

Recordando una melodía olvidada (Remembrance of a forgotten melody) (2008) Roberto Sierra

“The way we often remember and try to reconstruct a long forgotten tune is the concept that generates the form of this work. The melody appears first in a duo between the clarinet and the piano, where the latter does not ‘recall’ all the pitches that are ‘remembered’ by the clarinet. As the trio evolves, similar transformations of the melodic material occur, and also more parts of the ‘forgotten’ melody are remembered. In these transformations the texture changes, bringing back the material transformed through rhythm, harmony, and textural colors. The work was commissioned by the Verdehr Trio and Michigan State University.”

—Roberto Sierra

The world premiere of *Recordando una melodía olvidada* was on November 16, 2008 in the Music Room, The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Roberto Sierra (born 1953, Vega Baja, Puerto Rico) studied composition at the Conservatory of Music and the University of Puerto Rico and continued his study at the Royal College of Music and the University of London. Between 1979 and 1982, he completed advanced work at the Hochschule für Musik in Hamburg, Germany under the renowned György Ligeti. Sierra has served as Composer-In-Residence with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, and New Mexico Symphony.

Acclaimed as one of America’s most active contemporary composers, Sierra came to prominence in 1987 when his first major orchestral composition, *Júbilo*, was premiered at Carnegie Hall with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Later commissions include: *Concerto for Orchestra* for the centennial celebration of the Philadelphia Orchestra, *Concerto for Saxophones and Orchestra* for the Detroit Symphony, *Fandangos* and *Missa Latina* for the National Symphony of Washington D.C., *Double Concerto* for violin and viola co-commissioned by the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Orchestras, *Concierto Caribe* commissioned by flutist Carol Wincenc and premiered with the Rockford (Illinois) Symphony Orchestra, and *Imágenes* premiered by violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann, guitarist Manuel Barrueco and the Saarländischer Rundfunk, Germany. *Evocaciones*, a violin concerto commissioned by a consortium including the Pittsburgh and West Virginia Symphony Orchestras and the Utah Symphony, was premiered by violinist Andres Cardenes and the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Other orchestral performances have been given in Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Houston, New Mexico, Phoenix, San Antonio, and San Francisco as well as by the American Composers Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, England’s BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich. *We’ve Got Rhythm*, an orchestral piece for children’s concerts, has been programmed by the Chicago, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and Fox Valley (Wisconsin) Symphonies. Sierra’s music has been performed at Wolf Trap, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Festival Casals, France’s Festival de Lille, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, and Germany’s Neue Musik Bonn. It has also been part of the repertoire of the Kronos Quartet, St. Lawrence String Quartet, Opus One, and Continuum.

In 2003, Sierra was awarded the Academy Award in Music by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2004, he won the Kenneth Davenport Competition for his orchestral work, *Sinfonía No. 1*, a work commissioned by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Sierra was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2010. In 2007, his *Sinfonía No. 3, La Salsa*, commissioned for the Milwaukee Symphony and recorded by Albany Records, received the Serge and Olga Koussevitzky International Recording Award. Sierra has also received five Grammy nominations.

Sierra is the Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities at Cornell University where he teaches composition. His music may be heard on CDs by Naxos, EMI, New World Records,

Albany Records, Koch, New Albion, Koss Classics, BMG, Fleur de Son, and other labels. His works are published principally by Subito Music Publishing.

Additional information is available at www.robertosierra.com.