

# *Chairman's Letter*

It gives me great pleasure to introduce one of the most important young guitarists and composers of Puerto Rico as he gives his first concert at the Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall in London.

Alberto Rodríguez Ortiz undoubtedly is a talented performer with a personality of his own when playing the guitar or writing music. Tonight's programme included pieces of some of the best contemporary composers of Puerto Rico who have written music to be premiered at the Royal Festival Hall in London. They are a group of composers who are part of Puerto Rican musical history of the last decades.

Tonight's concert contribute to a better understanding of guitar music in the Caribbean and in the Americas. Puerto Rico's rich cultural and musical traditions are rooted in a legacy of their own Borikén civilization and later enriched with the post - Columbus modern transformations. Music has always been an important part of Puerto Rican culture. We can say that music was at first a symbolic language of simple sounds used to connect a native local civilization which later developed into rich modern and colourful rhythms.

Tonight's concert include works incorporating the best musical traditions of Puerto Rico's precious legacy of the 20th century history. The concert includes a repertoire of beautiful pieces written by Miguel Cubano (b.1954), José Rodríguez Alvira (b. 1954), Carlos Cabrer (b. 1950), William Ortiz (b. 1947) and Alberto Rodríguez Ortiz (b. 1971). All of them educated in the USA and Europe. The British audience will appreciate their creative talent by listening to the exclusive world and United Kingdom premieres.

I can not leave aside the work of two musicians very much associated with the building up of the Puerto Rican musical establishment. Because they left a legacy for future generations; they must be considered as pioneers of the contemporary popular and classical music: José Ignacio Quinton (1881-1925), a modest and talented pianist dedicated his life to teach and to promote music to the young generation of musicians in the first quarter of the last century. Also Héctor Campos Parsi (1922-1998), widely known Puerto Rican composer of classical music with a successful career in the USA, where he received high recognition for his brilliant works and for his strong belief in Puerto Rican's musical identity.

The British audience will enjoy listening to the percussive instruments played by Ricky Rodríguez, his expertised work contributes to create a Caribbean atmosphere in this concert. We salute Ricky's gifted talent to make the evening even more interesting.

As Chairman of the Latin American & Caribbean Cultural Society (LACCS), I welcome Alberto Rodríguez's appearance in the concert scenario at the Royal Festival Hall and I am quite sure that the audience will enjoy their performance. Alberto and Ricky are outstanding representatives of Puerto Rico in the field of classical guitar and percussion.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, the National Endowment for the Arts, Compañía de Turismo de Puerto Rico, Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico y Centro de Guitarras for their support in making this concert a successful event for the culture of Puerto Rico in the United Kingdom.



Professor J R Monroy  
London, 17th February 2006