

Yellow Ribbons No. 2

Max Lifchitz

“Yellow Ribbons No. 2 belongs to a series of works written as an homage to the former American hostages in Iran. These compositions are a personal way of celebrating the artistic and political freedom so often taken for granted in the West.

The composition is in four movements performed without pause. Each movement is scored for a different combination of instruments. While the second and fourth movements employ the clarinet, violin, and piano, the first movement is scored for violin and clarinet and the third movement is for solo violin.

The melodic and harmonic material for the entire composition is derived from a series of expanding and contracting intervals. Several rhythmic motives serve as unifying elements throughout the entire work. The climax of the entire piece occurs towards the conclusion of the fourth movement when each instrumental part is treated with the utmost degree of independence: three different tempi are presented simultaneously as each instrumentalist plays the given melodic material at a different speed. *Yellow Ribbons No. 2* was completed in the spring of 1981.”

—Max Lifchitz

Max Lifchitz (born 1948, Mexico City) has been a resident of the United States since 1966. A graduate of the Juilliard School and Harvard University, his mentors included Luciano Berio, Darius Milhaud, Leon Kirchner, and Bruno Maderno.

Lifchitz’s creative endeavors have been supported by grants and fellowships from the Ford and Guggenheim Foundations, ASCAP, Meet the Composer, The University of Michigan Society of Fellows, the CAPS Program of New York State, the Individual Artists Program of the New York State Council on the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts. His concert appearances throughout Latin America have been underwritten by the Fund for US Artists at International Festivals.

Lifchitz is the founder and artistic director of North/South Consonance, Inc., a non-profit organization based in New York City devoted to the promotion and performance of music by composers from the Americas. The organization has been supported by numerous grants from arts and music organizations, corporations, and individual donors. North/South Consonance sponsors an annual concert series in New York featuring new chamber music from the Americas. The organization has introduced over seven hundred fifty new works and issued over fifty compact discs on the North/South Recordings label.

As a pianist, Lifchitz was awarded first prize in the 1976 Gaudeamus Competition for Performers of Contemporary Music held in Holland. He has since appeared in concert and recital in the United States, Latin America, and Europe. He is represented as a pianist, as well as composer and conductor, on recordings issued by Classic Masters, CRI, Finnadar, New World, Opus One, North South, Philips, RCA Victor, and Vienna Modern Masters.

Lifchitz joined the University at Albany, SUNY faculty in 1986 after having held teaching appointments at the Manhattan School of Music and Columbia University. In addition to teaching, Lifchitz has served as chair of both the Music Department and the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Department. In 2005, he was honored with an Excellence in Research Award. In the fall of 2006, he served as the Elena Diaz-Verson Amos Eminent Scholar in Latin American Studies at Columbus State University’s Center for International Education in Columbus, Georgia.

Additional information is available at www.northsouthmusic.org.