

LA LISTA

Enrico Chapela: The Musician Who Scored a Goal

“I am an adventurer. I like invention and discovery,” — Karlheinz Stockhausen. For Mexican composer Enrico Chapela, a documentary on cosmic explosions can turn images into scores, soon taking shape as a composition. This piece is titled *Magnetar*, and for him, pronouncing it in English with hints of “metal” made perfect sense for such an expansive work.

From that exercise came his most recent piece, *Antiphaser*, a composition that once again evokes outer space. He explains that it was inspired by the phases of the moon with tinges of progressive rock—very close to the Pink Floyd music he listened to in his youth, which unknowingly became part of the repertoire he began playing as a teenager on a guitar, never imagining those notes held his future.

Excited to translate his environment into notes, Chapela—who studied guitar and composition at the CIEM School of Music, holds a Master’s degree from the University of Paris VIII, and a Doctorate from UNAM—has created music for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, the Boca del Río Philharmonic, the São Paulo State Symphony, and the Cervantino Festival, among dozens of other orchestras.

During his musical journey, Chapela created the 2003 orchestral piece *Ínguesu*, which references soccer matches and was performed by Alondra de la Parra and her orchestra. On that occasion, one of the attendees was Emilio Azcárraga. Two decades later, Azcárraga sought out Chapela to commission a new project: creating a piece for the opening gala of the 2026 FIFA World Cup at the Auditorio Nacional. This feat is already in the works, drawing inspiration from the monarch butterfly and the traditional music of the countries participating in the tournament hosted by Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

Before that milestone, Enrico Chapela will perform *Antiphaser* live as part of the Urtex Festival. The recital will take place on December 5th at the Museo Kaluz (Avenida Hidalgo 85, Historic Center). Admission is free, but prior registration is required to experience Chapela’s mind-bending composition.