



MEET THE COMPOSER: **Gabriela Ortiz**

Age Range:	Elementary, Middle School, High School
Introduction:	Composers write music, just like authors write books. In the Class Notes “Meet the Composer” series, we will learn a little bit about the achievements, backstory, and influences of a variety of composers. Get ready to learn about these influential composers and listen to some of their music.
Total Video Time:	16:21
Total Lesson Time:	Approximately 25-30 minutes

BACKGROUND on Gabriela Ortiz

Gabriela Ortiz was born in Mexico City, Mexico. Her parents were musicians who specialized in Latin American folk music. She studied folk music along with traditional Western classical music, moving to Europe for a while to continue her education. Her music combines elements from many genres, including folk, pop, and electronic music. She continues to compose and teach composition in Mexico City.

MUSIC of Gabriela Ortiz

1. Gabriela Ortiz’ music often has a lot of rhythmic energy. To get a sense, listen and watch excerpts from her piece *Yanga*, for percussion quartet, orchestra and chorus.

[Excerpts from the World Premiere of Yanga](#). Composed 2019. Video approx. 5.5 minutes.

2. Gabriela Ortiz composed *Kauyumari* for a full orchestra. “Kauyumari” means “blue deer” to the Huichol people of Mexico. This animal holds special significance and meaning to the Huichol people. The images that accompany the music in the video below capture some of that cultural influence.

[Kauyumari](#). Composed 2021. Video approx. 5 minutes.

3. Gabriela Ortiz often writes music for large ensemble but she also writes for smaller groups and soloists. Check out this piano piece, “Estudio no. 3.” “Estudio” means *study*. In music “studies” (also called “etudes” are pieces created to showcase the performer’s technique and skill on the instrument.)

[Estudio no. 3](#). Composed 2005. Video approx. 5.5 minutes.



MEET THE COMPOSER:

Gabriela Ortiz, cont.

CREATE, CONNECT, & RESPOND to Ortiz's music

1. The last piece in the listening examples above is an "etudio". An etudio (or "etude" in French, or "study" in English) is a specific kind of composition. Learn more in the Class Notes lesson [What is an ETUDE?](#)
2. Gabriela Ortiz' music was shaped by music around the world, particular music from Mexico, where she was born. Think more about the connection between music and place in the Class Notes lesson [Music & Geography: Around the World.](#)

Gabriela Ortiz

FAST FACTS

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