Paul Desenne was born in Caracas in 1959 to a French father and an American mother.
At age 14, he joined the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra as a cellist. He subsequently moved to France to study cello and composition, graduating with the Premier Prix from the Paris Conservatory.
His professional life brought him back to Venezuela and then to the United States.

Desenne's tricultural vantage point on today's musical world allowed him to blend anthropological accuracy, conceptual diversity, and musical abstraction into his compositions which explore the passionate, and often quite elaborated rhythms of Latin American music.

Over his lifetime, he composed over ninety works, including symphonies, chamber music and cello pieces. His lush, quifky, and irresistibly rhuthmic style reflects an insatiable curiosity, subversive humor at times, and a wide-open creative lens across a variety of different musical styles.

bio

LEGACY

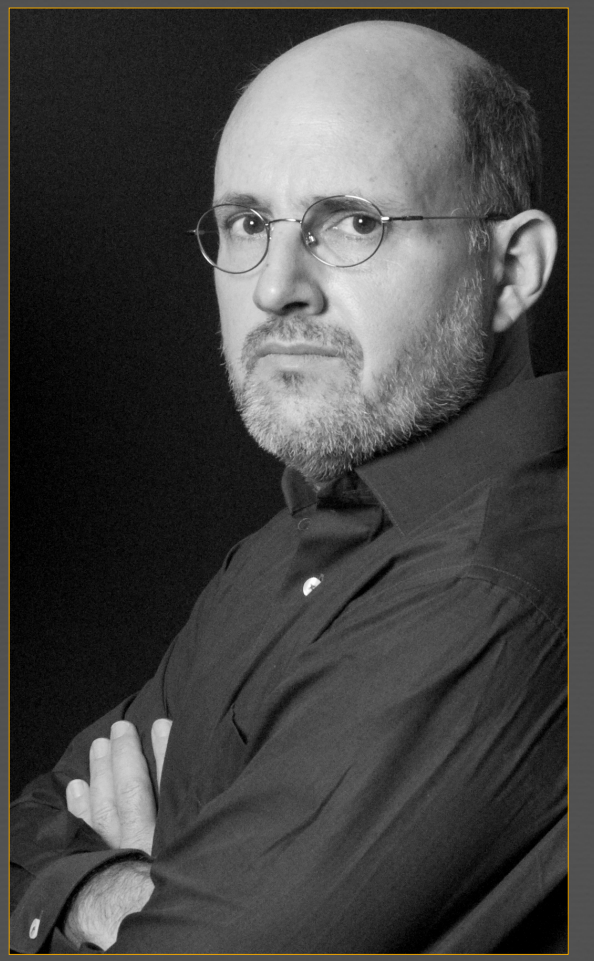
Liliflute Music invites programmers, educators and conductors to explore Paul Desenne's fascinating catalogue _works that deserve to be studied and performed more widely at a time when diversity in programming and openness to new styles and voices are more important than ever.
We are pleased to provide perusal scores, performance licenses, and printed scores and performance materials for his chamber works.

Explore Paul Desenne's music at pauldesenne.com, and visit liliflute.com to discover his recordings and publications.

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Minoflauto, art by Gloria Calderon



Paul Desenne

1959 - 2023

Venezuelan, French, and American Cellist and Composer

DESENNE'S SYMPHONIC & CHAMBER MUSIC

Liliflute Music, publisher of the late composer Paul Desenne (Caracas 1959, Boston 2023) presents a selection of his Symphonic and Chamber works, emerging from the complex interplay of Latin American and European musical traditions.

Selected Symphonic Works

- **Life of Benjamin** — The true story of a monkey's journey from Mexico to New York.
- **Overture Palenkumbé** — Inspired by *Tambores de Chambacú*, a cumbia by a famous Colombian composer from the 60's, Lucho Bermúdez.
- **La Fiesta de Contrapunto** — A work for orchestra and chorus honoring Venezuela's celebrated Quinteto Contrapunto.
- **Symphony La Teresa** — A symphonic portrait inspired by Venezuelan and Latin American traditions.
- **Symphony El Caimán** — Based on an ancient Colombian myth about a man transformed by a wizard into a caiman who lives in the Magdalena River.
- **Hipnosis Mariposa** — Premiered at the *BBC Proms* by Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra.
- **Concerto for Two Flutes** — Premiered by the Oberlin Orchestra, with Alexa Still and Dyland Masariego.
- **Tritsch-Tratsch Polka: Latin Transformation** — A witty fusion of Strauss and Latin music that has become a favorite of orchestras worldwide, especially after Dudamel featured it in his 2016 New Year's musical web postcard.

Selected Chamber Works

Multicultural in essence and rich in textures and counterpoint, Paul Desenne's chamber music incorporates layers of humor, subtlety, and intricate meaning. His chamber music catalogue ranges from solo works to duets, trios, quartets and nonets for a variety of string, wind and keyboard ensembles.

- **Two Seasons (of the Caribbean Tropics)** — A violin concerto inspired by Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, infused with Caribbean influences.
- **El Reto** — Cantata recorded by the Camerata Criolla and Gurrufío, blending native and symphonic ensembles.
- **Chamber Quintets** — Supercharged works combining multicultural styles, for flute, oboe, violin, cello and cuatro.
- **Sonata for Solo Violin** — Premiered by Virginie Robilliard in Europe and by Miranda Cuckson at Bargemusic in the USA.
- **En Voyage** — For violin and cello; commissioned by Monique Duphil and recorded by Soh-Hyun Park and Leonardo Altino for *MSR Classics*.
- **Suite Venezolana for Violin and Piano**— Recorded by Dalina Ugarte and Alfredo Ovalles for a Doctorate diploma.
- **Jaguar Songs** — For solo cello; recorded by Nancy Green alongside Desenne's other cello works, for *Cello Classics*.
- **Tango Sabatier** — Three tangos for Arpergina (five-string viola with low E) _or viola and piano, commissioned by luthier Bernard Sabatier.