom, 2 tam tam, bass drum)

Premiere: Littlefield Hall, Mills College, Oakland, CA. The William Winant Percussion Group

Redwood region (2014), 9 min.

(cl, 2 perc, pno, vc, 2 electronic performers)

Premiere: August 3, 2014. San Francisco Community Music Center, San Francisco, CA.

The Luna Ensemble

Performances:

June, 2014. The Luggage Store, San Francisco, CA. The Luna Ensemble

August, 2014. Fractal Mindgaze Hut, Oakland, CA. The Luna Ensemble

October, 2014. Duende, Oakland, CA. The Luna Ensemble

Breath and slope (2013), 6 min.

(gamelan-based metalophone sextet)

Premiere: June 1, 2013. Emerald Tablet Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

The Lightbulb Ensemble.

A run (2013), 7 min.

(fl, ten sax, perc, harp, 2 vl, vc)

Premiere: April 22, 2013. Littlefield Concert Hall, Mills College, Oakland, CA.

Katie Harrel, flute; Joshua Marshall, tenor saxophone; Jon Myers, percussion;

Stephan Haluska, harp; Tim Kim, violin I; Dylan Neely, violin II; Kimberly

Sutton, cello; cond. Christopher Luna-Mega

Water studies no. 1 and 2 (2012), 7 min.

(string quartet)

Premiere: April 13, 2012. Littlefield Concert Hall, Mills College.

Arditti String Quartet.

Performance: June, 2013. Museo Nacional de Arte, Mexico City, Cuarteto Arcano.

Transcription 2 (2011), open duration

(cl, glock, mar, piano, vc, field recording)

Premiere: December 7, 2011. Littlefield Concert Hall, Mills College.

Rachel Condry, clarinet; Robert Lopez, glockenspiel; Nava Dunkelman, marimba; Evelyn Davis, piano; Crystal Pascucci, cello; Christopher Luna-Mega, cond.

El guardador de rebaños /XIV –homenaje a Alberto Caeiro (2010), 10 min.

(cl, soprano, piano, vl, vc)

Premiere: June 26, 2010. Sala Xochipilli, Mexico City, Mexico.

Citlali Rosas, clarinet; Teresa Navarro, soprano; Fernando Carmona, piano; Jesús Sánchez, violin; Claudia Cosme, cello; cond. Christopher Luna-Mega

Performance: November 30, 2011. Littlefield Concert Hall, Mills College. Mills College Contemporary Performance Ensemble, cond. Steed Cowart.

Escenas para maderas (2007), 11 min.

(fl, ob, cl, horn in f, bn)

Premiere: November 29, 2007. Sala Xochipilli, Mexico City, Mexico

Quinteto de Alientos de la Escuela Nacional de Música.

Performance: March 27, 2008. Sala Carlos Chávez, Mexico City, Mexico.

Quinteto de Alientos de la Escuela Nacional de Música.

C h a m b e r (2 - 3)

Sound model improvisations (2018), 10 min.

(fl, e. guit, electronics)

Premiere: October 17, 2018. Twisted Branch Tea Bazaar, Charlottesville, VA. Diego Villaseñor, flute; Christopher

Luna-Mega, e. guitar, electronics.

El claro que abre (2007), 5 min.

(clarinet in Bb and vibraphone)

Premiere: June 6, 2007. Sala de Ensayos, Escuela Nacional de Música, Mexico City, Mexico.

Luis Mora, clarinet; Xipactli Olmos, vibraphone.

Duo para violonchelo y violín (2006), 4 min.

(violin and cello)

Premiere: November 18, 2006. Sala Xochipilli, Mexico City, Mexico.

Erika Cano, violin; Owen Aguilar, cello.

With the tides (2004), 5 min.

(acoustic guitar, piano and cello)

Premiere: March 15, 2005. Esplanada de la Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City. Pedro Alcacer, guitar;

Christopher Luna-Mega, piano; María Lipkau, cello.

S o l o

Piano étude no. 2 ‘tidal flow’ (2019), 4 min.

(piano solo)

La torre de Chitor (2017), 9 min.

(flute and electronics)

Premiere: September 8, 2017. The Bridge, PAI, Charlottesville, VA. Kelly Sulick, flute; Christopher Luna-Mega, live electronics

Performances:

October 2017. Seoul International Computer Music Festival, Gwanju, S. Korea. Byung-Chul Oh, flute; Hyang-sook Song, electronics

July 2018. New York City Electronic Music Festival. Abrons Arts Center. Gianni Travalusci, flute; Christopher Luna-Mega, live electronics

On the harmony of air (2017), 5 min.

(clarinet and electronics)

Premiere: September 8, 2017. The Bridge, PAI, Charlottesville, VA. Shawn Earle, clarinet

Stop Sign on Richards and Kapiolani roads (2012), 4 min.

(tenor saxophone and electronics)

Premiere: April, 2012. Ensemble Room, Mills College. Joshua Marshall, tenor saxophone

The flow that binds us (for Patricia) (2011), 4 min.

(multi-track piano)

Recording: November 28, 2011. Center for Contemporary Music, Mills College.

Christopher Luna, piano.

Reflejo (2008), 9 min.

(piano solo)

Premiere: October 5, 2008. Sala Carlos Chávez, Mexico City, Mexico.

Fernando Carmona, piano.

Performance: December 5, 2009. Sala Julián Carrillo –Radio UNAM, Mexico City, Mexico.

Andante libre (2006), 5 min.

(piano solo)

Premiere: October 4, 2006. Sala Xochipilli, Mexico City, Mexico.

Fernando Carmona, piano.

Prelude for clarinet (2006), 4 min.

(clarinet in Bb solo)

Premiere: June 16, 2006. Sala Xochipilli, Mexico City, Mexico.

Hugo Manzanilla, clarinet.

E l e c t r o n i c s

Train [Angle 1] (2019), 5 min.

(field recording and processing)

Piano étude no. 2 ‘tidal flow’ (2019), 4 min.

(tide sonification and field recording)

Performance: Sounding Science: Listening for Coastal Futures, BIC, Machipongo, VA, September-December 2019

PO₄³⁻ / NH₄⁺ (2012), 7 min.

(water quality sonification and field recording)

Performance: Sounding Science: Listening for Coastal Futures, BIC, Machipongo, VA, September-December 2019

Stopsign Study (2012), 4 min.

(field recording and electronics)

Performance: October 16, 2015. Chapel at the University of Virginia

Stream (2012), 5 min.

(field recording and electronics)

I n s t a l l a t i o n

Through Summersultryings (2019), 70 min., open duration

(spatialized field recordings in five channels)

Premiere: February 7, 2019. National Student Electronic Music Event, Charlottesville, VA

Om, for resonating found objects (2012), 30 min., open duration

(transduced objects and electronics)

Premiere: December 4, 2014. Chapel at Mills College, Oakland, CA