



Episode 7

Cinco de Mexico

Five Mexican Composers + Loophole

1. Manuel de Zumaya (1678 – 1755)

Manuel de Zumaya was perhaps the most famous Mexican composer of the colonial period of New Spain. His music was the culmination of the Baroque style in the New World. He was the first person in the western hemisphere to compose an Italian-texted opera, entitled *Partenope* (now lost). His works are a multiplicity of his talents and styles. He was a master of the older Renaissance style and of the newer Baroque style.

[Celebren, Publiquen](#) (Praise Proclaim) – Chanticleer, Chanticleer Sinfonia. Maestro Joseph Jennings

2. Manuel M. Ponce (1882 – 1948)

Manuel M. Ponce was a Mexican composer active in the 20th century. His work as a composer, music educator and scholar of Mexican music connected the concert scene with a mostly forgotten tradition of popular song and Mexican folklore. Many of his compositions are strongly influenced by the harmonies and form of traditional songs.

[Intermezzo No. 1 in E Minor](#) – Lang Lang, Piano – Royal Albert Hall

[Estrellita \(Little Star\)](#) – Alfredo Kraus, Tenor

3. Silvestre Revueltas (1899 – 1940)

Silvestre Revueltas was a Mexican composer of classical music, a violinist and a conductor. He wrote film music, chamber music, songs, and a number of other works. He is best-known

for his film score for *La Noche de los Mayas* and for his orchestral work *Sensemaya* that is considered his masterpiece.

[El Renacuajo paseador](#) (The Walking Tadpole, Ballet) – London Sinfonietta – David Atherton

[Sensemaya](#) – Eduardo Mata conducting the New Philharmonia Orchestra

3b. Rodolfo Halffter (1900 – 1987)

Rodolfo Halffter was self-taught as a composer and in the 1930s took part in the intellectual environment of Madrid, particularly in the composers' society "Grupo de los Ocho" or "Grupo de Madrid". This group was influenced by Spanish musician Adolfo Salazar, who encouraged them to innovate and introduced them to the avant-garde music of the time. It was in this period that Halffter wrote the majority of his most important works, and at the same time he worked as a music critic in *La Voz* as well as in the propaganda ministry of the Republican government. Because of this relationship, he went into exile in Mexico at the end of the Spanish Civil War.

In Mexico he taught in the National Conservatory and was director of *Ediciones Mexicanas de Música*. He never quit composing and always kept the influence of the "Grupo de los Ocho".

[Tres Epitafios \(Three Epitaphs\)](#) - The USC Thornton Concert Choir - Cristian Grases

[La Madrugada del Panadero](#) – (The Baker in the pre-dawn hours – Ballet, 1948)
Mexico City Philharmonic – Fernando Lozano, conductor.

4. Jose Pablo Moncayo (1912 – 1958)

José Pablo Moncayo was a Mexican pianist, percussionist, music teacher, composer and conductor. He represents one of the most important legacies of the Mexican nationalism in art music. He produced some of the masterworks that best symbolize the essence of the national aspirations and contradictions of Mexico in the 20th century.

[Huapango](#) – Gustavo Dudamel conducts the Simon Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela

5. Arturo Márquez (b. 1950)

Arturo Márquez is a Mexican composer of orchestral music who uses musical forms and styles of his native Mexico and incorporates them into his compositions. The Danzones are based on the music of the Veracruz region of Mexico and are increasingly being used for ballet productions throughout the world. Although regarded by many as a controversial composer for his use of Latin American styles in his compositions, he is a popular composer among the Latin American public and is widely recognized as one of the most important Mexican composers of his generation.

[Danzon No. 2](#) - Gustavo Dudamel conducts the Simon Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela