

Brief description

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, pre-vaccine, between July and August of 2020, Chimalma decided to commission music ... for children! More details below. Here are the pieces and their composers:

Paúl León Morales

(Mexico)

Intrépido y vago tlacuachito

Intrepid wandering opossum

Jonathan Lusher

(USA)

The Bird Outside my Window

(El pájaro afuera de mi ventana)

Ricardo Durán Barney

(México)

3 X 21 (Los tres bandidos peludos)

(3 X 21 The three furry bandits)

Silvia Berg

(Brazil)

El dragón

The Dragon

Pilar Jurado

(Spain)

De dragones y libélulas

(Of dragons and dragonflies)

CHIMALMA is:

Heather Millette, clarinets
Katherine Snelling, bassoon
Ana Cervantes, piano

Our guidelines to the composers said the animal(s) could be:

- A real animal which the composer knows: like a pet;
- An imaginary animal, from the world of myths and legends: a unicorn, an *alebrije* (the latter being astounding invented animals we have in Mexico which are usually made of *papier-maché* or wood);
- A real animal which the composer has never met in person: an elephant, a tiger.

From the very beginning we knew we wanted to involve a poet. So, we asked the distinguished poet Amaranta Caballero -Mexican and Guanajuatense- to collaborate with us. Her poetry is magical too! Amaranta is also a gifted artist and illustrator whose work has been published in Germany and Latin America. She fell so deeply in love with the project that she has also made drawings of each animal.

This lends yet another dimension to the video, since the drawings will form a backdrop to the performance of each poem and piece. And, for the in-person concerts, the children will be able to take home with them a book with the poem and the drawing of each animal.

To quote Spanish composer Pilar Jurado: *"Five singular worlds for the overflowing imagination of children ..."*

CHIMALMANIMALES

Son cinco mundos singulares para la imaginación desbordante de los niños ...

We plan to record in early- to mid-December 2022, launch the video in late March of 2023, and tour with music and poetry to live audiences in April (the month of the child) 2023.

Our partners in this undertaking, with in-kind support, will be the State Institute of Culture of Guanajuato (*Instituto Estatal de la Cultura de Guanajuato*) and the University of Guanajuato (*Universidad de Guanajuato*).

•