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# News

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DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

## Pianist Jorge Federico Osorio Salutes Mexican Salon Music

### New Album Revives a Romantic Era Through Works by Ricardo Castro, Felipe Villanueva, Manuel M. Ponce, and José Rolón

Mexican-born pianist Jorge Federico Osorio delves into a realm of richly rewarding, yet nearly forgotten, solo piano repertoire on *Salón Mexicano*, an album of virtuosic Romantic “party music” evoking a bygone era.

*Salón Mexicano*, Osorio’s fourth and newest album on Cedille Records, was released digitally August 7 and will be available on CD August 28.

The album comprises a treasury of 20 works by Mexican composers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries: Ricardo Castro, Felipe Villanueva, Manuel M. Ponce, and José Rolón. All were influenced to varying degrees by the waltzes and mazurkas of Chopin and other European giants of keyboard composition (Cedille Records CDR 90000 132).

The opening track is the *Caprice-Vals, Op. 1*, by Castro (1864–1907), a work “that appears intended entirely as a display piece, an exhibition of startling virtuosity,” WFMT Radio’s Andrea Lamoreaux writes in the liner notes. Castro’s *Vals Caressante* (Caressing Waltz) evokes visions of ballroom dancers, as does the mellow *Vals sentimental*. Castro’s Chopin-esque *Mazurka melancólica* is full of challenging octave passages. Rippling runs and ornaments characterize *Vals bluette* (Little Blue Waltz), “a waltz more suited for listening than dancing,” Lamoreaux writes.

The six pieces by Villanueva (1862–1893) include the waltzes *Causerie* (Chatter), *Amor*, and *Vals Poético* and the mazurkas *Sueño Dorado* (Golden Dream), *Ebelia*, and *Tercera Mazurka* (Third

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Mazuka), which combines “the singing quality that’s so much a part of salon music with its equally characteristic brilliance and high spirits,” Lamoreaux writes.

One of the most important figures in Latin-American music, Ponce (1882–1948) incorporated popular Mexican tunes into his concert works and introduced them to an international audience. The recording includes two of his mazurkas plus instrumental versions of three of his songs: *Marchita el Alma* (My Soul Languishes), *Todo pasó* (All Passes), and *Por ti mi Corazón* (For You, My Beloved) from his *Tres Canciones Populares Mexicanas*.

Rolón (1876–1945) studied with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. His *Vals Capricho* emphasizes the virtuoso element of salon music. Dedicated to Artur Rubinstein, it comprises, Lamoreaux writes, “a thrillingly brilliant set of variations” on the circus and merry-go-round tune “Sobre las Olas” (Over the Waves) by Mexican composer Juventino Rosas.

### **Jorge Federico Osorio**

Jorge Federico Osorio has performed with many of the world’s leading orchestras, collaborating with conductors including Bernard Haitink, Mariss Jansons, and Jaap van Zweden, among others. A career highlight was performing all five of Beethoven’s concertos with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the 2010 Ravinia Festival. Osorio’s early mentors include Jacob Milstein, Nadia Reisenberg, and Wilhelm Kempff. He serves on the faculty at Roosevelt University’s Chicago College of Performing Arts. His previous solo recordings on Cedille Records include music of Ponce, Liszt, and Debussy; and *Piano Español*, a collection of works by Spanish composers. He has also recorded for the Artek, ASV, CBS, EMI, IMP, and Naxos labels. His website is [www.jorgefedericoosorio.com](http://www.jorgefedericoosorio.com).

### **Cedille Records**

Grammy award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) has been dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area since its launch in late 1989.

In May 2011, audiophile-oriented Cedille began offering new releases in better-than-CD-quality 24-bit music downloads in the “lossless” FLAC format, available directly via its website, [www.cedillerecords.org](http://www.cedillerecords.org). Cedille albums are also available via the label’s website as CD-quality 16-bit FLAC downloads, extra-high-quality (320 Kbps) MP3 file downloads, and physical CDs.

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***Salón Mexicano***  
**(Cedille Records CDR 90000 132)**

- Ricardo Castro (1864–1907): *Caprice Vals, Op. 1* (7:02)**  
**Felipe Villanueva (1862–1893): *Sueño Dorado: Mazurka* (4:32)**  
**Castro: *Vals carresante* (1:55)**  
**Manuel M. Ponce (1882–1948): *8<sup>a</sup> Mazurca de Salón* (2:31)**  
**Villanueva: *Causerie: Vals lento* (3:46)**  
**Villanueva: *Tercera Mazurka, Op. 27* (4:14)**  
**Ponce: “*Marchita el Alma...*” (3:01)**  
**Villanueva: *Ebelia: Mazurka de Salón* (5:38)**  
**Castro: *Vals amoroso, Op. 31, No. 11* (1:56)**  
**Castro: *Mazurca melancólica* (3:29)**  
**Castro: *Barcarola, Op. 30, No. 2* (2:44)**  
**Villanueva: *Amor: Vals de Salón* (3:11)**  
**Ponce: “*Todo pasó...*” (2:06)**  
**Castro: *Vals sentimental, Op. 30, No. 1* (2:34)**  
**Castro: *Vals blurette* (1:57)**  
**Ponce: *Mazurca de Salón* (2:53)**  
**Castro: *Vals melancólico, Op. 36, No. 2* (4:28)**  
**Villanueva: *Vals Poético: Vals de Salón para piano* (3:39)**  
**Ponce: *Canciones Mexicanas: “Por ti mi Corazón...”* (2:36)**  
**José Rolón (1876–1945): *Vals Capricho, Op. 14* (8:31)**

**Jorge Federico Osorio, piano**