

Tambuco Percussion Ensemble

Ricardo Gallardo, artistic director
Alfredo Bringas
Miguel González
Raúl Tudón

Technical assistant
Edison Estrella

"What mesmerising creativity! A tour-de-force of subtle and forceful artistry ... The members of Tambuco are chameleons on dozens of instruments."

-Gramophone Magazine (UK)

With over 31 years of an international concert trajectory and a distinguished body of original repertoire, Tambuco Percussion Ensemble has earned global acclaim. Tambuco is firmly established as one of the premier percussion quartets of our time. Audiences around the world have been captivated by Tambuco's artistry, as they present programs that explore the vast and dynamic world of percussion music.

Tambuco is celebrated both as a Mexican National Treasure and as one of the most innovative chamber ensembles worldwide. The quartet's members are known for their exploration of multiple styles, consistently pursuing perfection and delivering unique, virtuosic performances. Among their many distinctions, Tambuco, a Mexican ensemble, has received the prestigious Japan Foundation Award for the Arts and Culture, Japan's highest honor bestowed upon an artist.

The ensemble has performed across five continents, with standout appearances at esteemed venues such as Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, and Walt Disney Concert Hall in the United States; Ino Hall, Toppan Hall, and Tsuda Hall in Tokyo, the Barbican Centre in London, and at the Festival de Radio France in Paris and Montpellier. Their tours have also included performances at the Berliner Festspiele, the Queensland and Canberra Music Festivals in Australia as well as concerts across Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America.

To date, Tambuco has recorded 12 albums and has garnered numerous acknowledgements, including four GRAMMY nominations for best album and for best



Ensemble as well as two *Record Jeijetsu* nominations in Japan. They also performed and recorded music for the James Bond film **Spectre**.

In the 2024-25 season, Tambuco performs for audiences with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra in Disney Hall, and at Carnegie Hall, in addition to multiple performances across South America. Tambuco is engaged in educational projects aimed at fostering the next generation of composers and performers.

Tambuco

Members bios

Ricardo Gallardo

Ricardo Gallardo is one of the most acknowledged musicians on the international contemporary scene. For more than four decades he has devoted his life to the interpretation, composition and promotion of new music, through commissions and premieres of numerous scores that have been dedicated to him.

Originally from Mexico City, Ricardo Gallardo studied at the Conservatory of Music and the University of Mexico, The Banff Center of Fine Arts in Canada and The City University, in London, England, where he completed his studies with a Master's Degree.

Throughout his career, Ricardo Gallardo has received awards, grants and numerous recognitions for his musical activity, such as The Fine Arts Medal, granted by the Government of Mexico, The Mozart Gold Medal for Musical Excellence, awarded by the Austrian Embassy and the Domecq Cultural Institute; the Kranichsteinerpreis; distinction awarded by the Darmstadt Internationales Musikinstitut (Germany) to the best performers of contemporary music; The British Council Fellowship in Great Britain, as well as awards for the commission and premiere of works awarded by The Canada Council and The Arts Council of Great Britain.

Additionally, he received the Award for Artistic Creation, from UNAM.

Ricardo Gallardo and his quartet, Tambuco Percussion Ensemble, received from the Emperors of Japan, The Japan Foundation Award for the Arts and Culture, the most important distinction that the Japanese government confers on an artist. Due to his recording activity, he has been nominated 5 times for the GRAMMY awards.

Ricardo Gallardo has recorded special programs for the BBC in London, Radio Sweden, Radio Canada, National Radio of Spain, Radio France, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and Radio IMER of Mexico. He has also appeared in record productions as a soloist; with the Philharmonic Orchestra of the UNAM, the Mexico City Philharmonic, The National Bulgarian Radio Orchestra, Symphony of Michoacán, Southwest Chamber Music and Tambuco Percussion Ensemble.

Both as a composer, performer and as a director of Tambuco, Ricardo Gallardo's career has shown a primary interest to promote contemporary music through close collaboration with as many composers as possible, the premiere of their works and collaboration with various artistic disciplines, as well as the uprising of new generations of musicians through masterclasses, clinics, workshops and seminars. Ricardo Gallardo has carried out this academic activity in five continents.

His performances have included recitals and concerts both as soloist and as a member of Tambuco, with leading orchestras such as: Los Angeles Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra, Orchester Philharmonique de

Radio France, Sao Paulo State Symphony Orchestra, Bulgarian National Radio Orchestra, Santa Barbara Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic, OFUNAM, Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group, Chicago Civic Orchestra, Juneau Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas, Xalapa Symphony Orchestra, among others. Ricardo Gallardo has a wide repertoire of works that have been written especially for him, in addition to the works already considered as classical within the international percussion repertoire. This repertoire includes pieces for solo percussion, concerts for percussion and orchestra, chamber music, percussion and electronic media, microtonal percussion, etc.

Ricardo Gallardo is a Professor at the Universidad Panamericana in Mexico City as well as Nagoya Music College in Japan.

Raúl Tudón

Born in Mexico City, Raúl Tudón initiated his musical studies at the National School of Music (University of Mexico) and subsequently pursued a self-directed path of learning.

Starting in 1990, he embarked on a journey of presenting solo marimba recitals both in Mexico and internationally, showcasing primarily his own compositions.

This creative career materialized in the production of three compact discs: "Voces del Viento Vol I and II", "Voces de la tierra Vol I and II" as well as "Naturaleza Acústica, Naturaleza Eléctrica," all released by the Mexican label Quindecim Recordings.

As a founding member of the Tambuco Percussion Ensemble, Raúl, has performed in concert halls worldwide, presenting compositions dedicated to the ensemble and significant works from the international percussion repertoire.

In his dual role as a composer and performer, he has authored a catalog of 70 works spanning solo, chamber, and orchestral compositions, particularly noted for his distinctive use of percussion, especially the marimba. His creations have obtained wide recognition and have been interpreted by renowned soloists and ensembles across the globe.

In 1998, he established the improvisation trio "Shades of Time" alongside Swiss drummer Georg Hofmann and U.S. flutist Steve Gorn.

Together, they produced two recordings: "Dreaming Mexico" and "Siladette" and performed concerts in various venues across Mexico City and Europe.

Continuing his artistic exploration and seeking to broaden his interpretative repertoire, he founded the project "Secret Chants of Silence" in 2003. This initiative incorporates not only percussions but also diverse electronic and traditional instruments from various countries. The result is a highly individualized and distinctive musical style that defies easy categorization but is exceptionally rich in sonic textures. Under this

project, he has released three recordings: "13 Dances to defy death", "Khantrha" and "The 13 Oceans and 13 Heavens."

As member of Tambuco, he maintains an intense didactic activity by offering master classes on contemporary percussion performance and interpretation.

Miguel González

Miguel González is a virtuoso percussionist and marimba player who has left a deep mark on the music scene in Mexico and abroad. His skill and passion for music have catapulted him to become one of the leading exponents of these instruments in his native country.

Throughout his career, Miguel González has taken his talent to internationally renowned stages, both as a soloist and in collaboration with various musical groups. His ability to fuse rhythms and melodies has captivated audiences around the world, leaving a lasting impression with every performance.

One of the highlights of his career was in 2001, when he won first prize at the prestigious International Marimba Duo Competition in Belgium, thanks to his exceptional collaboration with XOC, the duo he founded and directed.

Today, Miguel González continues to enrich the musical landscape as a leading member of the percussion quartet TAMBUCO, where he continues to explore new sonic frontiers and challenge musical conventions with concerts on five continents.

He does not limit his passion and knowledge only to the stage. Miguel González is an active educator and committed to the development of young talents in the field of percussion. He has taught at the Conservatorio de Música de Las Rosas and at the Universidad Veracruzana. Miguel has shared his experience and knowledge with younger generations of musicians, inspiring them to reach new heights in the world of music.

Alfredo Bringas

His musical activity is mainly focused on the creation, teaching and research of international repertoire of contemporary music for percussion.

He was a founding member of the Percussion Orchestra of the UNAM and was principal percussionist of the Camerata de Las Américas. With both groups he premiered more than a hundred contemporary works and recorded more than a dozen albums of music by Latin American composers.



He has shared the stage with internationally renowned artists like Eduardo Mata, Gustavo Dudamel, Enrique Diemecke, Keiko Abe, Paul McCandless, Stewart Copeland, Robert van Sice, Glen Velez, Steven Shick, Katalin Károlyi, etc.

He has participated as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Montpellier Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas (NY), Santa Barbara Symphony Orchestra, Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra, Brazil, and with the main orchestras of Mexico.

He obtained a degree in Percussion Instrumentalist at the National School of Music of the UNAM. He studied a Master's Degree in Art History at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the UNAM and in 2012 he obtained the degree of Doctor in Music Performance with honors at the Faculty of Music of the UNAM, where currently works as a full-time professor of the specialty, teaching chamber music and instrument classes at the preparatory, bachelor's and master's levels.

In 2021, he was a nominee for the National University Award in the Area of Teaching in the Arts. In 2022, he received the Medal of University Merit for 30 years of academic service. He is an active founding member of the Tambuco Percussion Ensemble.