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Musical Scores for Chomón Short Films Premiere on Opening Day of *Joan Miró: The Ladder of Escape* at the National Gallery of Art



New York University composers, from left to right: Sergi Casanelles, Agatha Kasprzyk, Tomas Peire, Judy Cope, Ron Sadoff, and Nicole Brady. Image courtesy of Ron Sadoff

Washington, DC—On Sunday, May 6, at 4:30 p.m.—opening day of the exhibition ***Joan Miró: The Ladder of Escape***—the National Gallery of Art presents a program of visionary Spanish filmmaker Segundo de Chomón's (1871–1929) masterful trick films. The films will be accompanied by the premiere of new musical scores composed by young composers from New York University's prestigious Steinhardt Film Scoring Program including Nicole Brady, Sergi Casanelles Abella, Agatha Kasprzyk, David Marenberg, Jessie Montgomery, and Tomas Peire Serrate, and directed by Ronald Sadoff. The scores will be performed by members of the National Gallery Orchestra and conducted by Gillian Anderson.

The composers have cast their scores, which are drawn from a variety of traditional Catalan music from the era, in tandem with period composition practices. Chomón's endlessly inventive and surreal stories are complemented by scores that highlight his humor, narrative line, and a wealth of delightful physical gestures.

This program is free of charge in the East Building Auditorium. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The program is supported in part by The Sorel Organization for Women in Music.

Film Program

The program includes ten short works by Chomón, illustrating connections between the early cinema and pantomime, witchcraft, magic, folktale, technology, and the theater.

Les Cents Trucs (1906)

Music by Agatha Kasprzyk

Les Tulipes (1907)

Music by Sergi Casanelles Abella

Les Oeufs du Pâques (1907)

Music by David Marenberg

Le Spectre Rouge (1907)

Music by Jessie Montgomery

Une Excursion Incohérent(1909)

Music by Tomas Peire Serrate

La Corriente Eléctrica (1906)

Music by Tomas Peire Serrate

Electric Hotel(1908)

Music by Sergi Casanelles Abella

Le Pied du Mouton (1907)

Music by Nicole Brady

En avant la Musique (1907)

Music by Tomas Peire Serrate

Le Voyage sur Jupiter (1909)

Music by David Marenberg

All films are from the collection of Filmoteca de Catalunya (Catalan Film Archive) in Barcelona.

Segundo de Chomón

A pioneer of enchanting special effects, fantastical narratives, and animation, Segundo de Chomón (1871–1929) rivaled his contemporary, the famous French magician Georges Méliès, as the leading animator in the early years of cinema. Chomón began his career in Barcelona in 1902 making newsreel shorts and stop-motion trick films (delicate sleights-of-hand accomplished through filming his subject, stopping the camera, making quick substitutions, and then resuming the filming). From 1905 to 1909 he worked in France, where the public could compare Méliès' *Trip to the Moon* with Chomón's *Voyage to Jupiter*. They could see the latter's technical prowess in the trick films he made for Pathé or with the Italian director Albert Capellani. In 1910, Chomón returned to his native Spain to set up his own production house. His inventiveness in the realm of fantasy is legendary—he even contributed special effects to Gabriele D'Annunzio's *Cabiria* (1914) and Abel Gance's epic *Napoleon* (1927).

Gillian Anderson

Conductor and musicologist Gillian Anderson specializes in the relationship between music and moving images and has conducted throughout the United States as well as in Europe, South America, and Canada. Her performances have been described as "triumphant" (*The Washington Post*), "extraordinary" (Edward Rothstein, *The New York Times*) and "an enormously involving experience" (Tom Di Nardo, *Philadelphia Daily News*). She has been featured on a number of television programs, most notably "CBS Sunday Morning" and "All Things Considered Weekend." Together with Ronald Sadoff she founded and is the co-editor of the online journal *Music and the Moving Image*, published by the University of Illinois Press.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit www.nga.gov/renovation (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt and on Twitter at twitter.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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