

“I was inspired in the concept of ‘mandala’ which means a kind of magical circle, a geometrical representation of the dynamic between the men and the Kosmos. The ‘mandalas’ were a sacred space of meditation on the very ancient times. In a certain way they represent the expansion of a drawing from its very center, a kind of symmetric sketch departing from a vital center. From this magical center the whole universe of colors and graphics is in a constant and symmetrical expansion.

In my work *Mandala*, I was directly inspired by this concept of a musical universe in constant expansion. I constructed then a kind of graphic sound architecture where the center of the piece is the nucleus, the kernel of the whole musical construction. In some magical way, the origin of the piece is not placed in the beginning of the work but in its geometrical center.

But it is not necessary for the audience to discover where this center it is located, just listen to it and, I hope, you will be touched by my sonorous ‘mandala.’”

—Marlos Nobre

The world premiere of *Mandala, Op. 106* was on March 7, 2010 at The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.

Marlos Nobre (born 1939, Recife, Brazil) studied piano and music theory at the Conservatory of Music of Pernambuco and had composition lessons with H.J. Koellreutter and Camargo Guarnieri. When he received a scholarship from the Rockefeller Foundation, he pursued advanced studies at the Latin American Center in Buenos Aires alongside Ginastera, Messiaen, Malipiero, Copland, and Dallapiccola. He worked also with Alexander Goehr and Gunther Schuller at the Berkshire Music Center in Tanglewood where he met Leonard Bernstein. At the same time, he received the Guggenheim Fellowship and worked in electronic music at the Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Center in New York.

International critics and musicologists acclaim Nobre as one of the most important composers of the present musical scene. His compositions, in spite of their *avant garde* character, have strong national elements which make his work unmistakably Brazilian. His creativity is rooted in these deep layers of national elements mixed with his love for the music of Bartok, Lutoslawsky, Berio, and Messiaen. His musical output features one hundred thirty works in all genres, almost all of which are recorded on forty-five CDs produced by EMI, Deutsche Grammophon, Philips Phonogram, Lemán Classics, Delos, and Channel Classics.

Nobre is also active as a pianist and conductor, having performed and conducted with orchestras including the *Orchestre de la Suisse Romande*, London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, National Orchestra of France, Philharmonic of Nice, Collegium Academicum in Switzerland, and national orchestras in Spain, Venezuela, Argentina, Portugal, Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil, and Peru.

Nobre has received twenty-five first place international prizes, among them the UNESCO Prize (1974), the TRIMALCA Prize (1979), the VI Paris Biennial Prize (1979), and the Tomás Luis de Victoria Prize (2006) at which time he was called the most important living composer of the Ibero-American continent. Since the beginning of his career in 1959, when he won the first prize at the Music and Musicians of Brazil competition with his *Piano Trio*, he has also been called the heir of Villa-Lobos. He has received the Cultural Merit Gold Medal of Pernambuco, the Great Official of the Order of Merit of Brasilia, the Official of the Order of Rio Branco, the Official Order of Arts and Letters of France, and the Gold Medal of Merit of the Joaquim Nabuco Foundation.

In the 1980s, Nobre was Composer-in-Residence at the Brahms-Haus in Baden-Baden. He has been a Visiting Professor at Yale, the Universities of Indiana, Arizona, Oklahoma, and the Juilliard School as well as Guest Composer at the University of Georgia and Texas Christian University. Nobre has served in numerous leadership positions such as President of the National Music Committee of IMC/UNESCO, President of the Brazilian Academy of Music, Director of the National Institute of Music at FUNARTE, and Music Director of the Radio MEC of Brazil.

Since 2013, Nobre has been the Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Recife Symphony Orchestra, the oldest symphony orchestra of Brazil.

Additional information is available at www.marlosnobre.com.