Emmy Award-winning composer Carlos Rafael Rivera’s career has spanned several genres of music. His work for film and television includes scoring one of Netflix’s most viewed and acclaimed shows, The Queen’s Gambit, as well as Netflix’s Godless and Universal Pictures’ A Walk Among the Tombstones.

While earning his D.M.A. in composition at USC Thornton School of Music, Rivera studied with Donald Crockett and Stephen Hartke and was mentored by Randy Newman. As a guitarist, Rivera has performed as the opening act for The Who at the Hollywood Bowl; recorded studio sessions for Island/Def Jam, and Universal Records, and had songs featured on ABC’s Scrubs, MTV, and VH-1.

Rivera has written commissioned pieces for the Simon Bolivar Youth Symphony and the American Wind Symphony. His work has been performed by prominent ensembles and soloists including Arturo Sandoval, Colin Currie, Chanticleer, Cavatina Duo, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the American Composers Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, and recorded on the Warner, Sony, Naxos, and Cedille labels. Rivera has been awarded by the Herb Alpert Foundation, the Guitar Foundation of America, and BMI, and twice by ASCAP.