

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS

**SENIOR RECITAL:**  

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**CANTOS DE COMUNIDAD**  
(SONGS OF COMMUNITY)

MIGUEL VASQUEZ

WITH

FRIENDS  
SALSA & ROCK TEAMS

NICKERSON STUDIOS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 | 7:00 PM

## PROGRAM

<b>Nocturne</b>		John Field (1737-1783)
<b>Four Impromptus</b> <i>Opus 142 # 2</i>		Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
<b>Tempo De Cantar</b> <i>(Original)</i>		Miguel Vasquez
<b>Gracias Por La Vida</b>		Violeta Parra (1917-1967)
	<i>Rock Set</i>	
<b>Hotel California</b>		The Eagles (O. 1971)
<b>Spooky</b>		Classic IV (1965-2008)
	<b><u>Intermission</u></b>	
<b>One of These Nights</b>		The Eagles (O.1971)
<b>Corazon Espinado</b>		Mana and Santana (O.1999)
<b>Johnny B. Goode</b>		Chuck Berry (1928-2017)
	<i>Salsa Set</i>	
<b>Ahora Quien</b>		Marc Anthony (b. 1968)
<b>Baile Inolvidable</b>		Bad Bunny (B. 1994)
<b>Vivir La Vida</b>		Marc Anthony (b. 1968)

## Directors Notes

**Miguel Vasquez** is a senior Music Therapy major at Seattle Pacific University whose recital celebrates the power of music to create safety, joy, and belonging. Blending classical guitar, electric guitar, piano, voice, rock, salsa, and an original work, this program centers Spanish-language music as a space for Latin communities to gather, dance, and connect. More than a solo spotlight, the evening is rooted in collaboration and highlights the artistry of the many musicians, friends, and loved ones who make this performance possible. Through music, Miguel hopes to foster community, healing, and the courage for others to feel seen and supported. He plans to continue this mission through his internship at Seattle Children's Hospital and future graduate study in therapy and counseling.

### *Show Notes:*

I'm excited to share this show, which celebrates community and my personal journey as a Latin American. Using the ISO principle from music therapy—a technique that meets listeners in a calm state and gradually raises energy and heart rate—I designed the set to move you emotionally and physically, culminating in a joyful, danceable finale. But the program is more than a device to get people on the dance floor: each song represents a moment in my life and identity.

Approximately half the set is in Spanish to reflect the bilingual reality I navigated growing up—switching between languages and cultures to fit in. Songs such as “Hotel California” and “One of These Nights,” though they may seem unexpected, symbolize stages in my identity search.

“Hotel California” represents the allure of assimilating into White culture and the subsequent feeling of being trapped in an identity that wasn't truly mine. Tracks like “Spooky” explore the tension of being accepted outwardly while still feeling different. Later selections, including “Corazón” and other Spanish-language pieces, mark my return to and rediscovery of my heritage.

We close with an upbeat celebration—ending with “Johnny B. Goode” and three final songs that embody full acceptance of my Latin roots and the strength of community. My goal is for you to leave feeling the warmth, resilience, and a sense of loving community and the joy of Latin culture—and reminded that “The Only Thing More Powerful Than Hate is Love.” -(Bad Bunny)

# MUSICIANS

## *Rock Team:*

**David Diepersloot** - - - - - **Guitarist**  
**Nathan Molvik** - - - - - **Bassist**  
**Jayon Harper** - - - - - **First Drummer**  
**Max Vance** - - - - - **Second Drummer**  
**Keira Shaw** - - - - - **Pianist**

## *Salsa Team:*

**Christina Valdez** - - - - - **Pianist**  
**Allison Damon** - - - - - **First Trumpet**  
**Zac Sewell** - - - - - **Second Trumpet**  
**Josiah Faville** - - - - - **Trombone**  
**Dan Adams** - - - - - **lead Percussionist**  
**Olivia Callen** - - - - - **Percussionist**  
**James Loffink** - - - - - **Percussionist**

## *Vocalists:*

**Cat Burnett** - - - - - **Soprano**  
**Tiffany Blanco** - - - - - **Alto**  
**Naoshi Yonezawa** - - - - - **Tenor**

## *Guest Vocalists:*

**Julie Kae Sigars**  
**Clairriss Johnson**

## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

Rock Team:

**David Diepersloot He/Him:** is a musician, recording engineer, mixing engineer, and producer from Santa Cruz, California. David has produced and mixed records for artists such as Rose Peak and Oscar Warnersmith, as well as assistant-engineered bands like Car Seat Headrest and Vic Bondi & His Mistakes. He is currently in his fourth year at SPU, pursuing a BA in Music Production. As a musician, David plays guitar in his indie-rock band, Clover, and enjoys filling in on guitar, keys, and vocals for various other bands. He is excited to be playing for Miguel's rock band, as Miguel has helped make SPU a community in which he feels he belongs!

**Nathan Molvik He/Him:** is a senior undergraduate student studying music composition. Ever since he first picked up the bass, it has fueled his passion for the study of music and live performance. Both the electric and upright bass hold a special place in his musical identity, as these instruments can be found in nearly every corner of the music world. Their versatility and wide expressive range resonate deeply with him, making the bass a natural fit for his artistic voice. In his pursuit of composing music for film, stage productions, and video games, Jayson hopes to embody that same adaptability by blending his diverse musical experiences into new and compelling works of sound.

**Jayon Harper He/Him:** is a nursing student at Seattle Pacific University who also has a deep love for playing drums. His musical background is rooted in rock, and his main band, Clover, was formed through SPU's music program. Alongside fellow musicians from the university, he has had the opportunity to perform at notable Seattle venues such as Barboza, The Moore Theatre, and THING Fest. These experiences have also connected him with countless talented musicians throughout Seattle who continue to challenge, inspire, and expand his artistic limits.

**Max Vance He/Him:** is an award-winning classically trained cellist and composer in the Seattle area. He has premiered his music and/or played at venues such as The Triple Door, MoPop, Benaroya Hall, The Crocodile Café, Folklife Festival, King5 TV, and the Rendezvous, as well as abroad in Paris, France and Navafria, Spain. Max enjoys time with friends and family, and has a strong value for community. He studies both cello and composition at Seattle Pacific University and plans to be a film composer post-graduation.

**Keira Shaw She/Her:** is a composer, piano performer, and award-winner who excited to be assisting Miguel with this recital. Throughout the process, she has been moved by how the team's collaboration has fostered connection and created joy. She looks forward to the recital as a community gathering featuring lively music and is grateful to be part of its creation.

## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

Salsa Team:

**Christina Valdez She/Her:** is a senior at SPU studying Physiology and Honors and has played piano since elementary school. This is her first time performing salsa, and she has enjoyed growing with the team. She is honored to play alongside such talented musicians. The music they have created reminds her that music connects us to ourselves, our communities, and the world—distinct, complex rhythms interwoven into a vibrant whole.

**Allison Damon They/Them:** is a trumpeter whose performances have been said to be ‘executed with golden tone’ (Boston Classical Review). A musician dedicated to working with composers and performing the music of our time, they have performed with the Boston New Music Initiative, Callithumpian Consort, loadbang, and at Bang on a Can’s Loud Weekend. Also a performer of the traditional classical repertoire, Allison was a founding member of the Charles River Brass Quintet and has played with ensembles such as the Boston Festival Orchestra and North Corner Chamber Orchestra. Allison teaches trumpet at Seattle Pacific University, and through their work as the Community Engagement Programs Manager at the Seattle Symphony, they play a pivotal role in expanding access to high quality music education through partnerships with local organizations and school music programs. Allison is thrilled to perform in Miguel's senior recital tonight and to be a part of creating this moment of celebration and community.

**Zac Sewell He/Him:** is a software engineer based in the Seattle area who recently picked up the trumpet again after a decade away. For him, community is what brings out the best in us. Working together, we create something greater than any of us could on our own. He’s grateful to his bandmates, whose encouragement brought him back to music and keeps him playing.

**Josiah Faville He/Him:** Josiah has found this recital to be an incredible opportunity and a pleasure to participate in. He believes music is a powerful means of connection and community. Every culture has a rich history of music and the ways it brings people together, and being part of a salsa band has taught him much about the deep tradition of this music and its cultural significance.

**Olivia Callen She/Her:** is a senior at Seattle Pacific University pursuing a BA in music therapy. She is a percussionist who is proud to have the opportunity to contribute to this recital in the form of Afro-Cuban rhythms and improvisation. To her, community means showing up for the people around you (literally and figuratively). To be in community is to embrace your role as a component of a larger ecosystem of individuals who all have their own unique perspectives, challenges, and lived experiences. Being in community also means moving through the world in a way that embodies respect and acceptance of others, and always considering those who are marginalized by society. Olivia is grateful for the community she has found since moving to Seattle from Florida in 2021, and plans to continue contributing to the community in the ways that are unique to her.

## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

**James Loffink He/Him:** likes to hit stuff with sticks, mallets, and even his bare hands. It brings him great joy. If he had a stage name it would be “The Groove Machine”. He also is in his 3rd year studying music production at SPU. His dream is to record music for TV commercials post-graduation. He would like to thank Mr. Dan Adams for making him better at hitting stuff, as well as Miguel for introducing him to the magical world of salsa music, one that brings people together like no other. God bless!

**Dan Adams He/Him (Professor):** Dan received his Master of Music degree from the University of Washington and his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Idaho. His principal teachers have been Howie Robbins, Joe Morello, Jim Chapin, Peter Erskine, Babatunde Olatunji, Adebisi Adeleke and Tom Collier. He has been the Director of Percussion Studies at Seattle Pacific University since 1988 and has over 60 years teaching experience as a private percussion instructor.

He has performed with the Ashi Opera of Japan, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Allegro Dance Series, the Pacific Northwest Chamber Chorus, Orchestra Seattle, the Seattle Pro Musica and recently served as principal timpanist with the Tacoma City Ballet.

His musical theater credits include the Tacoma Actors Guild, Washington Center for the Performing Arts, the Village Theater, Renton Civic Theater, Civic Light Opera, Seattle Preparatory School, Shorecrest Performing Arts Center and the Seattle Gilbert and Sullivan Society. He has opened for such artists as Johnny Cash, Ricky Skaggs, Albert Collins, Pam Tillis, Hal Ketchum and Etta James and has performed with Grammy Award winners Delbert McClinton and Marcia Ball as well Teresa James, Tommy Castro and recently Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real. Some of his recording credits include The Diamonds, Ventures guitarist Nokie Edwards, Greg Adams of Tower of Power, the Soni Ventorum, Gene Nygaard, and is the featured percussionist on Stephanie Porter’s latest CD “Radio Theater.

### Vocalist:

**Clairriss Johnson She/Her:** is an R&B/neo-soul pop vocalist and active performer in the greater Seattle music scene. A graduate of the University of Washington with a degree in ethnomusicology (2020), her artistry is deeply rooted in both musical scholarship and lived performance experience. Known for her powerful, flexible, and richly soulful voice, Clairriss brings a dynamic presence to the stage, blending vocal precision with expressive storytelling. Her performances are distinguished not only by technical strength, but by her natural ability to engage audiences through warmth, charisma, and lively interaction.

Her achievements include earning 2nd place at the KWCUSA National Championships and winning the 2025 KWC Washington State title. With a sound influenced by contemporary R&B, neo-soul, and pop, with influences including Luther Vandross, Whitney Houston, and Aretha Franklin. Clairriss continues to cultivate a performance style that is both emotionally resonant and electrifying, establishing herself as a compelling and versatile voice in today’s local live music landscape.

## ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

**Cat Burnett She/Her:** is one of the backup singers for Miguel. She was thrilled when Miguel invited her to collaborate for his recital, because making music with other musicians is a true joy. Cat sees music as an art that becomes more connecting and life-giving when created by a community rather than an individual. She hopes the audience enjoys the art Miguel has created to listen to and contemplate, noting it was curated with intention, meaning, and a call to community.

**Tiffany Blanco She/Her:** is a Music Voice major at SPU and feels honored to sing with this talented, passionate group of musicians. Throughout the process she experienced joyful music-making with the band and singers, and what resonated most was feeling the orgullo of her Hispanic culture. Growing up in Puerto Rico and being Puerto Rican has been a treasured part of her identity—especially the culture and music—and she has loved seeing others share in that joy. Under Miguel’s leadership, Tiffany and the ensemble have worked toward a youthful yet soulful blend and expression.

**Naoshi Yonezawa He/Him:** is an international student from Kyoto, Japan and a senior majoring in Music Therapy at Seattle Pacific University (SPU). Studying in the United States since 2021, Yonezawa has gained a passion for his primary instruments, voice and piano. Naoshi currently studies under the coaching of Julie K. Sigars (voice) and Asta Vaicekonis (piano) at SPU. Yonezawa has been part of SPU’s Concert Choir since 2023, and was part of Chamber Choir at South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC). Yonezawa is grateful and excited to be part of this wonderful opportunity, and looks forward to completing his Bachelor’s degree this year. To Naoshi, community means creating a space where people feel safe, connected, and valued. Through music, he hopes to help build that connection and share moments of joy and understanding. He hope this performance reflects the power of music to bring people together with love and respect.

**Julie Kae Sigars She/Her ( Professor):** was a favorite of PNW audiences for many years, singing leads with Tacoma Opera and as guest soloist with many local choirs and orchestras along with thirteen seasons with Northwest Opera in Schools, Etc. (NOISE). Julie Kae’s focus has shifted to teaching at SPU and serving as an Associate Pastor at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Renton, WA. Gracias a la vida...

### **Tech Team:**

**Ethan Schwartz He/Him (Sound Engineer)**

**Levi Barlet He/Him (Sound Engineer Professor)**

**Jenny Young (Sound Engineer Professor)**

## **Texts and Translations:**

### **Tempo De Cantar:**

[Verse1]

*The Time will Go on  
The time will Give and take away  
With it pain*

*The people want to take away your peace  
The people wan to put you in a cage  
But we can never be silenced*

*You will Shine  
Like the sun  
Together we are  
one voice*

### **English to Spanish :**

[Verse 2]

*Construimos esta casa  
Con nuestras propias manos,  
Ladrillo a ladrillo  
Sobre tierra prestada*

*Golpean la Puerta como trueno en la noche,  
Esta casa es fuerte, aunque el farol no alumbre  
Dicen que el hogar no nos pertenece, porque  
Los papeles no estan en regla*

*Los ninos preguntan  
Por que tanto odio  
Si nuestros suelos de colores n  
No son iguales*

## Texts and Translations:

Gracias Por La Vida:

*[Verse 1]*

*Thank you to life, that has given me so much  
It has given me two bright stars that when they are shown  
I can perfectly distinguish black from white  
And on the sky, their big starry sky  
And in the crowd, the man that I love*

*[Verse 2]*

*Thank you to life, that has given me so much  
It has given me sound and the alphabet  
Which came with words that I think and proclaim  
A mother, a friend, a brother, and a shining light  
The route to the soul of the one that I love*

*[Verse 3]*

*Thank you to life, that has given me so much  
It gave me the heart that beats in its frame  
When I look at the fruits of the human brain  
When I look at the good, that is far from the bad  
When I look at the bottom of your clear eyes*

*[Verse 4]*

*Thank you to life, that has given me so much  
It has given me laughter and it has given me crying  
So I can distinguish blessings from brokenness  
The two ingredients that make up my chants  
And your chants, that are the same chants  
And everyone's chants, that are my own chants*

*[Outro]*

*Thank you to life*

## **Acknowledgements and Thanks**

**I want to say thank you to all my professors at Seattle Pacific University who have helped me throughout my process of growth and education and especially thank you to all my clinical supervisors from my music therapy practicum sites. Thank you for the impact you make in our community.**

**Thank you to my wonderful wife, Liz, who has been such an anchor for my life and has been there to support me through my doubts and moments of failure. I could not have done any of this without her support.**

**Additional acknowledgments to Julie Kae Sigers, Asta Vaicekonis,  
Dr. Carlene Brown, Greg Fulton, and my family.**

