



10 Preludes and Fugues of Latin America It is 16th March 2020 and Mónica Cárdenas finds herself 'locked down' at home because of the Coronavirus. Mónica tells us: "It wasn't my intention to use this time for composing since I was working on another project. However, as I sat at my piano musing, a composition came to me set to a rhythm that does not reflect my roots: the Venezuelan Joropo. At this moment the Prelude # 2 was born with its respective Fugue. This is not simply traditional Venezuelan folk music since the Fugue looks to the nostalgia of nightclub Jazz which entertains with harmony. Over the next few days, I completed my work composing nine Latin American Preludes and Fugues. I actually wrote the first in 2019 but, back then, I didn't think it would become a cycle of 10 Preludes and Fugues".

"The Fugas present themes that overlap and alternate along with counter-themes. Both Prelude and Fugue are composed of conventional harmonies and Jazz in which I combine classical with Latin American folk. It is a total 'fusion' of styles which is still full of Latin fun, as reflected in the rhythms of each country. Particular

traditions stand out, such as Yugo, Zamacueca and Festejo (Peru), Joropo (Venezuela), Malambo and Tango (Argentina), Bossa Nova and Chorinho (Brazil), Mambo and Habanera (Cuba), Huapango (Mexico) as well as the influence of Andalú (from Spain)".

Sonata Herencia (Heritage), 2019 Within contemporary classical music, the Sonata Herencia connects Latin American with Europe. The Festejo (Afro dance from the coast of Peru) is first heard in the 1st and 3rd movements. At times the rhythm tries to imitate the Peruvian cajón, the main accompanying instrument of Afro-Peruvian dance. The European element is traditional music used to compose an idea with a unique essence while the fusion is complemented with some Jazz. The 2nd movement is a wistful waltz that develops serenely until reaching a point of fury and pain, then calming down once more until complete. This sonata is Monica's tribute to Afro-Peruvian culture and to the Africans who came to Peru and Latin American with the 16th century conquerors.

About Mónica Cárdenas An applauded international career, as both composer and performer (solo piano and chamber music) has established the Spanish-Peruvian Mónica Cárdenas as one of the foremost Latin American musicians of the 21st Century. She has produced contemporary compositions for piano, chamber music, orchestra and theatre which have been performed in Europe, South America and the US. Monica has also been invited to deliver Master Classes as well as conference-concerts at American universities focusing on her style of composition. Throughout Monica's work, fusion predominates; a distinctive characteristic of her composition which highlights folk, rhythms and Jazz without leaving the classical environment.

Mónica Cárdenas has studied piano at the National Conservatory of Music in Lima and at the Tchaikovsky Conservatories in Kiev and Moscow. In 2019 she obtained the Fellowship Diploma (equivalent to a Master's degree) in composition from the West London University. Monica currently lives in Germany where she is passionately dedicated to her work as a pianist and composer.

Recorded works include two CDs with the Cárdenas Trío: The 4 seasons of Buenos Aires with music by Astor Piazzolla and Labyrinth with Brazilian classical music by composers such as Villa-Lobos, Nazaret, Mignone. In 2015 she recorded and performed her sonata for flute and piano Festejo en Sueños for the CD production Anikousto. In 2020 she joined other composers for the CD production Espiral contributing "Influence", a piece for string orchestra.

Technical data:

Booklet in Spanish, english & german

Grand piano: Yamaha C6

Recording: December 5th 2020, Timmendorfer Strand - Germany

Music producer, sound engineer: Tonada VP – Petar Shopov

Photos: Max Reinhard

Web designer: Elvira Cárdenas

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The complete work is legally registered in SGAE – SPAIN

10 Preludes and Fugues of Latin America

- 1).- Prelude - Fugue Yugo 4'18
- 2).- Prelude Joropo - Fugue Feeling 3'59
- 3).- Prelude Zapateo - Fugue Para un Encierro 4'36
- 4).- Prelude Zamacueca - Fugue Festejo 3'17
- 5).- Prelude Malambo- Fugue Tango 3'38
- 6).- Prelude Bossa - Fugue Chorinho 3'45
- 7).- Prelude Mambo- Fugue Habanera 5'03
- 8).- Prelude Reina Cristina- Fugue Andalu 4'40
- 9).- Prelude Sin Tierra - Fugue De Vuelta a Casa 2'55
- 10).- Prelude Fugue Huapango 3'09

Sonata Herencia (Heritage)

- 11).- 1st movement: Allegro moderato (Festejo) 4'51
- 12).- 2nd movement: Waltz moderato 4'25
- 13).- 3rd movement: Allegro (Festejo)-moderato-Allegro 4'19

CD time 50'15"

All pieces are premiere recording

Production 2021