

Award-winning Colombian composer **Julián De La Chica**, is a multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY, whose influences range from minimalism & post-minimalism to the alternative electronic scene. His work is often inspired by everyday images, the search of personal spiritual reflection, and the inner darkness. It mixes piano, strings, and classical singers, with electronic keyboards and controllers, crossing over from classical to ambient and electronic music.

Music

Following his debut album [Irreverence](#) (2012), where he explores genres such as hip hop, ambient, and electronic, De La Chica released his first solo piano album [Nocturnal and Circular Images Op. 5](#) (2015). The album was inspired by daily life imagery in New York City and some of the *Images* were premiered by the Cuban concert pianist [Leonardo Gell](#) on his tour of Cuba (2014), and as a part of Gell's project "Minimal piano: *De Bach a De la Chica*". In 2018, De La Chica returns to the electronic world with [Psychosis](#), an album that experiments with ambient, post-minimal, acid, industrial, and minimal electronic influences, and which concept explores contamination and sickness within the virtual world today. The album was inspired by De La Chica's 2018 summer trip to Berlin, Krakow, and Warsaw and it was released during a live show at **ShapeShifter Lab** in Brooklyn, NY. In July of 2020, during the pandemic times, De La Chica released his [first Symphony](#), an exploration of the composer's isolation in his studio in Brooklyn, NY. This work, for an orchestra of synthesizers, rethinks European canonical definitions of genres in a new form of creation during social distancing.

Collaborations

Among his collaborations with other artists are: [Minimal Aggression](#) (2015) — a mutual interrogation of minimalism, its possibilities, and its trajectory in the 21st century with musicologist and composer [Susan Campos-Fonseca](#). *Four Short Stories at the Standard Hotel Op. 6* (2009) — a cycle that narrates four real situations happening in a bar, written by De La Chica while he was sitting at the **Standard Hotel's terrace** in the Meat Packing district in New York. The work was premiered during [De La Chica's debut at Carnegie Hall](#) in 2016 by American **Scorchio quartet** and Dominican Tenor [José Heredia](#). [Experimentelle und unbestimmte Lieder Op. 9](#) (2017) — a cycle of German songs for soprano, piano and synthesizer recorded by American soprano [Rachel Hippert](#) and based on the spiritual progression through the *five pillars of internal transit* that De la Chica suggests are the fundamental basis of meditation. [Preludes Op. 8](#) (2018), for piano and synthesizer, recorded by Australian pianist [Lisa Moore](#) — an exploration of another kind of virtuosity: the virtue of sound. In 2019, his fellow collaborator [Rachel Hippert](#) announced the release of her second

studio album [Profanum](#), featuring De La Chica's early sacred songs. The album includes some of the most famous religious texts, such as Ave Maria, Pie Iesu, Stabat Mater and Gloria.

Film

As a film composer, De La Chica has worked with various independent producers and directors. His film score, for the short film *Margaret*, from the Lebanese director Badr Farha, won the **Best Original Score** award at the **London Independent Film Awards**. In 2018, the film *Honor Up*, directed by Damon Dash and produced by Kanye West, included seven works composed by De La Chica. In March of 2020, De La Chica announced his first experimental film project *Agatha* directed and written by him. The project is based on his short story: *Voyeuristic Images* and is part of his new piano cycle Op. 10. The film, an experimental exploration of the solitude, has been **Officially Selected** by more than 10 international film festivals and already won "**Best Picture**" at the **Florence Film Awards**, "**Best LGBTQ Film**" — **Award of Recognition** at The **IndieFEST Film Awards** and "**Best Soundtrack**" at the **Berlin Underground Film Festival**. Due the success of the film, De La Chica released the [film's soundtrack](#), a work featuring solo piano with exposed, dissonant harmonies and fragile melodic lines, which is a vital component to the film's exploration of the psyche of loneliness, and its unapologetic narrative simplicity. In the first week of the release, Spotify's classical curator included one work from the album to the *Classical New releases* playlist.

Early life

De La Chica began his musical career in the classical tradition, studying piano at the age of five in his hometown, Manizales. During his early years, he immersed himself in the world of "classical music", developing a keen affinity with Baroque composers and symphonic sound. After high school he moved to Europe. Interested in spirituality and philosophy, he began studies of humanities in Salamanca (Spain), and also briefly studied philosophy and metaphysics in Madrid. He undertook self-guided studies, in Bad Münstereifel (Germany) reading classical literature, composition, and the study of dead languages. It was during this period that he composed pieces and essays about music, philosophy and spirituality, inspired by his readings of Garrigou-Langrange and Teresa de Avila. Finding himself dissatisfied with the conservative musical minds of the music schools, he decided against continuing his education formally in a conservatory.

De La Chica performs his music in different settings, ranging from electronic music bars to conventional classical stages. Since 2009, he has been a Baldwin Piano Company artist. He currently plays the custom-designed Baldwin: [Heavy Metal piano](#). He is a founding member of the independent record label [Irreverence Group Music](#) (IGM) and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

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