

HUGO SELLES

Pianist | Composer | Producer

BIOGRAPHY

Hugo Selles is a pianist, composer and producer born in Santander (Cantabria/Spain) in 1988. Hugo's diverse artistic interests are clearly reflected in the great variety of his musical endeavours. Member of many different ensembles and projects, including music for solo piano, chamber music groups and other formations, embracing various musical genres.

Photo: Edgar Robles / March 2021



Recipient of scholarships from the Botín Foundation of Santander, Warner Music Spain and The Royal Danish Academy of Music, among other institutions, Hugo is a graduate of Jesús de Monasterio Conservatory of Music, Higher School of Music of the Basque Country Musikene, SAE Institute Madrid and The Royal Danish Academy of Music. Hugo went onto completing his Advance Post-Graduate Diploma Soloist Class at The Royal Danish Academy of Music in November 2017. During his studies, Hugo has had the privilege to perform for remarkable maestros such as Niklas Sivelöv, Sergei Osokin, Kathryn Stott, Ricardo Descalzo, Jeffrey Swann, Marta Zabaleta, Boris Berman and Claudio Martínez-Mehner, among many others.

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As a classical pianist and chamber musician, Hugo has received awards in several competitions in Europe, and has performed in concert halls and festivals in Spain, France, Italy, Serbia, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Singapore and Australia. His line of work is focused on 19th, 20th and 21st centuries repertoire. Some of the musicians and ensembles he has been working with for the last years are: Duo Otero (together with cellist Miguel Diez), SEIT Quartet (2 pianos and percussion together with Lorenzo Colombo, Marta Soggetti and Kristina Sočanski), saxophonist Marina Moyá; violinist Khalida De Ridder, ENSEIC (Contemporary Instrumental Ensemble of Cantabria), Percurama (Percussion Ensemble of RDAM), and violinist Kehan Zhang. Hugo has also premiered several works for piano solo by alive composers, some of which have been specifically written for him.

As a composer and producer, Hugo explores diverse styles of music in his work. His multi-genre band Psychic Equalizer was awarded with three Silver Medals at The Global Music Awards in 2017, pointing out the quality of the compositions and their musical style. Psychic Equalizer has released six studio albums since 2011. Hugo has also composed soundtracks for the award-winning documentaries 'En Los Brazos de la Luz', about the life and work of Spanish painter Enrique Gran, and 'Susurros', about the pre-historic paintings of the cave 'El Moro Chufín' in Cantabria (Spain).

Hugo has a broad interest in other forms of art, which has led him to accompany the ballet apprentices of the Royal Theatre of Copenhagen in 2016 and 2017. Through this experience, Hugo developed an interest in contemporary dance and has been working with Alberto Pineda's Dance Company since. Other projects are: Glerskálðskapur (live poetry show with minimal and neo-classical piano music), Indigo (jazz duo and musical comedy with India Hooi) and Novecento (musical accompaniment for the theatre play by Alessandro Baricco, together with actor Javier Uriarte).

"An exciting and versatile pianist with strong artistic personality, intensity and brilliant technique."

- Niklas Sivelöv. Pianist , composer and professor

"Having had the pleasure to hear Hugo both live as well as through the recordings of his various projects I can say that it is refreshing to see music being made in an interesting, experimental and exciting new way."

- Marius Budu. Visual artist and photographer

Hugo is certainly the pianist who develops more musical genres at a high level in Cantabria: classical recital, soloist with orchestra, chamber music, jazz and improvisation in several styles.

That inherent and heterogeneous condition makes him a well-known and beloved artist by audiences of all kind.

- Francisco San Emeterio. Pianist and professor

DISCOGRAPHY

[This is not Hugo Selles' full discography, but a list of the most critically acclaimed albums which have been released to date.]

w/PSYCHIC EQUALIZER

Memories From a Cold Place (2012)

"It is a work in which classicism and technology converge harmoniously. The piano has its roots in the most contemporary jazz. "

★★★★★ Gustavo Lecha – Zona de Jazz

The Lonely Traveller (2017)

"This is a highly personal project that defies easy categorisation. Not for purists of any stripe, more for those who love a fresh recipe using familiar ingredients and who prefer their music to be 'widescreen', bold and unapologetic."

★★★★★ Dave Foxall – Jazz Journal

"Full of life, professionalism and comfort."

★★★★ Nick – Prog Archy

"A work of art and sincere craftsmanship."

★★★★ Keith Hannaleck – Prog Rock Talk

"Psychic Equalizer makes a bold statement about its intent, but does not attempt to barrage or hammer-home its distinctively classy form. I loved this work."

★★★★★ Alec Vanthournout – Prog Stravaganza

The Sixth Extinction (2019)

"Quite an interesting, though depressing, album."

★★★★ Henry Schneider – Exposé

"Apocalyptic vision from progressive rock mavens who map their way into the future."

★★★★★ Dmitry Epstein – DMME Let It Rock

"A masterpiece that will be probably never understood."

★★★★★ José Arias – Made in Metal

"The Sixth Extinction is an intriguing album with a large diversity in musical styles. Highly recommended for the open minded music lover."

★★★★ Douew Fledderus – Prog Visions

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Revealed II (2021)

"Psychic Equalizer's Revealed II hits the mark with its progressive music tinged with metal, jazz and new age, its sense of beautiful melodies and its technically impeccable musicians."

★★★★ Music Waves

"Honors for the new EP by the progressive and symphonic rock band Psychic Equalizer, a gem for lovers of the genre."

★★★★★ David Esteban – Mariskal Rock

"A very well done production, neat and good sounding in general, can be fully appreciated in all its aspects worked with dedication."

★★★★★ Nación Progresiva

"The entire EP is somewhat dark. The lyrics work well in this context, pointing out the stupidity of division and what it does to us as individuals and a species. The band have certainly matured and their musicianship is unquestionably good."

★★★★★ Prog Blog

SOLO ALBUMS

Ethereal (2020)

"Over the past eight years, Hugo Selles has become one of my favorite artists. Often edgy and experimental, the instrumentation on "Ethereal" is more electronic than some of Selles' other music, but is also reflective of the wide diversity of his musical interests and his extensive musical training. Overall, the album is dark and intense, and each track is different from the others in instrumentation and style - from ambient to more melodic - telling a fascinating story."

★★★★★ Kathy Parsons – Mainly Piano

Glerskálðskapur (2019)

I have had the pleasure of getting to know the music of a very wide variety of musicians and composers over the twenty plus years that I've been writing reviews, but one who really stands out is Spanish pianist/composer/keyboardist Hugo Selles. To date, most of his albums have been under the name Psychic Equalizer, beginning with his 2012 debut, Memories From a Cold Place. Glerskálðskapur is his fourth release for 2019, closely following his album of piano improvisations, Introversia, which I love!

★★★★★ Kathy Parsons – Mainly Piano

Introversia (2019)

"This is a perfect solo introduction to the improvisational art of a pianist who has come to stay offering us a personal point of view exploring the world of free music with dedication and passion."

★★★★★ Ignacio Ortega – Distrito Jazz

REPERTOIRE

[This is not a full list, but an example of some of the most relevant piano and chamber music works Hugo has performed in the last few years]

SOLO & SOLOIST

W.A.Mozart

- Piano Concerto no 23 in A Major K. 488

L.V.Beethoven

- Sonata no 21 in C Major opus 53
- Sonata no 26 in E flat Major opus 81a
- Sonata no 30 in E Major opus 109
- Triple Concerto in C Major opus 56

R.Schumann

- Symphonic Etudes opus 13
- Fantasy in C Major opus 17

F.Chopin

- Andante spianato et Grande polonaise brillante opus 22
- Heroic Polonaise in A flat Major opus 53

F.Liszt

- La Vallée d'Obermann

J.Brahms

- Intermezzi opus 117

S.Rachmaninov

- Selection of etudes and preludes
- Sonata no 2 in B flat minor opus 36
- Piano Concerto no 2 in C minor opus 18

C.Debussy

- Selection of preludes

B.Bartók

- Piano sonata Sz. 80

M.de Falla

- Fantasia Baetica

D.Shostakovich

- Preludes opus 34

WORLDWIDE PREMIERE

B.de Murashkin

- A Journey Through (for piano)

J.J.Merchán

- Micro Suite del Ángel (for piano)

S.Tanoto

- Unruhe (for piano)

J.R.Cid

- Iri-Sama (for piano)

K.Rymkier

- Tirer sur tout ce qui bouche (for piano)

J.Jandreau

- Three Images (for piano)

D.J.Lang

- Walking around Adelaide early in the morning listening to magpies (for piano)

F.B.Mabalot

- Lux Aeterna (for piano)

E.Otero

- Novilunio (for piano)
- Sonata no 2 Acontium (for cello and piano)

G.Loidi

- Piacell (for cello and piano)

DANISH PREMIERE

S.Reich

- Quartet (for 2 vibraphones and 2 pianos)

SPANISH PREMIERE

S.Holt

- Black Lanterns (for piano)

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CHAMBER MUSIC

L.V.Beethoven

- Sonata for cello and piano no 3 in A Major opus 69
- Sonata for cello and piano no 5 in D Major opus 102 no 2
- Trio no 1 in E flat Major opus 1 no 1
- Trio in B flat Major "Archduke" opus 97

J.Brahms

- Trio for clarinet, cello and piano in A minor opus 114

R.Strauss

- Sonata for violin and piano in E flat Major opus 18

C.Franck

- Sonata for violin and piano in A Major

P.Sarasate

- Selection of works for violin and piano

C.Debussy

- Sonata for cello and piano

F.Poulenc

- Sonata for flute and piano
- Sonata for clarinet and piano
- Trio for oboe, basson and piano
- Sextet for winds and piano

S.Rachmaninov

- Trio Élégiacque for violin, cello and piano no 1 in G minor

D.Shostakovich

- Sonata for cello and piano opus 40

B.Bartók

- Sonata for 2 pianos and percussion

L.Berio

- Linea for marimba, vibraphone and 2 pianos

S.Reich

- Quartet for 2 vibraphones and 2 pianos

OWN COMPOSITIONS

Premiered

- Dysthymia (for piano solo)
- La Bestia (for soprano, SA choir, 2 pianos and percussion)
- Rondo no 1 (for alto sax and piano)

Soundtracks

- En Los Brazos de la Luz (music for alto sax, bariton singer, synths and piano)
- Susurros (music for classical guitar, cello, bansuri, synths and piano)
- File_Life (sound design, synths and piano)

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CONTACT

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