



PSU Alumnus O. Daniel Ayala releases first album, ‘Sugestión’



Pitt State alumnus, O. Daniel Ayala, of Paraguay, has released his first album as both composer and pianist.

“It feels great (to release my album),” he said. “I’m very happy with the result, I believe the material is solid and all musicians involved in the project are great professionals.”

The album ‘Sugestión’ will include a variety of styles such as modern blues, Latin jazz, modern bop, and modern classical.

“I tried to be as varied as possible, honestly I don’t think I could choose a specific part since they can be quite different, but playing solo piano has always been a pleasure for me, with no musicians to collaborate with, you have absolute freedom in every term...” Ayala said.

Ayala said he feels like he had “a lot to say musically” in his album. As a musician who is always looking for new possibilities in his music, he felt that jazz was the perfect genre to create fusions of music with.

“I feel that jazz is the perfect style that matches my personality,” he said. “Jazz has the possibility to absorb other genres of music and create something unique every time, I wanted to do that with traditional Paraguayan music, a fusion between jazz and folk Paraguayan music is something that can be quite interesting...”

In creating a fusion between jazz and folk Paraguayan music, Ayala said he also felt inspired “...in the need to develop the Paraguayan music genre, to look forward and beyond.”

Ayala graduated from Pittsburg State University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, and said his time at PSU was “crucial” in his development as a musician.

“I’m very grateful to have worked and learned from the amazing faculty in the music department, Dr. Reena Berger, Dr. John Ross, Dr. Marchant, Mr. Bob Kehle, to name a few, but really, everybody,” he said. “I graduated in 2013...and I’ve gravitated towards a totally different path since then, but I really don’t see this album possible today without the education I received there.”

Ayala looks back on his time at PSU with fond memories and is grateful for all the performance opportunities he had at Pitt State.



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“One of my very best memories is having played alongside the Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, arguably the best big band in the world, as a 20-year-old kid from a third world country that most people never even heard of, playing the piano right beside Michael Weiss is something that doesn't happen too often,” he said. “Also, the top musical education, I cherish my weekly piano lessons and ensemble rehearsals. To this day I still remember everything I learned those years.”