

Compass Points (Puntos en la Brújula) (2005)
Verde que te quiero Verdehr
In memoriam Robert Avalon
Scherzarengue

Ricardo Lorenz

“Compass Points was commissioned by Trio Verdehr and Michigan State University. The title of the trio alludes to the fact that each of its three movements was composed in a different geographical location: while a Fellow at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Umbria, Italy; while finishing a visiting teaching appointment at Indiana University, Bloomington; and soon after moving to East Lansing, Michigan. The movements do not follow any particular program, but each inevitably unfolds under the spell of a different state of mind or circumstance associated with each particular locale.

Briefly, the first movement was influenced by the luscious, damp and intensely green landscape one experiences in Umbria, Italy during the month of May. *Verde que te quiero verde* (Green, because I want you green) is the title of a famous poem by Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca. The similarity between the word *verde* (Spanish for green) and the name Verdehr didn't escape me. The second movement was composed in Bloomington, Indiana as a tribute to my encounter with pianist and composer Robert Avalon, director and soul of Houston's Foundation for Modern Music until his premature death in April of 2004. I had met him and spent time in Houston as guest of the Foundation only days before he passed away. The title of the third movement is a made-up hybrid word that merges a scherzo-like character and a merengue, a fast, duple-meter dance from Dominican Republic. *Scherzarengue* is based upon a typical fast gesture found in merengue music usually played on a saxophone and used as source for improvisation while dancing is going on. The movement reflects the hectic life my wife and I led last fall in the midst of moving, starting new jobs, and expecting a baby.”

—Ricardo Lorenz

The world premiere of *Compass Points* was on April 2, 2006 at The Michigan Connection Sesquicentennial Composer's Concert No. 3, Music Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Richard Lorenz (born 1961, Venezuela) has resided in the United States since 1982. He holds the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University and a PhD in composition from The University of Chicago. He studied composition under Juan Orrego Salas, Shulamit Ran, and Donald Erb.

Lorenz's compositions have received praise for their fiery orchestrations, harmonic sophistication, and rhythmic vitality. His works have been performed at prestigious international festivals such as Carnegie Hall's *Sonidos de las Américas*, Ravinia Festival, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, France's Berlioz Festival, Spain's *Festival Internacional de Música Contemporanea de Alicante*, the *Festival Cervantino* in Mexico, and Turkey's Uluslararası Summer Festival. His orchestral compositions have been performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, New World Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, and by premier orchestras in Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Venezuela, and Brazil. His *Rumba Sinfonica*, commissioned by a consortium of major orchestras and festivals and composed in collaboration with the Grammy-nominated band *Tiempo Libre*, has been performed by Minnesota, Detroit, Dallas, and National Arts Center (Ottawa) orchestras.

Lorenz has been the recipient of numerous distinctions and awards including those from the American Bandmasters Association, National Flute Association, Civitella Ranieri Foundation, Organization of American States, Concert Artists Guild, Meet-the Composer, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, Newhouse Foundation, Illinois Community College Trustees Association, and the American Society of Composers and Publishers.

Lorenz's compositions are published by Lauren Keiser Music and Boosey & Hawkes. They can be heard on the following record labels: Arabesque Recordings, Albany Records, Indiana University LAMC Series, Doublemoon Records (Turkey), Urtex Digital Classics (Mexico), SOMM Recordings (UK), Cedille Records, and Navona Records.

Lorenz has always maintained close ties with Latin America. He held the position of Interim Director of the Indiana University Latin American Music Center where he established a network of composers from the continent and compiled the sourcebook *Scores and Recordings* which was nominated to receive the 1996 Best General Reference Source Award by the Association of Recorded Sound Collections. He also served as Visiting Director of the Latin American Popular Music Ensemble at Indiana. As a performer/arranger, he has worked with well-known Latin American musicians and bands.

Lorenz has taught at Indiana University, The University of Chicago, and City Colleges of Chicago. He has served as Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Armonia Musicians Residency Program (1998-2003), the Billings (Montana) Symphony (1998-1999), and with Chicago's Music in the Loft chamber music series (1999-2000). He is a member of the American Society of Composer, Authors and Publishers, the College Music Society, and the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture. He is currently Associate Professor of Composition at Michigan State University.

Additional information is available at www.ricardolorenz.com