

Excursions - The Bay State Winds

Estampas Criollas

by Beatriz Lockhart (b. 1944 -)

Beatriz Lockhart is one of Uruguay's leading female composers. She studied piano and composition in Uruguay and Argentina, but her music has a definitive Venezuelan flair, probably due to the nearly 24 years she spent in Venezuela, where she taught at the National Conservatory in Caracas between 1974 and 1998. In 1998, Ms. Lockhart returned to Uruguay to teach at the Escuela Universitaria de Musica and at the Uscuela Municipal de Musica. She is considered a "specialist in the contemporary tango". "Estampas Criollas", meaning "Creole Images", is a set of 4 Venezuelan sketches, each one based on music and dance styles from different Latin American/Caribbean countries. "Merengue" is a style of music and dance from the Dominican Republic which has a heavy African influence (hence "Creole"). It has a very light-hearted quality and its rhythms and melody captures the very essence of this recording project. "Bambuco" is based on the traditional folk music of Colombia. This style also has a deep African influence. Throughout the movement, Ms. Lockhart channels the more delicate side of the "bambuco", favoring romantic and passionate melodies over any complex rhythms. The third movement entitled "Valse" is very appropriately named, because this movement reflects the European style in feel. Structurally, it uses the $\frac{3}{4}$ meter of a European waltz with a heavy emphasis on the first beat in each measure, but the melody is unmistakably Latin. "Joropo" is a musical style from Venezuela that also has a heavy African influence. It can also resemble the European waltz - again, very fitting, as this movement is also in $\frac{3}{4}$, but the rhythms are very syncopated and the overall feel is definitively Latin.

Two Cuban Dances

by Ignacio Cervantes (1847-1905)

Ignacio Cervantes was one of the pioneers of native Cuban music. Born in Havana, Cuba, he was a virtuoso pianist and composer, and was influential in introducing African-American culture into Cuban music. He studied with the celebrated American composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk, who convinced him to further his studies at the Conservatoire de Paris. In 1875, he left Cuba and toured all over the United States and Mexico. Cervantes' "Two Cuban Dances" are from his most famous work for piano entitled "Danzas Cubanas". They are beautiful representations of the "danza" style - to express feelings, thoughts, or events. "La Tarde Esta Amorosa" ("The Lovely Afternoon") and "Mis Amores" ("My Loves") showcase Cervantes' natural ability to "transport you to another time and place" with his fluid and romantic melodies.

Tango Ballet

by Astor Piazzolla- (1921- 1992)

World Premiere Recording of the Clarinet Quartet Arrangement

Astor Piazzolla was born in Mar del Plata, Argentina in 1921. He was a virtuoso performer on bandoneón, and his compositions changed the history of Argentinean tango music. His transformation of the tango created what is called "tango nuevo" or "new tango". "Tango Ballet" is a superb example of the "tango nuevo". The ballet was composed in 1956 with great success. It was originally orchestrated for a non-traditional tango ensemble. It incorporates jazz elements such as improvisation and dissonant harmonies. The piece is in one movement and is subdivided into six different sections: Títulos, La Calle, Encuentro, Cabaret, Soledad, and La Calle. Piazzolla transports us to many different moods without ever losing the essence of tango music.

Viento

by Mateo Ayala-Román (1974 -)

World Premiere Recording - with permission by Latin Counterpoint Music

Mateo Ayala-Román was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1974. He received formal musical training on clarinet and saxophone, as well as composition, arranging, and conducting. His versatility and entrepreneurship has led him to create Latin Counterpoint Music Publishing as a way of promoting his and other Latin American composers' music. His fascination with Caribbean and Latin American music and culture provides him with a fresh, unique and "true-to-life Latino sound". "Viento" ("Wind") is the second movement in his 3-movement work entitled the "*Suite Hybrida*", composed in 2010 for saxophone quartet. This adaptation for clarinet quartet features the lowest-sounding instrument of the ensemble, the bass clarinet, in very expressive, melodic, quasi-improvised lines with an improvisatory feel. The rest of the ensemble supplements the virtuosic bass clarinet melody with ritornello-like sections and attractive dissonances.

Aires de Incertidumbre

by Mateo Ayala-Román (1974 -)

World Premiere Recording - with permission by Latin Counterpoint Music

"*Aires de Incertidumbre*" has its foundation in one of Puerto Rico's highest and most refined musical expressions, the Puerto Rican danza. In an effort to keep his native music alive, Ayala uses every musical tool possible to innovate and modernize the style by enriching the harmonic idiom, modify its form, and make it more contrapuntal all still without losing the dance-like qualities of the style. The music of J.S. Bach was a great inspiration for this work. Some characteristics of Bach's music, like the elegant and constant sixteenth-note counterpoint and form-minuet, were crucial in the creation of this Neo-Baroque expression. By using only one theme, orchestrated in a variety of ways, and by transforming and recycling the introduction as interlude and coda, this *danza* makes the most out of very limited material.

Wapango

by Paquito D'Rivera (b. 1948 -)

Paquito D'Rivera was born on the island of Cuba in 1948. He was a child prodigy, playing clarinet and saxophone in the Cuban National Symphony at a very early age. Captivated by the music of his native Cuba, he created various original and ground-breaking ensembles during his teen years, to include the "Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna", a predecessor to his group called "Irakere"-a mix of jazz, rock, classical, and traditional Cuban music- which received several Grammy nominations and a won Grammy in 1979. Mr. Rivera went on to make over 40 albums in the jazz, bebop, classical, and Latin music idioms. In 1999, the Universidad de Alcala de Henares presented him with a special award recognizing his contributions to the arts, his humane qualities, and his defense of rights and liberties of artists around the world. *Wapango* is Mr. D'Rivera's tribute to the Afro-Mexican dance called the "huapango", which originated and is performed throughout the La Huasteca region in Mexico. The "huapango" is an exciting and lively dance with a complex rhythmic structure, mixing duple and triple meters to reflect the intricate steps of the dance. Mr. D'Rivera adds his own Cuban influence to this quirky and energetic gem.

Metro Chabacano

by Javier Alvarez (1956 -)

World Premiere Recording of the Adaptation for Clarinet Quartet

Javier Alvarez was born in Mexico City in 1956. He received his musical training in three different countries, Mexico, the United States (Wisconsin) and Europe (London). Mr. Alvarez has been a music lecturer and composition teacher in many world-renowned universities and has received numerous international distinctions, such as the Gemini Fellowship in England, and the Prix Ars Electronica in Austria. *Metro Chabacano*, one of Alvarez' better known and widely performed pieces, was written in 1986 as a Christmas present for his parents. The

piece was premiered in 1991 at the Metro Chabacano subway station to go along with Marco Limenez's art exhibition. This single-movement work relies on minimal musical ideas: a contrasting bass line that serves as both foundation and contrapuntal idea to the constant eighth-note patterns. Out of the perpetual motion, some melodic fragments become apparent. These are gradually transformed by mixed-meter time signatures which displace the beat and the accents.

Four for Four

by Jorge Montilla (b. 19 -)

The title "Four for Four" implies four movements, written in 2006, for the four members of the "Transcontinental Clarinet Quartet" (Jorge Montilla, Howard Klug, Eric Mandat, and Minho Yeh), who premiered the piece at the 'ClarFest Atlanta 2006'. The music depicts the flair, feeling and idioms of specific Latin American popular dances/musical styles. Each movement features a member of the quartet as a soloist. *Joropo* is perhaps the most traditional of all Venezuelan musical forms. It is a brisk dance officially in 3/4 time, but intertwined with 6/8 to purposely create rhythmical complexity and textural richness. This particular *Joropo* is based on a variation of the original form called *Pajarillo* which features melodic variations after a harmonic scheme that remains unaltered throughout. *Merengue*, not to be confused with the Dominican meringue which is in 2/4, is a typical, danceable Venezuelan meringue in 5/8. Featuring the E-flat clarinet as the main instrument, this kind of music has a particular "limpy"-sounding effect. *Son*, which features soli in the 2 B-flat clarinet parts, this movement is inspired by the very energetic and laid-back flair of the musical style from Cuba called the "Son". The movement begins in the "Son" style, but later becomes a faster "Salsa" style. At the beginning, the B-flat clarinet players play melodies almost overlapping each other, but in the faster section, they have a great opportunity to improvise. The very last note is marked a "wild and free improvisation" of random notes,

resembling what the Cuban popular music orchestras do to end this style of music. *Finale* is inspired by a mélange of Latin American styles with a twelve-tone twist. The twelve-tone ostinato bass drives the entire movement's intensity and only disappears in the central section in which all the instruments have a chance to play soli and shine individually.

Track List

Estampas Criollas – Beatriz Lockhart

1. Merengue
2. Bambuco
3. Valse
4. Joropo

Two Cuban Dances – Ignazio Cervantes

5. La Tarde Esta Amorosa
6. Mis Amores

7. Tango Ballet – Astor Piazzolla

8. Viento – Matthew Ayala-Román

9. Aires de Incertidumbre – Matthew Ayala-Román

10. Wapango – Paquito D'Rivera

11. Metro Chabacano – Javier Alvarez

Four for Four – Jorge Montilla

12. Joropo
13. Merengue
14. Son
15. Finale