

Colloquium September 19, 2025
Mary Jedynak, BM Thesis Presentation

“Variation Form as a Continuous Narrative: Form and Voice Leading in Barrios’s *Un Sueño en la Floresta*”

Abstract:

Agustín Barrios’s *Un Sueño en la Floresta* is well-known in the solo guitar repertoire: it is beautiful, virtuosic, and fascinating. Using Schenkerian voice-leading methodology, I elucidate components that make this piece interesting and exciting, both for performers who wish to deepen their understanding of the piece, and as an introduction for those less familiar with standard guitar repertoire. Schenkerian theory also reveals that this piece, like other monotonal variation sets, is best viewed as continuous and oriented toward a single point of closure. The analysis also provides increased understanding of Barrios, the composer. Middleground voice-leading sketches also reveal hidden motivic repetitions and associations across the multiple variations.