

## Prof. Dr. Emilio Mendoza Guardia Brief Bio



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Emilio Mendoza Guardia is a composer, guitarist, researcher and university professor. He has developed a professional creative production in the three domains of music in our current society: regional music (traditional, Latin American folk), media music (popular, jazz) and academic musical art (contemporary new music). Having finished his secondary school and pre-university studies in London, 1965 -1972, he had his premiere as guitarist in 1973 with his group Catálysis within the Experimental Rock Concert in Los Teques. He was the first Venezuelan to be selected for a festival of the International Society for Contemporary Music - ISCM in Boston 1976, when he was 23 years old and to win the prestigious Gaudeamus International Composition Prize in 1978, in Bilthoven, the Netherlands.

A student of Yannis Ioannidis from 1974-1976, he was founder, secretary, treasurer and president of the Venezuelan Society of Contemporary Music since 1975. He obtained the *Diplom in Komposition* from the Robert Schumann Institut with Günther Becker, Düsseldorf, 1980, and studied African Dance and Percussion in Kokrobitey, Ghana, for four months in 1981, with Mustapha Tettey Addy. National Composition Prize winner, 1981, 1991, co-founded, conducted, and composed for the Orchestra of Latin American Instruments - ODILA in Caracas, 1982-87, an experimental group with tours, recordings, video-art, and dance. He was appointed Chief of the Fonology Division, Venezuelan National Library, Caracas, for 1985-1987. He received his Ph.D. in Composition from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 1990. He was Assistant Professor at the State University of New York, Potsdam, USA, 1991-94, Guest Professor at the Institut für Musik und Musikpädagogik, Universität Potsdam, Germany, in 1994, and of the Venezuelan Central University, 1997-1998.

In 1995, he developed Venezuela's first a/v web on Latin American musical instruments, as president of the Foundation for Ethnomusicology and Folklore, FUNDEF, in Caracas. He was the founder and first president of the IASPM/AL-Venezuela Chapter as well as a member of the ISCM Presidential Council for two terms, 2004-08. He founded in 2013, the SOVEB – Venezuelan Society for the Studies of the Bealtes.

He is a Retired Full Professor from the Simón Bolívar University, Caracas, 1998-2013, in October 2022, became Full Professor at the National Experimental University for the Arts, UNEARTE, Caracas, and since 2024 he works as guitarist for the Orchestra of Latin American Instruments - ODILA-TTC, Foundation Teresa Carreño Theatre, Caracas. At present he composes and performs as a guitarist in his group Ozono Jazz, dedicated to musical ecological activism to reduce human noise and save the natural sound environment (*ensona*), the Sound of the Earth, as well as to pedagogy with his *Patterns* guitar method, and to the publication of compositions and articles, as well as to ethnomusicological and audiovisual research, the latter as *Gastkünstler* of the ZKM - *Zentrum für Kunst und Medien* in Karlsruhe, Germany, 2008-2024, on visual music.