



2015 HAWAII UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES  
ARTS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES & EDUCATION  
JANUARY 03 - 06, 2015  
ALA MOANA HOTEL, HONOLULU, HAWAII

# SAMUEL ZYMAN'S TWO MOTIONS IN ONE MOVEMENT: FORGING A UNIQUE CONTEMPORARY MUSICAL VOICE THROUGH A BLEND OF DIVERSE MODERN INFLUENCES

DOUSA, NAYELI

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE CD. JUÁREZ

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Dr. Nayeli (López Romo) Dousa  
Department of Music  
Universidad Autónoma de Cd. Juárez.

**Samuel Zyman's Two Motions in One Movement: Forging a Unique Contemporary Musical Voice through a Blend of Diverse Modern Influences**

**Synopsis:**

In this presentation, I will discuss the work of noted Mexican composer Samuel Zyman and how his compositional style is exemplified in the piano work 'Two Motions in One Movement'. I will conclude the presentation with the performance of the piece.

**Samuel Zyman's *Two Motions in One Movement*: Forging a Unique  
Contemporary Musical Voice through a Blend of Diverse Modern Influences**

Nayeli (López Romo) Dousa, D.M.A.  
Universidad Autónoma de Cd. Juárez (México)  
Department of Music

## Abstract

With the vast diversity of styles in the modern musical world, forging a convincing musical language is a challenge for contemporary composers. Samuel Zyman has developed a musical voice that draws upon a wide range of traditions of western music. Into his own style he has assimilated a diverse set of elements, ranging from the musical styles of the acknowledged 20<sup>th</sup>-century masters Bartók and Prokofiev, to the stylistic trends of Impressionism and jazz. His use of these elements is not merely an application of the work of other composers or of academic and historical practices, but rather is an integration of these sounds into a new voice that reflects and contributes to contemporary musical culture. The ability to create such a voice reveals a composer who understands both the contemporary musical world and the traditions from which it developed.

Samuel Zyman is one of the leading Mexican composers of our time and has been on the faculty at the prestigious Julliard School for many years. His compositional output includes symphonies, concertos, orchestral pieces, film music, chamber music, and solo piano works. He has been recognized with composition prizes, awards, and commissions in his native Mexico and internationally. This study includes an overview on Zyman's background as a musician and composer and is centered on describing Zyman's unique compositional voice and how it is exemplified in his solo piano work *Two Motions in One Movement*.

*Two Motions in One Movement* displays the salient features of Zyman's musical style, which include the stylistic influences of the significant 20<sup>th</sup>-century art music composers Bartók and Prokofiev, textural and harmonic elements of Impressionism, and rhythmic elements of jazz. The goal of this research is to investigate and analyze Samuel

Zyman's influences as they are present in this composition and to consider how the fusion of these elements creates a distinct and artistically convincing 21<sup>st</sup>-century musical voice in the international contemporary music scene. This study also aims to bring the work of an important Mexican composer of our time to the attention of contemporary pianists, musicians, and general audiences.