

THREE PARAGUAYAN PIECES
NAVIDAD
JORGE 'LOBITO' MARTÍNEZ
(1952-2003)

arr. By BERTA ROJAS

Jorge Eladio (Lobito) was the son of Don Eladio Martínez, famous composer and folk performer with a long trajectory and a musician who has immensely contributed to the development of music in Paraguay. Lobito studied piano with Margarita Morosoli de Picardo, Nelly Jiménez and Pedro Burán and later entered the *Leonor Aranda Institute of Higher Piano Studies*. He completed his tuition in harmony with Maestros Luis Cañete and Carlos Schwartzman. He graduated as piano teacher in 1983 and wrote the pieces *Canto para Tí* and *Qué más dá*, both recorded by the *Aftermads Group*. He successfully recorded *Un Estilo para el Folklore* with music entirely dedicated to Paraguay including his composition *Ensueño*. On the other hand, he incursioned in jazz music with his piece *Carola* recorded by Andrés Boiarsky, Argentine saxophonist in 1986. In 1988 he entered Berkeley College of Music in Boston and he graduated after 3 years. Later he won the Chair at the Piano Department in the same college where he developed the subject of Music with Latin Rhythms for two years.

He returned to Paraguay in 1992 and recorded another two CD's *Little Wolf* and *Children Play* in a solo piano which was most praised within Paraguayan music. From 1992 onwards he dedicated to teach and compose. He wrote the score for the film *El Portón de los Sueños* and also participated in the *OTI Festival de la Cancion* (1994) in Sevilla, Spain. As a composer he put together traditional Paraguayan music with jazz and in 1996 he was nominated by the Fulbright Foundation as one of the 50 personalities of the world. He was responsible for the management of a series of recordings edited by the ABC Colour of Paraguay Newspaper which included the following CD's *Homage to our Music*, (30 years of ABC), *Che Valle* (the CD of the People), *Pintemos el Mañana* (Children Songs), *Songs for my Mother*, *En Las Colinas del Alma*, and *Solo Guaranias* with an output of more than 70,000 copies. He played several instruments during the development of the project. He managed to record his own CD entitled *The Sound of the Light* in where he includes his own pieces *Telegram from Africa*, *My small Blues*, *Journey throughout the Interior* and *Passengers in Transit*. In 2001 he travelled to Japan and in 2002 he participated in the *Tenth Musical Tribune of Latin America and the Caribbean* organised by UNESCO. He tragically died in the afternoon of 25th January 2003.

RENACER
OSCAR CARDOZO OCAMPO
(1942-2001)

arr. by BERTA ROJAS

The life of Oscar Cardozo is divided in between before and after the *Platino Konex Prize* awarded to him for Arranger of the Decade in Argentina. He studied piano with Mariá de Satcht and composition with Pedro Saenz. He won several prizes as arranger awarded to him by OTI (Caracas, 1979) and by the *Asociación de Cromistas del Espectáculo* (Chronicle Association of Shows) in 1993 plus the SADAIC Grand Prize. He is the author of twenty books and worked with the most famous artists as arranger and choreographer Director in the recording of their works, among them M.E. Wals, Eduardo Falú, Camerata Bariloche, Mercedes Sosa, Ariel Ramirez, Teresa Parodi, Eduardo Lagos, Horacio Molina, Marilina Ross, Sandra Mihanovich, Celeste Carballo, Lolita Torres and many others. After receiving the Platino Konex Prize he was artistic producer of the singers Mercedes Sosa, Jairo and Eladia Blázquez on their recordings. His most important works are *Música pare el Teatro*, *Buenos Aires me Mata*, *Borges Buenos Aires*, *Georgina está Re-Vista* and *Viva la Revista*. Other important works were the arrangement he did with Lalo Schiffrin in the

song by Eladia Blázquez specially written for the Panamerican Games of Mar del Plata. He tragically died on 21st July 2001.

LA JORNADA
JUAN MANUEL ACEVEDO
(b.1964)

arr. by BERTA ROJAS

He was born in Asunción and studied piano with Pedro Bun and Balbina Salcedo Milleres, piano and harmony with Jorge Lobito Martínez, singing with Edda Garlando, Italian singer and guitar with Emilio Bobadilla Cáceres and Basilio Echague. He played for the first time in *Everything in the Garden* by Edward Albee in 1980 with the People Group Theatre and later in the play *Five Hours with Mario* by Miguel Delibes at the Arlequín Theatre. He continued acting in theatre plays until he entered his piece *Mi canción Llama* (My song is calling) at the OTI Festival. His song arranged by Lobito Martínez reached the finals. He visited Washington DC and New York (USA) to pursue electronic studies. In 1989 wrote and performed the music for the play *Agnes de Dios* by John Pielmeier, premiered at the Arlequín Theatre in 1989. Later he became member of the rock band *Autostop* with British singer Nick Regan, Ulises Liche Palacios (drums) and Federico Sosa Harrison (bass). In 1994 his piece *La Jornada*, Paraguayan polka, is included in the *Children Games* (Juego de Niños) CD by pianist and composer Jorge Lobito Martínez. It was arranged later by Berta Rojas for guitar, who included the piece in the *Guitarras del Mundo* and *Guitarra Adentro* recordings. Cardoso continues profusely active, he went to India and in 1992 wrote together with harpist Norma Ortega the score of *Mensajes del Silencio* (Silent Messages). The idea came from Alejandra Díaz Lanz, teacher who included the tribal sound track of the Mbuy'a and Tomarahô indians. The sound-track was made by Guillermo "Miro" Sequera, musicologist, and its edition was sponsored by the Embassy of Paraguay in the U.S.A. With regard to *La Jornada* we can say that is a piece describing a day's work at the cattle farms in Paraguay which start very early in the morning and end at dawn. The author has incorporated the characteristics of cattle movement such as, the searching and round up, as well as, the trot and gallop of animals within the melodic movement with beautiful rhythmic passages. There is a change of tonality in the middle of the piece trying to reflect the stillness of the *siesta*. The style of composition follows the pattern of a Paraguayan polka in the frame of 6x8 with melodic syncopation.

MOTHER
RUN I

BYEONGWOO LEE

Byeongwoo commands the full range of musical expression. He turned professional when he joined the *One Day Group* in 1984, and meanwhile the years passed by he expanded his career and is now writing music and lyrics, arranging film scores and producing albums. But he wanted to complete his musical career and went to Vienna Musik Hochschule and studied classical guitar with Konrad Ragossnug. Later in 1996 went to the USA to enhance his knowledge with Julian Gray and whilst there, won second prize in the NGSWD' Addario Guitar Competition (1997) and first prize at the Yale Gordon Competition (1999). After this, he wrote several scores for the film industry and has produced six solo albums of which the latest *Absorption* (2003) has received high critical acclaim for its unique blend of styles. This is a solo guitar album and Berta Rojas has chosen to play two pieces *Mother* and *Run I*.

SI NO ME TOCA EL CORAZON
ALBERTO ROJO

dedicated to BERTA ROJAS

Alberto was born in Tucumán and studied at the Provincial Conservatoire of Music in his hometown.

He studied guitar with Eduardo Frasson but also has a passion for science, specifically Physics earning his Ph.D in 1990, in the same year he moved to the USA and became a researcher at the University of Chicago and an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan. In here he studied composition with Pamela Decker and wrote some pieces. He released his second solo album *Para mi Sombra* in 1992 which includes his *Chacarera del Fuego*. His solo guitar pieces are published by Lathkill Music Publishers (UK). He is currently living in Ann Arbor, Michigan and is an Associated Professor of Physics at the Oakland University. *Si no me toca el Corazon*. (If my heart is not touched) was written and dedicated to Paraguayan guitarist Berta Rojas.

BALADA DEL INDIO
ISMAEL LEDESMA
(1962)

arr. by BERTA ROJAS

Ismael Ledesma was born in Asunción and studied harp with his father Raimondo Ledesma, and gave his first concert at the age of 6. When he was 19 years old he embarked on his first worldwide tour giving concerts in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Portugal, Belgium, Germany until he settled in France to enhance his musical studies. He enrolled at the Paris Conservatoire and he presently lives in the *City of lights*. He regularly performs in Europe, the Middle East and Latin America and does both music writing and giving concerts. The most important performances are his concert at the National Opera Hall in Cairo, Egypt, and at the opening ceremony of South African artist Jonny Clegg at the Olimpia in Paris. His album entitled *Arpa Danza* promptly gained international recognition for he mixes contemporary original works with traditional Paraguayan harp music. To understand the meaning of *Balada del Indio*, a piece played in tonight's concert, the composer analyses the wording of its title and explains that 'balada' comes from the word 'balar', that is to say *hailar* (to dance) and the word Indian alludes to my inner self for I identify with my indigenous roots. He continues saying... the music is written in a 2-4 rhythm of *rumba latina* genre. It can be defined as a work in which I have overturned my indigenous influences mixing latin and Spanish rhythms. The melody reflects passages extracted from rites and dances of the *Chamacocos* and *Ayoreos* indians

CIELO ABIERTO
QUIQUE SINESI
(b. 1960)

Quique was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and his personal style made his music very distinctive, for his compositions are based in elements of *Tango* and *Folklore* incorporating rhythms, such as, *Candombe* from Río de la Plata. He also mixed elements of jazz combining classical and world music in subtle improvisations played in a seven strings Spanish guitar, Piccolo, Acoustic or Charango. He founded the *Alhambra Mágica* group with Matias González and Horacio López and played for years with Dino Saluzzi, bandoneonist. He regularly played in Duo with the legendary Charlie Mariano, saxophonist and has recorded with him a CD entitled *Tango para Charlie*. We have to mention his New *Tango Duos* project he started in the year 2000 with Pablo Ziegler (Former pianist of Astor Piazzolla). They invited Walter Castro to join them as a special permanent guest. He recorded in 2003 the *Double Concerto for Guitar and Bandoneón* by Astor Piazzolla with Lothar Henzel and the Deutschland Symphonic Orchestra from Berlin. Berta Rojas is playing *Cielo Abierto*, (Open Sky) in tonight's concert.

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