

SMC. MUSIC SESSION AT SALA MARÍA CRISTINA**SMC.5 Amy Brandon***Seven Malagueña Fragments for Augmented Guitar*

In listening to and exploring traditional Malagueñas, I was struck by how often they seemed like collections of miniatures. I took small elements of these pieces, a rhythm, or a bass melody, and worked them into my own sound-world, with electronics triggered from the digital realm via the guitarist's hand movements and the Metavision headset.

Duration: 5' 00"

Year of Composition: 2019

Amy Brandon, Composer and guitarist Amy Brandon's pieces have been described as '... mesmerizing' (Musicworks Magazine), "Otherworldly and meditative ... a clashing of bleakness with beauty ..." (Minor Seventh) and '.. an intricate dance of ancient and futuristic sounds' (Miles Okazaki). Recent and upcoming 2018-19 events include premieres by Ekmeles (NYC - ICEBERG New Music), Chartreuse Trio (Music in Bloom, Indiana), Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Pro Coro (Banff Centre), trombonist Dale Sorensen, Continuum Contemporary Music Ensemble (PIVOT) as well as performances at Music in New Technologies (CAN) and New Music Edmonton.

She has received Canadian and international composition awards and honourable mentions from the ACWC, Central European String Quartet, Groundswell and RMN Classical (Europe). Her 2016 solo guitar and electronics album 'Scavenger' was nominated for regional awards including Music Nova Scotia and ECMAs in 2017/18. She has performed in Canada, the USA, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, the UK and at several festivals including the Ottawa International Jazz Festival, the Guitar Now Festival, Halifax Jazz Festival Spring Series, Something Else!, Sound Symposium, the International Society for Improvised Music, BeAST FeAST and the Open Waters Experimental Music Festival. She has been a resident at the Banff Centre, the Atlantic Centre for the Arts and a composer participant in Interplay with the Vancouver Chamber Choir.

In addition to performance and composition, she writes and presents academic work concerning music cognition, virtual reality, improvisation and the guitar. Holding degrees in jazz guitar performance and composition, Amy is currently completing an interdisciplinary PhD in music cognition at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She has presented her work at conferences in Australia, USA, Switzerland, Hungary, the UK and at Berklee College of Music, Boston.

Emma Rush. Over the past decade, Emma Rush has established herself as one of Canada's preeminent classical guitarists. Known for her innovative programming and powerful stage presence, along with her warm sound and virtuosic technique, an event with Emma Rush is one to remember.

"She captivated the audience with her charm, wit and technical prowess" Frankentop, Germany

Emma Rush's career has commanded world recognition. Recent touring highlights include a four-city tour in China, starting with the Altamira Shanghai International Guitar Festival, appearances at major guitar festivals including

SMC. MUSIC SESSION AT SALA MARÍA CRISTINA

Festival de Guitarras Lagos de Moreno (Mexico), the Nyköping Gitaarseminarium (Sweden), the Montreal International Guitar Festival, and a prestigious concert at the Internationales Gitarren Symposium, Iserlohn (Germany). She tours throughout North America and in 2016-17 toured extensively in Eastern Canada as a Debut Atlantic artist. She performs regularly as Azuline Duo with flutist Sara Traficante. The duo toured Alberta, BC, and Yukon Territory in 2018/19. Rush was featured in the McMichael Gallery's Group of Seven Guitar Project documentary alongside such notable guitarists as Bruce Cockburn, Jesse Cook, and Don Ross. Rush completed two residencies in 2018 at the Sointula Art Shed in British Columbia and in Lübeck, Germany through the women's organization GEDOK.

Rush is an award-winning artist and in addition to being a prizewinner at the Columbus International Guitar Competition and the Great Lakes Guitar Competition, she has received three City of Hamilton Arts Awards, and has had her work supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Hamilton City Enrichment Fund, and FACTOR.

Composers are eager for Emma Rush to perform their music and she has had works dedicated to her by the Canadian composers William Beauvais, Amy Brandon, and Timothy Phelan and the Mexican composer Winy Kellner. Rush will be premiering a new work by Amy Brandon at the Music and Sound Computing Conference in Malaga, Spain in May 2019.

Emma Rush can be heard on the albums *Canadiana* (2017), *Folklórica* (2014), and *Romanza* (2016- Azuline Duo). Her latest project, an album of rare 19th century guitar music written by female composers will be released in the fall of 2019.

“Rush’s technique is flawless throughout...” The Whole Note

Rush completed her post-graduate studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold, Germany, following an honours Bachelor of Music degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. She holds faculty appointments at Mohawk College and Redeemer University College in Hamilton. She has been a guest lecturer at colleges and universities throughout North America and was an Artist-in-Residence at the Fountain School of Performing Arts at Dalhousie University in the fall of 2016.

Rush is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Guitar Hamilton concert series that includes the Hamilton International Guitar Festival. She is the co-director of the Lonestar Guitar Festival in Texas.