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José del Avellanal Carreño (1998)

composer / performer / light design

Education

2021-23 Hochschule der Künste Bern (CH)

MA Composition (Creative Practice) with Simon Steen-Andersen and Franziska Baumann, minor in vocal studies with Franziska Baumann and Daniel Gloger

2017-21 Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester, UK)

BMus (1st Class Honours) Composition with Emily Howard and Steven Daverson

2020-... Masterclasses

With Clara Iannotta, Steven Kazuo Takasugi, Jorge Sánchez-Chiong, Matthew Shlomowitz, Alessandro Perini, Trond Reinholdtsen, Oscar Bianchi, Lisa Streich, George Lewis, Farzia Fallah, Du Yun, Hannes Seidl...

Ongoing and future projects

2025-26 New work for voice, guitar and electronics

For myself and Martín Sanhueza, developed in collaboration with poet Eva Gallud

Recent performances

2026 Open tryout (3/10) – *Krizo Asembleo* [new expanded version]

Performed by José del Avellanal, Bernat Pont and SPECTRA at the International Opera Academy (Ghent, BE)

2026 Musikfestival Bern & Katapult Festival (4,9/09) – *court circuit* by ocean explosion

Light design for show by Flurina Zehnder and Damien Kuntz in Bern and Thalwil (CH)

2026 48 Stunden Neukölln (4-5/07) – *je mets mon scaphandre* by John Aulich

Light design for performance by Olivia Palmer-Baker at the Ev. Brüdergemeinde Neukölln (Berlin, DE)

2026 Festival Echi (14/06) – *...in the rose garden* [premiere]

Performed by Michele Fontana and Elide Sulsenti at the Castello di Mongiorgio (Bolonia, IT)

2026 Digi Muse Festival (24-25/04) – *Hollow Forms – Living inside the Voice* by Franziska Baumann

Light design and technical assistance for performance at Shanghai Concert Hall (CN)

2026 Sciarrino-Trilogie (28/03) – *logo* [premiere]

Performed by Francisco Morais Fernandes at the Verein Lunaire Bern (CH)

2026 ordo fluctus (27-29/03) – *ordo fluctus* by operationderkuenste, Jakob Böttcher and Ludmilla Mercier

Light design for opera performance at TD Theater (Berlin, DE)

Awards and residencies

2026 Selected composer for TWOSOME - International Commissioning Project, Festival Echi and Ensemble Instantanea (IT)

2025 Bijloke Summer Academy - Music Theatre (artistic residency in Ghent, BE – for *Krizo Asembleo*)

2025 Incentive for Musical Creation, SGAE (ES – for *what answer would please you most*)

2024 Incentive for Musical Creation, SGAE (ES – for *wastelands*)

2022 Music Prize, WE:NOW International Youth Art Festival (Madrid, ES – for *CARNIVAL OF SOULS*)

2021 RNCM Creative Innovator Award (Manchester, UK – for the creative project 'ECO.max')

2019 Composition Award, International Courses 'Música en Compostela' (Santiago de Compostela, ES)

Experience (composer)

Worked with: Ex-Sentia Ensemble, Levy Lorenzo, JACK Quartet, Vertixe Sonora, PPCM, SPECTRA, Arxis Ensemble, Les Percussions de Strasbourg, Shockwave Ensemble, Francisco Fernandes, Elide Sulsenti, Michele Fontana, Philipp Lamprecht, Oliver Janes, Ausiàs Garrigós, Weston Olencki, Olivia Palmer-Baker, Mireia Pellisa, Alberto Anhaus, RNCM Brand New Orchestra

Showcased in: Festival Echi (IT), impuls Festival (AT), SONIC MATTER Festival (CH), Rümlingen Festival (CH), Foresty Festival (IT), Resis Fesival (ES), Kulturesk Festival (CH)

Courses: Darmstädter Ferienkurse (DE), International Young Composers Academy Ticino (CH), NEXT GENERATION Donaueschinger Musiktage (DE), Contemporary Percussion Gathering (IT), Workshop on Composition and Sound Experimentation - Festival Mixtur (ES)

Experience (vocalist/performer)

Involved in: Solo performance, HKB Wandelweiser Ensemble (2022-23, Bern, CH), HKB Vertigo Ensemble (2022, Bern, CH), RNCM Chamber Choir (2018-20, Manchester, UK), Somnium Chamber Choir (2018-19, Manchester, UK)

Performed at: De Bijloke (Ghent, BE), Reitschule (Bern, CH), MZK (Zurich, CH), Alpines Museum der Schweiz (Bern, CH), Fondation Jan Michalski (Montricher, CH), KUG (Graz, AT), HKB (Bern, CH), Bridgewater Hall (Manchester, UK), Barbican Centre (London, UK), Grieghallen (Bergen, NO), Victoria Baths (Manchester, UK), Sage Gateshead (Newcastle, UK), RNCM (Manchester, UK)

Experience (light designer/technical assistant)

Worked with: Kollektiv Unruhe, operationderkuenste, Ocean Explosion, Franziska Baumann, Claudia Brieske, Philolaos Kougias, Olivia Palmer-Baker, Arda Yurdusev, Lautaro Tesar, Ludmilla Mercier

Performances at: Shanghai Concert Hall (CN), 48 Stunden Neukölln (Berlin, DE), Musikfestival Bern (CH), Kunstquartier Bethanien (Berlin, DE), TD Theater (Berlin, DE), Tanzhaus Basel (CH), St. Cecilia's Hall (Edinburgh, UK), International Anthony Burgess Foundation (Manchester, UK), The Black Box (Belfast, UK), Diözesanmuseum (Paderborn, DE), Grosse Halle Reitschule Bern (CH), Katapult Festival (Thalwil, CH), Tojo Theater (Bern, CH)

Software knowledge

Sibelius	●●●●●
Max	●●●●○
DAW	●●●●○
Ableton Live	●●●●○
QLab	●●●●○
Arduino	●●○○○

Languages

Spanish (Native)
English (C2)
German (B2)
French (B1)

Additional work experience

Freelance technical assistant
Freelance copyist and engraver
Freelance performer
Freelance translator – ABRSM (UK)

Selected works

2026 *Krizo Asembleo*, music theatre for six performers - 60'

Showcased in an open tryout together with SPECTRA at the International Opera Academy (Ghent, BE)

2026 *...in the rose garden* for clarinetist, singing cellist and electronics - 14'

Premiered by Michele Fontana and Elide Sulsenti at the Castello di Mongiorgio (IT)

2026 *logo* for amplified piano and bluetooth speaker - 12'

Premiered by Francisco Morais Fernandes at the Verein Lunaire Bern (CH)

2025 *ergo* for amplified piano - 14'

Premiered by Francisco Morais Fernandes at the Hochschule der Künste Bern (CH)

2025 *Lullabies for dinosaurs*, performance for voices and electronics - 25'

Co-creation by Lily Li, Matthias Müller and José del Avellanal, premiered at Hörbar (Hamburg, DE)

2024 *what answer would please you most* for septet and playback - 20'

Premiered by Vertixe Sonora in Auditorio de Galicia (Santiago de Compostela, ES)

2024 *Alpenstrasse (Quartet Sketches)* for string trio and motorised violin - 10'

Premiered by JACK Quartet and Levy Lorenzo at LAC (Lugano, CH)

2024 *NeuroDrive*, audiovisual performance for musicians, electronics, video and lights - 45'

Co-creation by Arda Yurdusev (video), Lautaro Tesar (composition, electronics) and José del Avellanal (light design), premiered at Reitschule Bern (CH)

2023 *wastelands* for tenor saxophone, percussion, piano/keyboard, electronics and lights - 15'

Commissioned by Ex-Sentia Ensemble, premiered at Ackermannshof Basel (CH)

2023 *TENEBRAE*, music theatre for voice, trumpet, violin, electronics, lights and video - 60'

Premiered in graduation concert at the Hochschule der Künste Bern (CH)

2023 *Mountain of Truth*, site-specific performance for directional speakers, quadraphonic installation and percussion - open duration

Premiered at Monte Verità (CH) as part of Rümlingen Festival 2023

2022 *Canto* for percussion quintet - 8'

Premiered by Les Percussions de Strasbourg at LAC (Lugano, CH)

2022 *CARNIVAL OF SOULS* for percussion, video and electronics - 12'

Premiered by Alberto Anhaus at the HKB (CH) and Casa della Musica San Michele (IT)

2021 *Manchester, May 2021 (Calling Dreams)*, fixed stereo electronic work - 5' 30"

Showcased in Kunstraum Walcheturm (Zurich, CH) as part of SONIC MATTER Festival