

A stylized graphic of a piano keyboard. The keys are represented by vertical rectangles in white, orange, and magenta. Some keys have a cross-hatch pattern. Two hands, one orange and one magenta, are shown from the wrist down, with fingers positioned over the keys. The background is black.

LATIN AMERICAN CLASSICS VOL. 2

KRISTHYAN BENITEZ, PIANO



STEINWAY & SONS

Following the 2021 Latin Grammy-winning album *Latin American Classics*, I am proud to present **LATIN AMERICAN CLASSICS VOL.2**—a continuation of my artistic mission to reveal the depth, elegance, and expressive power of Latin America's piano repertoire.

This album brings together masterworks from Venezuela, Cuba, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil. Each piece reflects a unique voice and cultural identity, yet together they weave a powerful narrative that transcends borders and time.

By exposing the brilliance of these often-overlooked composers, we not only honor the past, we help transform the future. I believe that by expanding the classical music canon to include the diverse and sophisticated contributions of Latin America, we nourish and enrich the musical universe for generations to come.

As a Steinway Artist and a Latin American pianist, this is both a personal and artistic calling. *Latin American Classics, Volume 2* is more than just an album, it is an invitation to discover, to reflect, to celebrate and to embrace the many colors, textures, and rhythms that make Latin American music a vital force in the world of classical music.

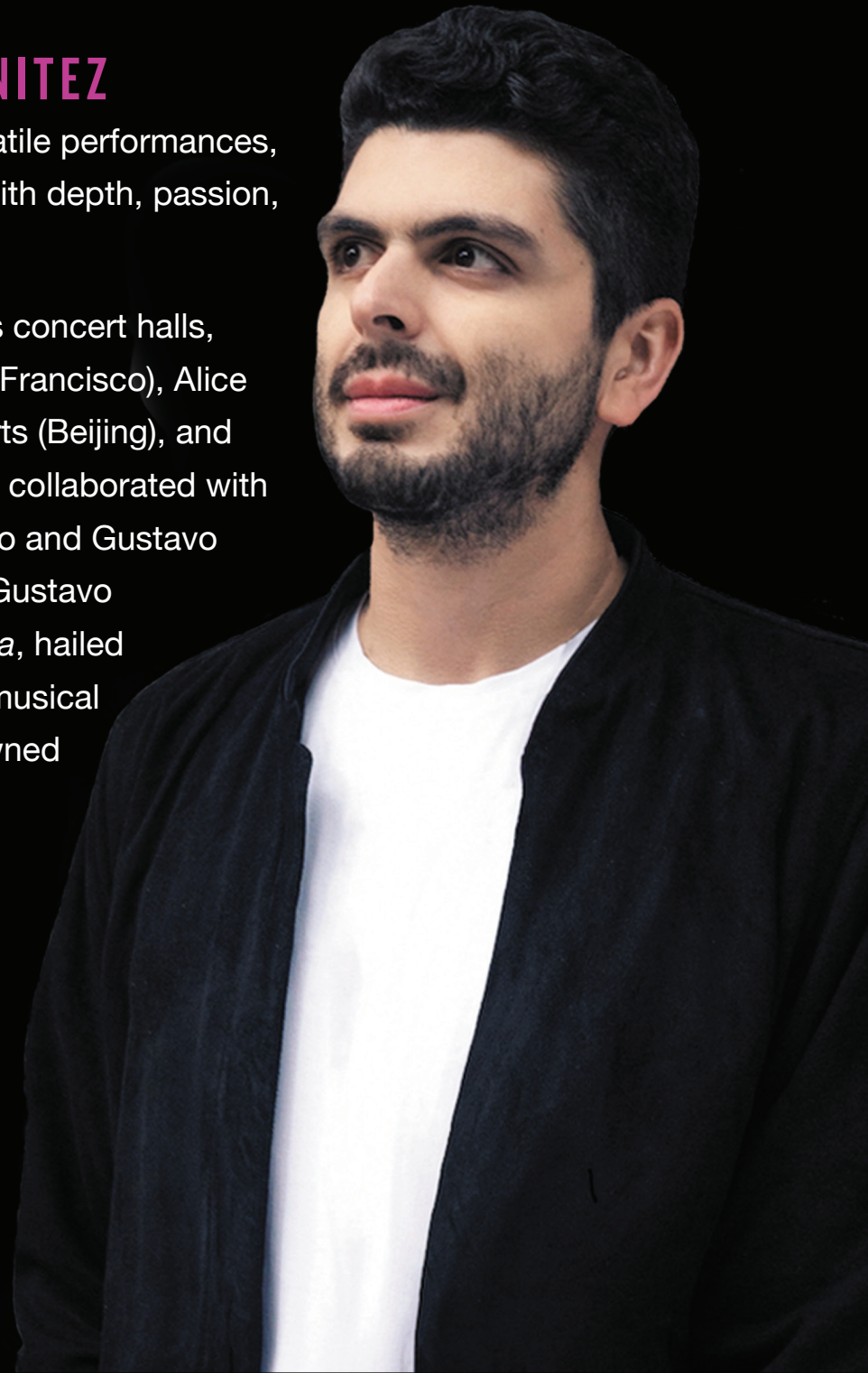
— *Kristhyan Benitez*



Grammy-winning pianist and composer **KRISTHYAN BENITEZ** is captivating audiences worldwide with his dynamic and versatile performances, seamlessly blending Classical and Latin American repertoire with depth, passion, and charisma.

Benitez has performed in some of the world's most prestigious concert halls, including the Philharmonie Berlin, Davies Symphony Hall (San Francisco), Alice Tully Hall (New York), the National Center for the Performing Arts (Beijing), and Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), among others. He has collaborated with world-class artists, from legendary conductors Claudio Abbado and Gustavo Dudamel to Academy Award-winning musician and producer Gustavo Santaolalla. Maestro José Antonio Abreu, founder of *El Sistema*, hailed him as “one of the most important and brilliant leaders of the musical movement in Venezuela and throughout the continent.” Renowned pianist and mentor Philippe Entremont described him as “an outstanding musician and performer, driven by commitment, talent, imagination, passion, and intelligence.”

Benitez's third album and first under the Steinway & Sons label, *Latin American Classics*, won the Latin Grammy Award for Best Classical Album in 2021. His following Steinway & Sons album, *Afro-Cuban Dances* (2023), earned him a second Latin Grammy nomination for Best Classical Album.



An avid chamber musician, Benitez's current projects include *A Fuego Lento*, a two-piano celebration of Latin American music with pianist Vanessa Perez, featuring arrangements by composer Stephen Buck, as well as a duo with Argentinian cellist Juan Sebastián Delgado dedicated to promoting original Latin American music for piano and cello.

With a deep commitment to exposing audiences to the exuberance and historical importance of Latin American piano music, Benitez continues to share its rich legacy through an active international schedule of performances, recordings, and collaborations—both as a soloist and chamber musician.

This second volume of *Latin American Classics* further cements his role as a leading interpreter and advocate of this vibrant repertoire. Kristhyan Benitez is a Steinway Artist.

LATIN AMERICAN CLASSICS VOL. 2

Recorded 2024 at Steinway Hall, New York City.

Producer: Jon Feidner

Engineers: Joshua Frey, Lauren Sclafani,
Melody Nieun Hwang

Mixing and Mastering: Daniel Shores

Executive Producers: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner

Art Direction: Jackie Fugere

Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo

Photo of Kristhyan Benitez: Camila Ayala Terán

Project Coordinator: Renée Oakford

Piano Technician: John Veitch

Piano: Steinway Model D #607799 (New York)



LATIN AMERICAN KRISTHYAN BENITEZ, PIANO

CLASSICS VOL. 2

Ernesto Nazareth 1 Odeon 2:55
Luisa Elena Paesano 2 El Trancao 2:09
Carlos Guastavino 3 Bailecito 3:29
Ignacio Cervantes 4 Danzas Cubanas:
Almendares 2:07
Ernesto Lecuona 5 Mazurka en glissando 2:05
Manuel Saumell 6 La Tedezco 1:27
Vicente Emilio Sojo 7 El Guitarrero 3:32
Inocente Carreño 8 Pequeña Cancion 3:37
Ignacio Cervantes 9 Danzas Cubanas:
Siempre sí 2:45
Moisés Moleiro 10 Joropo 2:53
Manuel Saumell 11 Luisiana 2:15
Teresa Carreño 12 Elegía No. 1, Op. 17
"Plainte" 4:54
Ignacio Cervantes 13 Danzas Cubanas:
La Camagüeyana 1:28
Moisés Moleiro 14 Sonatina No. 1
in A minor 2:28

Vicente Emilio Sojo 15 La Bartolada 1:10
Luis Calvo 16 Intermezzo No. 2
"Lejano Azul" 6:39
Federico Ruiz 17 Pieces for Children
Under 100 Years of Age:
IX. Encounter of Antonio
and Florentino 4:16
Heitor Villa-Lobos 18 Valsa da dor, W 316 6:40
Ignacio Cervantes 19 Danzas Cubanas:
Un recuerdo 2:52
Federico Ibarra 20 Sonata 0 4:19
Miguel Astor 21 Suite Venezolana No. 3:
II. Canción Triste 3:40
Alfonso Leng 22 Doloras:
III. Larghetto 2:35
Ernesto Lecuona 23 Bell Flower 1:55
Ignacio Cervantes 24 Danzas Cubanas:
Los Muñecos 1:07

Playing Time: 73:29



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