

EL HERALDO

D E M É X I C O

Enrico Chapela Explores the Cosmos

Mexican composer Enrico Chapela premieres ANTIPHASER, a concerto for electric violin and symphony orchestra, performed by Dirén Checa. The work translates the celestial dance between the Earth and the Moon into music, turning eclipses, lunar phases, and planetary movements into unique textures, echoes, and resonances.

"I wanted to imagine what a solar eclipse would look like from the Moon; how the Earth casts its shadow while the Moon experiences its own eclipse," explains the composer and musician, who seeks to unite science and art *"within a fascinating soundscape."*

He adds: *"Each phase gives me the opportunity to play with the violin's electronic effects, such as the Phaser, which creates unique textures by shifting the wave's phase, or the delay, which functions almost like a canon, repeating and modulating the sound."*

ANTIPHASER is part of Chapela's most recent concert series, premiering on December 5th in the central courtyard of the Kaluz Museum, as part of the sixth edition of the Urtext Festival (held from December 5th to 7th).

"ANTIPHASER explores the ever-changing relationship between the Earth and the Moon. When one waxes, the other wanes; if one is new, the other is full. I wanted to imagine a solar eclipse as seen from the Moon, with the Earth projecting its shadow. The Moon experiences a solar eclipse while we, from Earth, see a lunar eclipse. That complementary dance fascinates me from a musical standpoint," Chapela explains.

He further notes: *"The electric violin has no resonance chamber like an acoustic one, so if you play it without effects, it sounds very flat. The fun lies in exploring everything technology allows and transforming that electrical signal into a sound that dialogues with the orchestra."*

This project is part of a recurring theme in his career: MAGNETAR (2011), for electric cello; Antikythera (2016), inspired by an ancient astronomical device; and Lunática (2016), about the moons of the solar system, all showcase his constant interest in bridging science and music.

"I have always been interested in how scientific data and patterns can be translated into sound art. It's a game I enjoy immensely, allowing me to experiment without limits," he confesses.

Regarding his creative process, Chapela explains that he does not follow a single method: *"Sometimes I start by experimenting on the instrument until I find something I like; other times I start from a concept, such as the phases of the Moon or magnetars."*

"In ANTIPHASER, I experimented by tuning the guitar like a violin and seeking combinations of strings and mathematics that would work for the piece; the title emerged later, when the delay and the Phaser became essential... Music is a laboratory where sounds are tested and transformed, and working with musicians willing to experiment is key to achieving the desired effect," he reveals.

Regarding how he perceives the reception of his music, he says he does not seek for the audience to feel something specific, but rather for them to enjoy the pleasure of listening: *"If the music is attractive and exciting to them, that is enough for me," he says.*

The work will be performed by the Urtext Orchestra, conducted by Diego Naser, featuring *"flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, brass, percussion, and strings, in an event open to the public."*

"I love that festivals like Urtext provide a space for innovative proposals. It is vital to have venues where we can present concert music that combines tradition and technology. I am very grateful to Marisa Canales and the festival team for making this possible," Chapela concludes.

By Azaneth Cruz – 11/28/2025

<https://heraldodemexico.com.mx/edicion-impresa/2025/11/28/enrico-chapela-explora-el-cosmos-748538.html>