

MILENIO

Enrico Chapela Premieres 'Antiphaser'

As part of the Urtext Festival, on December 5th at 7:00 PM, Enrico Chapela will present the Mexican premiere of Antiphaser, a concerto for electric violin and orchestra, at the Kaluz Museum (Avenida Hidalgo 85, Historic Center). The concert, featuring the Urtext Orchestra conducted by Diego Naser, will also include works by Arturo Márquez, Samuel Zyman, and Gabriela Ortiz. The soloists will be Marisa Canales, Jaime Márquez, Santiago Piñeirúa, Dirén Checa, and Gabriela Ortiz herself. According to the composer, *"Urtext Classics is a record label with a great commitment to concert music, and I am part of their catalog. I find it very fortunate that they secure the resources to organize a festival like the one they have held for several years with the aim of promoting their artists."*

Antiphaser was commissioned by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Seattle Symphony, after they heard Magnetar—a concerto for electric cello and three orchestras—and were deeply impressed. Chapela had already composed several works for violin, but due to his rock background, he decided to merge his skills as an electric guitarist with his talent as a contemporary music composer. In this sense, he says, *"The work has a rock vein, of course; I don't deny my roots. However, unlike Magnetar, which is more metal-oriented, this one is more progressive—it leans more towards Pink Floyd than Metallica."*

For the soloist role, the composer invited Dirén Checa, who, he notes, had never played an electric violin before. *"I invited her because she really enjoys the violin with electronics and has a taste for experimentation. There isn't much difference between playing an acoustic and an electric violin, but mastering the effects—distortion or delay—requires other skills. What is absolutely different is the sound. If you play an electric violin, it sounds very muffled because it has no resonance chamber, but that is precisely its beauty: it provides a rawer sound that is then processed through different effects."*

By Xavier Quirarte – 11/26/2025

<https://www.milenio.com/opinion/xavier-quirarte/columna-xavier-quirarte/enrico-chapela-estrena-antiphaser>