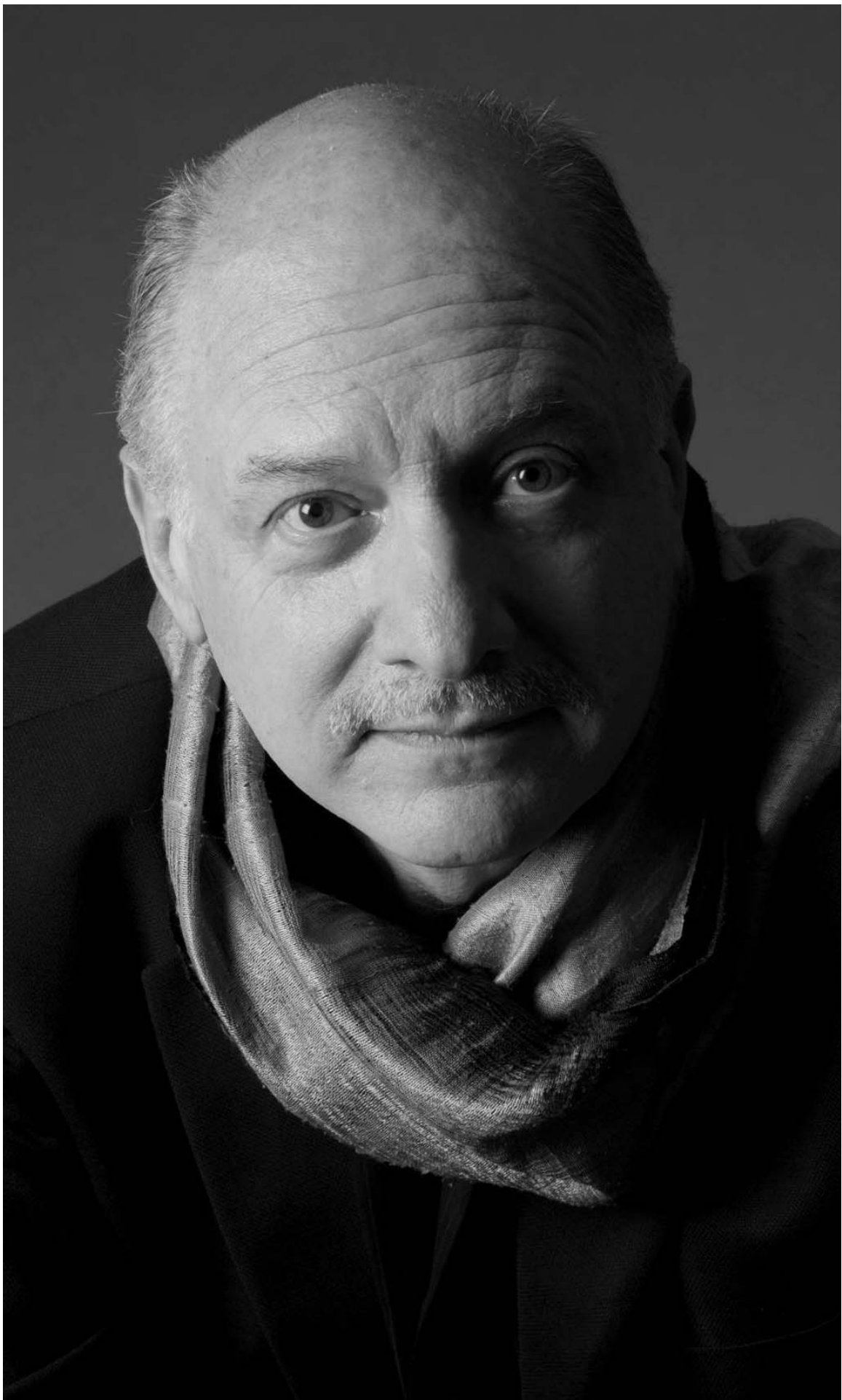


Daniel Catán

Biography and Works



ammp

G. Schirmer and
Associated Music
Publishers

Daniel Catán, whose sudden death in April 2011 shocked the opera world, composed in a lyrical, romantic style that lends itself particularly well to the human voice, which features prominently in the majority of his works. Catán's proficiency can easily be heard in his opera *Florencia en el Amazonas* — the first Spanish-language opera commissioned by a major American company. Catán described his objective for the opera: "I set out to write beautiful music for a story of the journey to transcendent love; it concerns all of us who have lived love with all its intricacies, subtleties, wretchedness, and glorious happiness." Catán's intentions were noble and bold. In the eyes of both the public and the critics — who lauded the work's honesty, beauty, and sheer devastating dramatic effect — he accomplished his goals. His influences belie his native land: he has been compared to Debussy, Richard Strauss, and Puccini — with a wisp of Japanese influence. Catán attested gladly to his wide spectrum of influences. "I have inherited a very rich operatic tradition," he said. "In my work, I am proud to say, one can detect the enormous debt I owe to composers from Monteverdi to Alban Berg. But perhaps the greatest of my debts is having learnt that the originality of an opera need not involve the rejection of our tradition (which would be like blindly embracing the condition of an orphan), but rather the profound assimilation of it, so as to achieve the closest union between a text and its music."

Though Catán was born in Mexico, he was a product of both British and American schooling, receiving degrees from the University of Sussex (in philosophy), University of Southampton, and Princeton University — where he studied with Milton Babbitt — before returning to Mexico to take up the post of music administrator at Mexico City's Palace of Fine Arts. There, apart from establishing himself as an essayist writing about music, he came to love opera. In 1994, the San Diego Opera premiered his symbolist opera, *La Hija de Rappacini* (*Rappaccini's Daughter*), a work written in collaboration with librettist Juan Tovar. The success of *La Hija de Rappacini* led to Catán's next opera, *Florencia en el Amazonas* — a collaboration between Catán, Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez, and García Márquez's protégée, Marcela Fuentes-Berain. The opera is loosely based on García Márquez's novel *Love in the Time of Cholera*. *Florencia en el Amazonas* taps deeply into García Márquez's world of magical realism. "It is," said Catán, "the story of the return journey that we all undertake at a certain point in our lives: the moment when we look back at what we once dreamed of becoming, and then confront what we have now become." Since its premiere in 1996,

Florencia has been performed by a number of major American opera companies; the European premiere took place in 2006 in Heidelberg, Germany. In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Houston Grand Opera commissioned Catán's third opera *Salsipuedes, A Tale of Love, War, and Anchovies* — a dark comedy which takes place on the fictitious island of Salsipuedes and premiered in 2004. The European premiere was seen in Hagen, Germany, in 2008 in a German singing translation. Catán's fourth opera, *Il Postino*, based on the Oscar-winning film, and commissioned by Los Angeles Opera, debuted in 2010 in Los Angeles with Plácido Domingo and Charles Castronovo in the leading roles. The European premiere followed at Vienna's Theater an der Wien (December 2010), with subsequent performances at Palacio de Belles Artes and Festival Cervantino in Mexico City (October 2011), Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris (June 2011), Teatro Municipal in Santiago, Chile (June 2012), and the University of Houston (April 2011). At the time of his death, Catán was at work on his next opera, *Meet John Doe*. The University of Texas at Austin, which commissioned the work, also premiered the chamber version of *La Hija de Rappaccini* in February 2011. In November 2011, PBS presents a national broadcast of *Il Postino* from the Los Angeles Opera as part of its PBS Arts Fall Festival. Sony Classics releases the DVD of this premiere production in late 2011.

Catán's non-operatic output is full of equally powerful works: *Caribbean Airs* for orchestra with a featured role for the percussion section (2007); *En un Doble del Tiempo* (*A Fold in Time*) and an orchestral suite from *Florencia*; *Mariposa Obsidiana*, for soprano, chorus and orchestra; and the small but charming *Encantamiento*, for two flutes. His music is published exclusively by Associated Music Publishers.

— November 2011

Opera and Music Theatre

Florencia en el Amazonas (1996) 1h 40'

Text: (Spanish) Marcela Fuentes-Berain
Solo: 2 Sopranos, Mezzo soprano, Tenor,
2 Baritones, Bass
chorus
2(2pic).22+bcl.2(cbn)/3221.timp.4perc/hp.pf/
str(4.4.4.4.3)
Performance materials on rental
Vocal Score 50484955 for sale

La Hija de Rappaccini **(Rappaccini's Daughter)** (1983-89) 1h 45'

Text: (Spanish) Juan Tovar, based on the play by
Octavio Paz and the short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Solo: Mezzo Soprano, Soprano, 2 Tenors
Chorus: 3 offstage female voices
3(pic)+2rec.3(ca).3(bcl).3/4331/timp.3perc/
pf.cel.hp/str
Alt: 2perc.hp.2pf
Performance materials on rental

Il Postino (2008) 2h 5'

Text: (Spanish) Music and Libretto by Daniel Catán;
based on the novel by Antonio Skármeta, and the
film by Michael Radford
Solo: 2S, Mz, 4T, Bar, B-bar, 5T, 2Bar, 2B,
1 silent role (boy)
Chorus: TB
3(pic).2(obda).2+bcl.2/4.3.2+btbn.1/timp.2perc/pf.hp/str
Onstage: ssx, tpt, sous, perc, riq, acn
Libretto 50490334 for sale
Available for performance after September 2012

Salsipuedes, A Tale of Love, **War and Anchovies** (2004)

Text: (German, Spanish) libretto by Eliseo Alberto and
Francisco Hinojosa; English trans: Shane Gasbarra and
Daniel Catán
Solo: 3S, Mz, 4T, Bar, B-bar, B, Spkr
Chorus: SAT Chorus (24 voices total)
3(pic).2.5(bcl).2/3.4Ctpt.2+btbn.1/timp.perc/
pf.hp/4vc.4db; onstage 4perc
Performance materials on rental

Orchestra

En un Doble del Tiempo **(A Fold in Time)** (1982) 12'

ed. by Eduardo Diazmuñoz,
3(pic).3(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn)/432+btbn.1/
timp.1[=2]perc/cel.hp/str
Performance materials on rental

Florencia en el Amazonas **(Orchestral Suite)** (2003) 28'

2(pic).2.2+bcl.2/3221/timp.2perc.mba/hp.pf/str
Performance materials on rental

Three Interludes from Florencia (2003) 16'

2(pic).2.2+bcl.2/3221/timp.2perc.mba/hp.pf/str
Performance materials on rental

Soloist(s) and Orchestra

Caribbean Airs (2007) 20'

Solo: 3 perc
3(pic).2.4(bcl).2/4.4.3.1/timp.perc/pf.hp/str
Performance materials on rental

Works for 2-6 Players

Encantamiento (flute and harp) (1989) 7'

fl, hp
Score and Part(s) 50485188 for sale

Encantamiento (flutes) (1989) 7'

2fl
Set of Parts 50485186 for sale

Solo Works (excluding keyboard)

Encantamiento (alto recorders) (1989) 7'

2arec, one player
Score 50484728 for sale

Chorus a cappella / Chorus plus 1 instrument

O Pardon Me, **Thou Bleeding Piece of Earth** (2006) 6'

Text: (English) William Shakespeare
Chorus: TTBB
timp
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Work List

Daniel Catán

Chorus and Orchestra/Ensemble

**Mariposa de Obsidiana
(Obsidian Butterfly)** (1984) 26'
Solo: Soprano or Mezzo-soprano
Chorus
3333/4331/perc/hp/str
Performance materials on rental

Solo Voice(s) and up to 6 players

Comprendo (2006) 3'
Text: Acuna
Solo: Voice
pf
Performance materials sold by Rental Library

Work List

Daniel Catán

AVAILABILITY

HIRE (RENTAL)

The rental agent in your territory is the source for performance materials. Not every composition is available in every territory. Full scores, vocal scores, piano reductions, and libretti may be for sale by music dealers.

For instructions, order forms, and territories, go to these pages:

- the [Chester Novello Hire Library](#)
- the [G. Schirmer Rental and Performance Library](#)
- the [Wilhelm Hansen Hire Library](#)

Please allow sufficient time in ordering (generally one month) to avoid being assessed rush fees.

SALE

These performance materials are sold by music dealers and online stores, including:

- [HalLeonard.com](#)
(Customers for the world except the UK, Australia, and New Zealand)
- [MusicRoom.com](#)
(Customers within the UK, Australia, and New Zealand)

SALE FROM RENTAL LIBRARY

The *Solo and Chamber Music Special Sales Catalog: Print-on-Demand* lists works that are not available for sale through retail outlets, but that are available for sale from the G. Schirmer Rental Library.

- [Solo and Chamber Music Special Sales Catalog: Print-on-Demand 2011](#)

Use the following *Word DOC* or *Acrobat PDF* forms to submit Print-on-Demand orders. Complete the form, then send via e-mail, postal mail or fax. Instructions are provided on the form:

- [Print-on-Demand Form in Word DOC format](#) (fill out on computer)
- [Print-on-Demand Form in Acrobat PDF format](#) (print and fill out by hand)

UNAVAILABLE

Due to composer revisions, performer exclusivity, or other reasons, a work may not be available.

For more information on the music of Augusta Read Thomas, please visit www.schirmer.com or contact:

USA

G. Schirmer, Inc.
schirmer@schirmer.com
phone 212 254 2100

UK

Chester Music Limited
promotion@musicsales.co.uk
phone 44 20 7612 7400

Denmark

Edition Wilhelm Hansen AS
ewh@ewh.dk
phone 45 33 117888

France

Chester Music France
chesterfrance@musicsales.co.uk
phone 33 1 53 24 68 52

Germany

Chester Schirmer Berlin
chester.schirmer.berlin@musicsales.co.uk
phone 49 30 223 220 19

Spain

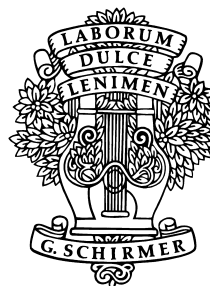
Unión Musical Ediciones SL
unionmusicalediciones@musicsales.co.uk
phone 34 91 308 4040

Australia

G Schirmer Pty Limited
jmakim@musicsales.com.au
Tel: 61 2 9299 8877

Japan

K K Music Sales
rights@shinko-music.jp
phone 81 3 3292 2861



G. Schirmer, Inc.
Part of the Music Sales Group
Publishing today's leading composers
and the classic names of the 20th century.

The Music Sales Group

