



Estibaliz Gastesi

Márcio Bezerra

Concert Pianists

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DUO GASTESI-BEZERRA



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Duo Gastesi-Bezerra – Biography

Internationally acclaimed **Duo Gastesi-Bezerra** has delighted audiences for over a decade with exciting programs of traditional and contemporary music for piano ensemble. Billed by the American Record Guide, as “**a strong combination, playing very well together — often indistinguishable,**” pianists **Estibaliz Gastesi** and **Márcio Bezerra** are staunch supporters of new music. They have commissioned and premiered more than twenty works by renowned and upcoming composers.

Reflecting the duo’s commitment to perform new music “beyond the world premiere,” new works have been subsequently performed in different countries of the Americas and Europe for a wide array of audiences. In recognition of this mission, the duo has been awarded the **Encore Grant by the American Composers Forum** and the **Gene Gutchê Performance Incentive Fund by the Schubert Club**.

Performances of the duo have been broadcast on **National Public Radio station WXEL (Palm Beach), Rádio Cultura (Brazil), Radio Ona Mallorca (Spain), Radio Nacional de España (Radio Clásica), and Radio Beograd (Serbia)**. Their CD of postmodern piano duets has received rave reviews from the press and fellow musicians.

They were artists-in-residence twice at the **University of Minnesota-Duluth’s New Music Festival**, where they premiered fifteen new works. Additionally, they have performed repeatedly at the **Fundação Benedicto Calixto (Santos, Brazil)**, the **International New Music Festival of Las Vegas (NV)**, the **Norton Museum (West Palm Beach, FL)**, and with the **Palm Beach Atlantic Symphony (FL)**.

Other engagements include appearances at **Fundação Maria Luiza e Oscar Americano in São Paulo, Brazil**; a concert of Brazilian music sponsored by the **Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Brazilian Embassy** in Belgrade, Serbia; and a concert of **French impressionistic and American post-modern piano duets at the Les Arts George V concert series in Paris**. They have performed at the prestigious **Brasiliana Concert Series** organized by the **Brazilian Academy of Music** in Rio de Janeiro and at the **São Paulo Art Museum (MASP)**. They were featured as the **closing act of the 2012 Festival de Inverno de Guaranhuns (FIG-Brazil)**. Most recently they collaborated with the **Birmingham Art Music Alliance**, performing eight new works from Alabama composers to critical acclaim.

Recently, they performed three children’s concerts with members of the **Palm Beach Symphony**, and premiered 2 new piano concerti by **Piotr Lachert** and **Justin Rubin** with the **Palm Beach Atlantic Symphony**.

Estibaliz Gastesi and Márcio Bezerra started to perform together in the 1990s at the Hartt School under the guidance of acclaimed Brazilian pianist Luiz de Moura Castro. They subsequently studied with Caio Pagano and received their Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Performance at the University of Arizona in 1998.

A native of the Basque Country, pianist Estibaliz Gastesi has performed throughout Europe and the United States. Dr. Gastesi is also an active ethnomusicologist, having published articles and reviews in respected journals in the field. Her latest research was published by the University of Nevada Press.

Brazilian pianist Márcio Bezerra has been performing often at several music halls of Brazil and the United States. He has participated in several editions of the Festival Música Nova de Santos to rave reviews. A distinguished Fulbright and CDMC scholar, his doctoral dissertation was published by the prestigious Alain Van Kerckhoven Éditeur (Belgium).

Duo Gastesi-Bezerra is the official piano-duo-in-residence of **Palm Beach Atlantic University**.

Duo Gastesi-Bezerra – Reviews

The two pianists are a strong combination, playing very well together—often indistinguishable.

American Record Guide

A highly-regarded piano duo. . . .

Brasiliana, Scholarly Journal of the Brazilian Academy of Music

For some time now I've been a fan of your performances and I enjoy the wide range of composers you embrace in your repertoire. Your wide range of repertoire is astounding and the fact that you are working with so many different composers is truly impressive. The selections you chose were excellent and all so appropriate. I especially enjoyed your oral performance notes at your recital on Saturday. I would like to open a dialogue regarding the possibility of Duo Gastesi-Bezerra returning for a second year.

Dr. D Gause, Director, CCSN International New Music Festival, Las Vegas, NV

Eight composers with Alabama ties received solid, fair-minded hearings of their works Thursday from two staunch advocates of new music. Duo Gastesi-Bezerra, a Florida-based piano duo that specializes in recently composed music, was the guest ensemble for a Birmingham Art Music Alliance concert at Brock Recital Hall that revealed a wide range of style and originality.

Michael Huebner, The Birmingham News

I received the CDs of the beautiful concert that you gave at the University of Florida. Thanks so much. The performance of The Epistemology of Delicate Time was wonderful: nice pacing, shaping, etc. (and understanding!). I really appreciate your interest in the work.

Dr. Dennis Kam, composer, chairperson of Composition Department, University of Miami (FL)

The concert program of 20th century piano duos was a special occasion to enjoy your talent and your excellent performance. We really enjoyed the program, particularly the works of the Brazilian composers . . . played with great perfection by both of you.

I would also take this opportunity to inform you officially that the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations has approved our proposed Annual Cultural Program for 2008, which includes a presentation of the Duo Gastesi-Bezerra in Belgrade.

So we will be happy to have you back to Belgrade and to work with you again in the near future, so as to show to those who enjoy good music in Serbia the art of your fine piano duo.

Dante Coelho de Lima, Brazilian Ambassador to Serbia

The magic that this wife and husband team perform on the keyboard is difficult to explain, but easy to enjoy. The music operates on several levels at the same time, engaging both the intellect and the emotions. . . .

Alan Milner, Around Wellington Magazine

Their virtuosic skills and musical shadings won over the audience the first season and they were brought back by popular demand the second year.

They have such a wide range of repertoire. . . . They were successful with the piano works from several periods and offer a special knowledge of contemporary works of standard and most current offerings.

As they are in constant demand internationally, we were very fortunate to secure their services and look forward to another engagement in the near future. They have contributed greatly to the success of our concerts and always lived up to what has become a sterling reputation as one of the finest piano-duo teams in the professional music world today.

Marilyn Mims, World Renowned Metropolitan Opera Soprano and Director of Candlelight Concert Series, North Palm Beach (FL)

I want to thank you and congratulate you for last night's concert in our auditorium in Washington, D.C. The audience appreciated indeed your unusual program of works for piano four-hands by United States and Brazilian contemporary composers, and the splendid way in which you carried it out. I hope we can work together again in the future.

Dr. José M. Neistein, Executive Director, Brazilian-American Cultural Institute, Washington, D.C.

Gastesi and Bezerra have shown an extraordinary musicality and total professionalism. They are prepared — in a level of excellence — to develop their artistic activities in any center of culture of the world. I have the most absolute confidence on their brilliant future.

Marlos Nobre, Internationally Renowned Composer, Past President of IMC-UNESCO

The evening program concert was professionally done in every way. The varied program, consisting of new and traditional duet and duo repertoire was performed with high musicality and artistic flair. Clearly, both pianists are gifted musicians.

Dr. Kevin Orr, Assistant Professor of Piano, University of Florida

You are both doing a wonderful service to new repertoire!

Lola Perrin, composer-in-residence at Markson Pianos, London

In their first CD, . . . [they] display a clear sonority and a great deal of technical proficiency.

Germán Gan Quesada, Espacio Sonoro , Spain

I am deeply touched and grateful for the artistry you brought to my music. Many duo pianists are noted for their virtuosity and beautiful interpretations and some have performed my music all over the world. You brought something in addition to that — a sensitive understanding of the innermost essence of my music — as though you had composed it yourself.

Terry Winter Owens, Yamaha Artist, Internationally Published Composer, New York City

What a joy to see you both! Your concert was fabulous — so well balanced — with charming commentary — musicality top-notch — phrasing, nuances, technique, amazing! You balance and complement each other so beautifully: Marcio solid and intense on secondo and Estibaliz “dancing” gracefully and subtly, the music coming “from the inside out” — wonderful visually as well as aurally!

Marlyce Pendersen, Music Director at First Presbyterian Church of Jupiter-Tequesta, Tequesta (FL)

As Artists in Residence, the superlative performances, master classes, lectures, and coaching you presented were invaluable in furthering the educational goals we hope to provide our students. For me, this was one of the supreme highlights of my eight years as director of the music festival. In fact, the continuation of our festival was in question next year — that was until your arrival: the overwhelming success of your visit has convinced the administration and faculty to continue to support the event.

Dr. Justin Rubin, Director, New Music Festival, University of Minnesota Duluth

The Duo Gastesi-Bezerra is to be congratulated for devoting an entire evening to fresh American composition for two pianos. These are fine musicians with a dedication to new work, and that’s how our musical culture advances.

Greg Stepanich, The Palm Beach Post

Thank you for offering our Museum visitors such a wonderful musical experience. The concert program of 19th and 20th century piano duos was such an elegant and informative complement to the exhibition, *Collecting the Impressionists: Masterpieces from the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute*.

As you know, we hope that the individual programs that are part of our concert series *Live! at the Norton* . . . will relate to current exhibitions and the Museum collection. Your program is an excellent example of how this relationship among the arts can be evoked. The excellence of your performance was clear from the visitor’s comments we received afterwards: your concert earned the highest marks, and 100% of those surveyed said they would recommend the program, to others.

We are privileged to have musicians like you in our area, and, in concert with our audience, we hope that we may be able to work with you again in the future.

Glenn Tomlinson, William Randolph Hearst Curator of Education, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach

Duo Gastesi-Bezerra – Repertoire

Traditional Repertoire

Paul Bowles

Concerto for 2 Pianos and Orchestra

Johannes Brahms

Hungarian Dances

Liebeslieder Walzer Op. 52

Variations on a Theme of Haydn Op. 56b

Waltzes Op. 39

Claude Debussy

Petite Suite

6 Épigraphe Antiques

Gabriel Fauré

Dolly Suite Op. 56

Carlos Guastavino

Tres Romances Argentinos

Witold Lutoslawski

Variations on a Theme by Paganini

Felix Mendelssohn

Andante and Variations, Op. 83a

Francisco Mignone

Congada

Darius Milhaud

Scaramouche

Le boeuf sur le toit

Xavier Montsalvatge

Tres Divertimientos

W.A. Mozart

Sonata in B-flat KV 358

Sonata for Two Pianos in D KV 448

Theme and Variations in G KV 501

Francis Poulenc

Concerto in D minor for Two Pianos and Orchestra
Sonate

Maurice Ravel

Ma mère l'Oye

Camille Saint-Saens

Carnival of the Animals

Franz Schubert

Divertissement à la hongroise, D.818
Fantasy in F minor D. 940
Trois Marches Militaires D. 733
Grand Duo, D 812

Commissioned Works Dedicated to Duo Gastesi - Bezerra

Michael Coleman (US)

Limited Transit – 2012

Gerard López Boada (ES)

Somnis – 2012

Ivan Elezovic (CS)

Structure in C – 2011

Marlene Woodward-Cooper (US)

Rayos de Esperanza – 2011
Lost Reasons – 2010
Deceptions – 2005
Tiempo Pasado – 2002
Sombras – 2002

Leonard Lehrman (US)

Meditation for 2 Pianists, Op. 179 – 2009

Helena Michelson (US)

Musica – 2009

Terry Winter Owens (US)

Reverberations from the Invisible Universe – 2006

Ricardo Tacuchian (BR)

Água-forte – 2006

Justin H. Rubin (US)

Ruminations on “Hosanna filio David” for piano four hands, 2019

À Rebours – 2005

Variations on “Deo Gracias” – 2002

Tim Thompson (US)

Seven Fleeting Moments – 2005

Carme Fernández-Vidal (ES)

Caprici – 2002

Other Commissioned Works

Justin Rubin

Messe pour piano à quatre mains, 2013

Meditations on the Nature Poetry of Samuel Greenberg – 2007

Marlene Woodward-Cooper

Einsamer Tränen – 2006

Carme Fernández -Vidal

Obsessió – 2005

Rodolfo Coelho de Souza (BR)

Em Verde e Amarelo – 2006

Gonzalo Tejada (ES)

Ziklo Bi – 2005

Vladimir Tošić (CS)

Echo – 2005

Thomas J. Wegren (US)

Fantasy and Fugue – 2005

Seth Boustead (US)

Sound Advice – 2003

Roget Pontbriand (US)

Dance of Diminished Ability – 2003