

JEST 2025
FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO

Rolando J. Gómez

SCORE

Biography



Rolando J. Gómez (b.2001) is a Miami-born composer, tresero, lyricist, and music educator whose work blends Cuban, Jazz, Classical, and European Modernist traditions. He holds a degree in music composition from Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied with Stephen Hartke, Jihyun Kim, and Jesse Jones, and minored in TIMARA (Technology in Music and Related Arts). He is also a graduate of Syracuse University, where he studied with Natalie Draper, Loren Loiacono, and Nicolas Scherzinger, and served as a teaching assistant in music theory.

Gómez's music spans solo and chamber works, humorous and sentimental art songs, and compositions involving electronics. A defining element of his work is the Cuban tres, a traditional string instrument central to his heritage and a growing focus of his compositional practice. He is actively developing a repertoire for the tres through original compositions, pedagogical studies, and commissions from emerging composers.

As an educator, Gómez is committed to sharing Cuban musical traditions with younger generations. His teaching work includes composing for student ensembles, particularly through initiatives like the New Canon Project, where he introduces young string players to Cuban grooves and rhythms. His music has been recognized by The American Prize, the Society of New Music, and Tribeca New Music.

Program Note

The word jest refers to a joke or witty remark something said or done for amusement. I first encountered the term through David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*, a sprawling, postmodern novel known for its dense prose, dark humor, and satirical edge. The novel's maximalism and layered irony have long resonated with me, particularly in how it juxtaposes profound complexity with light-hearted absurdity. In *Jest*, I explore the idea of musical humor through virtuosic and whimsical means. The piece is dense and frenetic, weaving together Stravinskian angularity, clave-inspired rhythms, jazzy harmonies, bluesy expression, and baroque gestures into a tightly packed sonatina. Though its textures are often intense, *Jest* is ultimately playful at heart—a high-energy manifestation of my ongoing interest in music that laughs, teases, and dazzles all at once.

Jest was commissioned by Copland House for its CULTIVATE 2025 Emerging Composers Institute. It was premiered by members of the Copland House Ensemble violinist Pala Garcia and pianist Margaret Kampmeier on June 10, 2025 at Elebash Hall, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. CULTIVATE 2025 fellowships and commissions were supported by the ASCAP Foundation, BMI Foundation, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, Friends of Copland House, Jandon Foundation, and NewMusic-USA. Additional program funding was provided by the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Amphion Foundation, ArtsWestchester, Elzbieta and David Grove Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and New York State Council on the Arts.

Performance & Rehearsal Note

Jest is a musical showpiece written with one goal in mind: to amuse. Its whimsical character invites performers to fully embrace exaggeration, theatricality, and spontaneity. Flexibility in tempo, dynamics, and phrasing is not only allowed it is encouraged. The piece plays with the listeners expectations through sudden shifts, exaggerated gestures, and tongue-in-cheek musical references. Performers should feel free to lean into this mischief: stretch cesuras beyond comfort, hurl into hurried accelerandos, or indulge in sloppy, overly dramatic allargandos. The music thrives on surprise and expressive excess. Visual presentation is equally important. If circumstances allow, consider embracing the spirit of the piece through playful or flamboyant stage attire. The more camp, the better.

Jest

For Violin and Piano

Score

Scherzando;

Rolando J. Gómez

sempre con rubato (♩ = 86)

Violin

Piano

gva.

p secco



③

Pno.

gva.

pp

fp



⑤

Pno.

gva.

fp



⑦ *8va*

Pno.

f

⑨ *8va*

Pno.

stringendo a

p
giocososo

⑫ *Giubilante, (♩ = 108)*

Pno.

f

p
sub.

14

Pno.

ff

8va

3

16

Vln.

Pno.

pp ma animato

p

f

5

5

18

Vln.

Pno.

p

5

20 poco rit.

Vln.

Pno.

fp

pp

fp

ppp

22 A Tempo

Vln.

Pno.

p dolce

p dolce

24

Vln.

Pno.

mf

p dolce

mp

f

pizz.

pp

f

ben

(28)

Vln. *arco* *f* *ff*

Pno. *pp* *ff*

(30)

Vln. *ff* *ffz*

Pno. *ffz* *mf*

(32)

Vln. *p* *sub.* *f*

Pno. *p* *sub.*

34

Vln. *ff*

Pno. *f*

36

Vln. *fp*

Pno.

38

Vln. *f* *p* *sub.* *ffp*

Pno. *p*

molto allarg.; teatrale A Tempo

40

Vln. *gliss.* *fff* *f* *ffff* *n*

Pno. *fff pesante*

Subito meno mosso; Tenero (♩ = ca. 96)

44

Vln. *mf* *pp* *molto vibrato!*

Pno. *p dolce*

molto rit.

46

Vln. *f ma dolce* *sul ponticello; in modo incrementale*

Pno.

Tempo II^o; (♩ = ca. 108)molto
sul pont.

48

Vln. *ffp* *8va.*

Pno. *p* *ma energico*

50

Vln. *norm.*
pp

Pno. *8va* *sotto voce*

52

Vln. *fp* *mf* *secchissimo* *simile*

Pno. *8va* *ffz* *fz* *fz*

(54)

Vln. *ppp* ma energico *mf* energico

Pno. *ffz* *p* *mf* *fz* *pp*

(56)

Vln.

Pno. *mf* *fz* *ffz* *pp* morendo

(58)

rit. a Tempo III ° ; (♩ = ca. 96)

Vln. *p* morendo *ppp* *f* ben

Pno. *pppp* *p* dolce

60

Vln.

Pno.



62

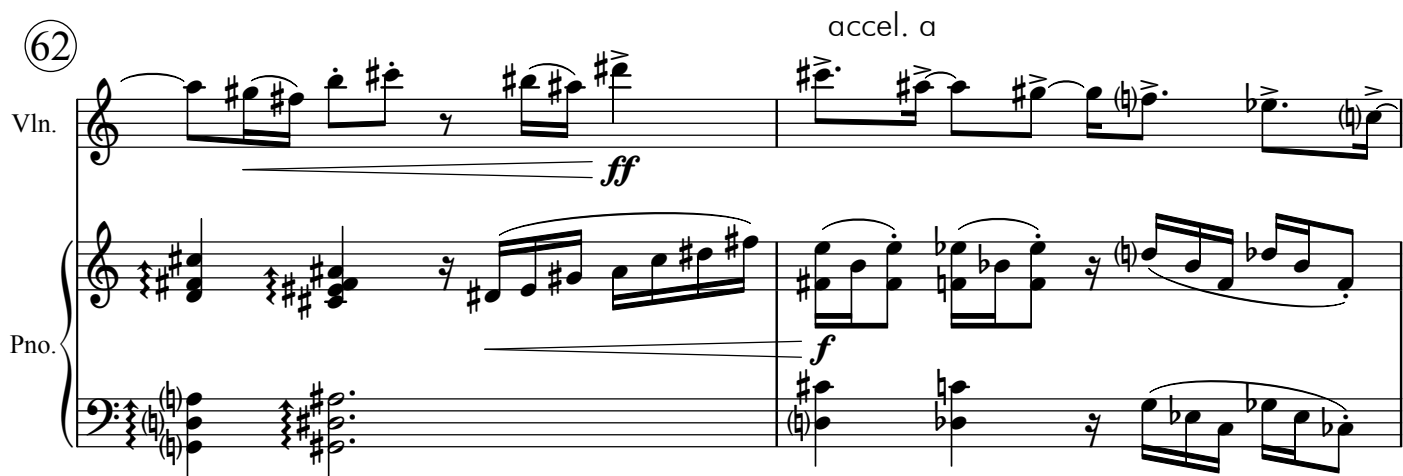
Vln.

Pno.

accel. a

ff

f



64

Vln.

Pno.

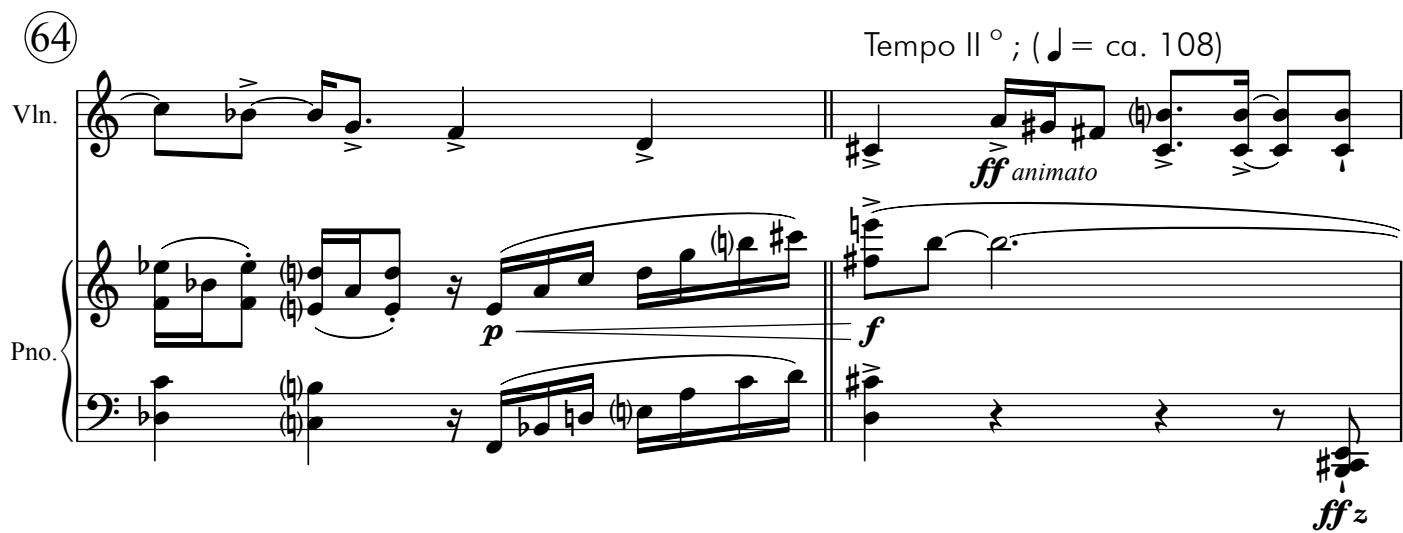
Tempo II^o ; (♩ = ca. 108)

ff animato

p

f

ff z



66

Vln.

Pno.

ff z

66

68

Vln.

Pno.

fff z

ff z

68

70

Vln.

Pno.

p dolce

70

(72)

Vln. *mf* *p dolce* *mp* *f* *pizz.*

Pno. *pp* *f ben*

(76)

Vln. *f* *ff*

Pno. *pp* *ff*

(78)

Tempo III^o ; (♩ = ca. 96)

Vln. *ff* *mf p* *pp* *fp*

Pno. *ff z* *p dolce*

8va.

81

Vln.

p dolce

Pno.

83

Tempo III °, ma drammatico; (♩ = ca. 86)

Vln.

pp

ppp

Pno.

f risoluto

85

Fugato; con fuoco (tempo ad lib. ♩ = ca. 86 - 108)

sul G norm.

sul D

Vln.

ff malizioso

fp

f

Pno.

ff

88

Vln. *p legato* *mp* *p*

Pno. *f malizioso* *fp*

91

Vln. *f*

Pno. *f malizioso* *p*

94

Vln. *pp*

Pno. *fp* *f*

97

Vln. *f* *sul pont.* *f ruvido* *3* *V* *V*

Pno. *f* *f* *(h)* *(h)*

100

Vln. *norm.* *V* *sul pont.* *f ruvido*

Pno. *mf spiccato* *f ruvido*

103

Vln. *f* *3* *3* *norm.* *mf spiccato*

Pno. *mp*

107

Vln. *norm.*
f

Pno. *f* *mp secco* *f*

111

Vln. *fff* *norm.* *ffp* *ffp*

Pno. *p legato* *f malizioso* *p*

114

Vln. *tr*

Pno. *fp* *f* *3*

117

molto
sul pont.

Vln. *pp* *sotto voce*

Pno. *p* *f* *fp*

120

norm.

Vln. *ff* *ruvido* *fp* *ff*

Pno. *mf*

123

Vln. *fff*

Pno. *p* *fp*

126

Vln.

Pno.

fff ruvido

p secco

8va

8va

129

Vln.

Pno.

fff

8va

8va

133

Vln.

Pno.

p secco

8va

8va

136

Vln. *f* *spiccato*

Pno. *fff* *p* *morendo*

8va

140

Vln. *ffp* *f* *ben*

Pno. *f* *pesante* *p* *sub.*

8va

143

molto allargando

Vln. *mf* *f* *p* *pp* *morendo* *ppp*

Pno. *pp* *morendo* *ppp*

146 Giubilante; *molto allargando*
 aggressivamente gioioso, ($\text{♩} = 116$) *giocosamente*

Vln. *p* *f* *fp* *f* *fp*

Pno. *p* *mf* *pp* *mf*

149 A Tempo

Vln. *f* *fp* *fp*

Pno. *p* *f* *pp*

152 moltissimo allarg. A Tempo

Vln. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

154

Vln.

Pno.

f ma dolce

157

Vln.

Pno.

simile

Subito meno mosso, climatico!

stomp!

fff ruvido

ff animato

159

Vln.

Pno.

fp

161

Vln.

Pno.

ff

mf

ff pesante

slow gliss.

ad lib. molto accel. poco a poco

164

Vln.

Pno.

fff

ff

f

slow gliss.

ad lib. molto accel. poco a poco

168

Vln.

Pno.

slow gliss.

ad lib. molto accel. poco a poco

172

Vln.

Pno.

175

Vln.

Pno.

Subito piú lento;

pesante e teatrale, (♩ = 96)

179

Vln.

Pno.

181

Vln.

Pno.

f

183

(non rit.)

Vln.

Pno.

p

p ma energico

Syracuse, NY
Spring 2025

