

La Razón DE MÉXICO

Dartmouth College and UNAM FaM Symphonic Bands

The Mexican composer Enrico Chapela presents a musical tour through Xochimilco with his piece, *Chinampa y trajinera*, which highlights the cultural diversity of Mexico City through the Chiapanecan marimba, the Jarocho harp, the Huastecan trio, and the Jaliscan mariachi.

The work, commissioned by the Mannheim Orchestra of Germany, will be performed by the Mexico City Philharmonic as part of the program “700 Years of Mexico-Tenochtitlan,” on February 15 and 16, under the direction of Eduardo García Barrios, at the Silvestre Revueltas Hall of the Ollin Yoliztli Center. It will then be performed by the UNAM Philharmonic under the baton of Katharina Wincor on March 1 and 2 at the Nezahualcóyotl Hall of the University Cultural Center.

“I started to research and it seems that there is no type of folklore that originated in the country’s capital. However, there are places where we find a melting pot of folklore from other places. When you take a boat ride on the *trajineras* of Xochimilco, from time to time you are joined by a *trajinera* that brings a mariachi on board, or a marimba, a Huastecan trio, or a Jarocho harp. I thought of making this stylistic medley from different parts of Mexico,” Enrico Chapela commented in an interview with La Razón. The piece is divided into three parts: *Trajinera Chiapaneca-Chinampa de Ahuejotes*, *Trajinera Jarocho-Chinampa de Ajolotes*, and *Trajinera Huasteca-Chinampa de Muñecas*. “It’s a representation of different types of Mexican *son*,” he shared.

Enrico Chapela also announced that among his next projects is his participation in the composition of a piece to celebrate the 250th anniversary of US independence in July 2026. It will be a work for cello and orchestra commissioned by a coalition of orchestras made up of the Portland Symphony, the Cincinnati Chamber Symphony, the Spokane Symphony, and the Long Beach Symphony.

“Fragments of the US Declaration of Independence will be chosen. We are five composers in total; each one will compose a different movement. The goal is to show the diversity of the United States; I represent the Latinos. This idea came up before Trump won, and it is relevant now,” he explained.

Enrico Chapela detailed that another project that is still in talks is the composition of a piece that would be performed during the inaugural parade of the cultural events of the 2026 World Cup in Mexico.

Concert Details:

WHEN: February 15 and 16

WHERE: Silvestre Revueltas Hall

TIMES: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Adrian Gochez 11/02/2025 <https://www.razon.com.mx/cultura/2025/02/11/enrico-chapela-evoca-los-sonidos-de-xochimilco/>