

Prof. Dr. Emilio Mendoza Guardia



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Full Professor of Music (Retired), Social Sciences Department, Simon Bolivar University, Caracas, Venezuela

Summary

Emilio Mendoza was the first Venezuelan composer to be selected for an ISCM Festival in Boston, 1976, when he was 23 and winning the prestigious Gaudeamus Composition Prize in the Netherlands, 1978. He directed, performed and composed for the Orchestra of Latin American Instruments ODILA in Caracas, from 1982 to 1987, an experimental music group with production of tours, records, video-art and dance. In 1995, he developed the first cultural website of Venezuela with photos, sounds and videos, the "Virtual Museum of Musical Instruments in Latin America and the Caribbean" when holding the presidency of the Foundation of Ethnomusicology and Folklore, FUNDEF, Caracas. He obtained the *Diplom in Komposition* in Düsseldorf, Germany, 1980, the Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Composition at the Catholic University of America, Washington DC, 1990, and has been awarded honours, scholarships, awards and international positions. In 2013, he retired as Full Professor of Music at the Simon Bolivar University (1998 - 2013), and is dedicated to the guitar performance of his "ecological music" with the group Ozono Jazz, publishing compositions and articles, as well as carrying on research in audio-visual art (in ZKM, Karlsruhe), popular music (Beatles), traditional Venezuelan music (Calipso & joropo), on silence, and on beat, sex & music.

Short Bio

Venezuelan new music composer (DoB: Caracas, 08-08-1953), dedicated to university-level teaching, musicological research and guitar performance. He studied in:

- England (London, GCE "O" & "A" Levels, 1965-1972)
- Venezuela (Metropolitan University, Caracas, Composition Certificate with Yannis Ioannidis, 1974-1976), Guitar in the J.M. Olivares Music School, Caracas, with Flaminia de DeSola & Antonio Lauro, 1973-1976)
- Germany (Düsseldorf, Robert Schumann Institut - *Diplom in Komposition und Live-Elektronik*, with Günther Becker, 1976-1981); in Ghana (Krokobitey, West African percussion and dance with Master Drummer Mustapha Tettey Addy, 1981);
- USA (Washington, DC, Catholic University of America - Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition, 1987-1990). He has done field-research in Ghana, Trinidad and in Venezuela.

He performs classical, electric and folk guitars, the *cuatro*, *bandola llanera* and Afro-Latin percussion. Since 1972, he has taken part as director and performer in groups of rock, jazz, Venezuelan and Latin American experimental folk music, new music ensembles, and since 2005, in the 7-member music group Ozono Jazz (<https://ozonोजazz.com>), with dancers and video-art, composing and performing “ecological music”. He co-founded and directed the Orchestra of Latin American Instruments - ODILA under contract with INIDEF, Caracas (1982-87). He was Chief of the Music Division at the Venezuelan National Library (1985-1987) and Assistant Professor of Music at the State University of New York, SUNY-Potsdam (1991-95). He lectured as guest professor at the Institut für Musik und Musikpädagogik, Universität Potsdam, Germany, (1994), in the Music Graduate Studies at the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV), Caracas, and was President of FUNDEF, the Foundation of Ethnomusicology and Folklore, Caracas (1995-97). In 1998, he became professor at the Simón Bolívar University (USB) in Caracas, teaching graduate courses in Music as well as General Studies courses in Composition, Venezuelan Folk Music and The Beatles. He is now retired Full Professor.

He is founding member (1975) and has been treasurer, secretary and president of the Venezuelan Society for Contemporary Music (SVMC) and similarly, founder and president of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music-Venezuelan Chapter (IASPM) 2003-2004. For the period 2004-2008, he acted as member of the Presidential Council of the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM). Since 2007, he has been developing the research project “AVIA Translation” at the USB, within the field of visual music, with a seven-month research residency (2008) for his Sabbatical leave at the Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM), Karlsruhe, Germany, and similarly in a three week residency (2009) and with a four-month research grant from the DAAD (2013).

He has presented lectures and seminars in Europe, North and Latin America. His works are performed internationally (with nine ISCM Festivals). Has obtained many awards (Gaudeamus International Composition Prize, the Netherlands; *Premio Nacional de Música*, Caracas; *Premio Municipal de Música - Investigación*, Caracas), commissions, research grants and scholarships. His works are published in Germany, USA and in Venezuela: WDR, Gerig Verlag, Breitkopf & Härtel, Germany; Ediciones Tacuabé, Montevideo; FUNVES, Caracas; SVMC, Caracas; Equinoccio, Caracas; Colla Voce Music, Inc., the Society of Composers Incorporated, USA. Recently, he collaborated in the *Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World* (2014) with five entries about Venezuelan music. In December 2013, he obtained three simultaneous prizes at the USB for his achievements in research, pedagogy and extension activities.