

Guest Artist Recital

Dr. Alfonso Hernández, piano

Sunday, February 22, 2026

3pm

All Faiths Chapel, Kansas State University

PROGRAM

“Found in Translation”

Tiene duende (2014)

Xavier Beteta (b. 1983)

Spain

Fiesta de pájaros. Valse-capricho español (n.d)

Jesús Castillo (1877–1946)

El fandango del candil from *Goyescas* (1913)

Enrique Granados (1867–1916)

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Miniatures Fantastiques for Piano (2015)

Xavier Beteta

- I. El camino del sur
- II. Porcelain Doll
- III. Les adieux

Paris

Poème pastoral (1920)

Ricardo Castillo (1891–1966)

Le tombeau de Couperin (1917)

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937)

- IV. Prélude
- V. Fugue
- VI. Forlane
- VII. Rigaudon
- VIII. Menuet
- IX. Toccata

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,
Theatre, and Dance

Dr. Alfonso Hernandez is a musician and arts advocate, praised as “one of the best Guatemalan pianists today, thanks to his energy, precision, and delicacy” (*Prensa Libre*, Guatemala). He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland, specializing in 20th- and 21st-century Guatemalan piano literature.

Alfonso began his musical journey at the age of four under the guidance of his father and later entered the National Conservatory of Guatemala. He went on to win virtually all available national competitions and debuted as a soloist with the National Symphonic Orchestra of Guatemala at the age of twelve. His awards include prizes from the Lynn Conservatory Concerto Competition, Moores School of Music Concerto Competition, TMTA, MTNA, the Chautauqua International Piano Competition, and the Maria Clara Cullell International Piano Competition, among others. He participated in renowned summer music festivals, including Chautauqua, Aspen, Pianofest in the Hamptons, and Zeister Muziekdage in the Netherlands.

Alfonso is the principal pianist of Core Ensemble, a chamber music theatre company that uses storytelling to highlight Latin and African American historical figures. The ensemble presents performances and educational workshops at numerous theatres and universities across the United States and has been featured in major publications including *The Boston Globe* and *The Palm Beach Post*, which called it “the most enterprising musical group in South Florida.” Core Ensemble productions have also been described as “an intriguing, smoothly crafted performance featuring an exemplary chamber ensemble” (*San Antonio Express-News*).

Beyond the stage, Alfonso earned an MBA in Arts Innovation from the Global Leaders Institute. He has served as Cultural Promoter at the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington, D.C., and co-founded award-winning organizations including the International Chamber Music Festival of Guatemala (FIMCA Guatemala) and the *Luis Felipe Arias* International Piano Festival and Competition. Dr. Hernandez holds degrees from the University of Houston, the Eastman School of Music, and Lynn University.