

Como un antiguo bolero...(2014)

Guido López Gavilán

“In a friendly, inquiring discussion with the prestigious Mexican cellist Carlos Prieto during his visit to Cuba, we exchanged ideas of writing a cello and piano piece for him which would be symbolic of music common to Cubans and Mexicans. Ultimately we chose the bolero. Little by little notes, strands, came together to form a melody, a quasi-song which reflects the sensuality and lyricism present in boleros with a rhythmic bass and sonorous motifs of the *cinquilla cubano* and characteristic of the national dances and boleros of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. At the beginning of the piece, a rising introduction, combining harmony with warm suggestive figures, complements the three sections, alternating components of the *antiguo bolero* with present-day gestures.

Later came various instrumental versions, and among these, this version for the Verdehr Trio which gives a particularly sensual and surging quality to the work.”

—Guido López Gavilán

The world premiere of *Como un antiguo bolero* was on May 24, 2014 in the Basilica Menor del Convento de San Francisco de Asis in Havana, Cuba.

Guido López Gavilán (born 1944, Matanzas, Cuba) graduated in 1966 from the choral conducting program at the Amadeo Roldán Conservatory in Havana and in 1973 from the Orchestral Conducting program at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

Gavilán has received awards in the most important composition competitions held in Cuba, and as a conductor, has achieved extraordinary success and received recognition from international critics for outstanding performances in Latin America and Europe. He has been invited as a guest speaker to many important festivals and musical events at various prestigious universities. He has also made an outstanding contribution to the development of the Cuban Youth Orchestra Movement. He is President of the Festival de La Habana, an annual international event dedicated to contemporary music, and Chairman of the Orchestral Conducting Department at the Instituto Superior de Arte de la Habana. In 2005, he was awarded the UNESCO Medal in Chile; in 2015 he received a National Music Award; in 2016 he received the Gran Premio Cubadisco for the CD/DVD *Caribe Nostrum* which featured performances by Música Eterna and the Trio Concertante under his baton.