

Dr. Chérie Hughes

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An accomplished chamber musician and soloist, Chérie Hughes has performed throughout the United States and Mexico. She was a frequent collaborator with guitarist Roberto Limón, and as the Pacific Duo they toured throughout Mexico and were featured in recital at the famed Bellas Artes Manuel Ponce Chamber Hall in Mexico City.

While their repertoire included works by well-known composers such as de Falla, Argento, and Schubert, the two were passionate advocates for lesser known treasures as well as for new commissioned works—particularly those of Mexican and Latin American composers. Engagements included concert tours sponsored by the Mexican government’s Coordinación Nacional de Música y Ópera to Mexico City, Guanajuato, and Salamanca; appearances at the XI Festival de Guitarra Internacional del Noreste in Saltillo; as well as concerts at the Festival de Guitarra in Tijuana, Mexico. As part of their Artists in Residency award with the Seattle Jack Straw Cultural Center and a grant from Seattle Pacific University, the duo released their first recording, *On My People*, in 2015 on the Origin Classical label.

In addition to performances with Roberto Limón, Dr. Hughes has continued her passion for chamber music with other musicians as well; collaborating with violinist Laura Klugherz, clarinetist John Bruce Yeh, and pianist Steve Heyman as a guest artist to the Chenango Summer MusicFest; with Brian Chin and Ben Thomas on the premiere of Tom Baker’s *Songs of Sleep and Dreams*; with the Seattle jazz orchestra SCRAPE; and with other musicians throughout the greater Seattle Puget Sound region. In 2019 she released *Poesía en una Canción*, a collection of art songs from Latin America with pianist Dainius Vaičekonis on Common Tone Records. The duo released an additional album with Common Tone Records in 2022, *L’amor Incert*, of songs by American composer Jonathan Leshnoff, Catalanian composer Xavier Turull, and Spanish composer Jesús Guridi.

While chamber music is her great passion, Dr. Hughes is also noted for her rich vocal color and dramatic sparkle in the operatic and oratorio repertoires. She recently appeared as the soloist/namesake in the World Premiere of Malcolm Halliday’s cantata *Emily Carr* in San Miguel de Allende. Her other solo appearances include oratorio performances as the soprano soloist in Handel’s *Messiah*, Haydn’s *Creation*, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, Mozart’s *Mass in C Minor*, and J.S. Bach’s *Magnificat*. Other appearances include the operatic roles of Masetta, Susanna, Gretel, and Pamina; and solo recitals with the NW Chopin Foundation, the WA State Governor’s Mansion, and the Celebrate Song Series.

Dr. Hughes was Head of Performance Voice and European Musicology for 14 years at Seattle Pacific University. She currently lives in Eugene, Oregon.