



Ausiàs Parejo

Winner 2022

‘Alhambra’ International
Guitar Competition

BROUWER
ERENA
GUASTAVINO
PALOMO
R. PAREJO
PONCE

Spanish and Latin American Works for Guitar

This album of original music for guitar by Spanish and Latin American composers presents three major works: Carlos Guastavino's *Sonata No. 1*, Manuel María Ponce's *Sonata III* and Leo Brouwer's *La Ciudad de las Columnas*. All three are notable for their formal ambition and for the idiomatic writing that has turned them into cornerstones of the guitar repertoire. They are joined here by a selection of exceptional recent works by Spanish composers: *El Manantial*, especially commissioned from Lorenzo Palomo for the 15th 'Alhambra' International Guitar Competition; *Luz del Alba*, written by Juan Erena and dedicated to Ausiàs Parejo; and Rubén Parejo's *Chôro a Rosa*, full of Brazilian colour. These are pieces that make great technical and musical demands on the soloist, and which acquire an unexpected freshness in the hands of this young but experienced guitarist, who was just 17 years old when the recording was made.

'Ausiàs is destined to be one of the most significant classical guitarists of the century,' says guitarist and composer Joaquín Clerch. 'Rarely have I met a musician who embodies the perfect balance between human, intellectual and artistic qualities. As a lifelong lover of the guitar, I can only thank him for his extraordinary work.'

Carlos GUASTAVINO (1912–2000)

Guitar Sonata No. 1 (1967)

Carlos Guastavino was an Argentinian composer of sound academic training who had a talent for incorporating aspects of his country's rural folk songs and dances into his classical works. The first movement of his *Guitar Sonata No. 1* of 1967 begins with an imitation of the strumming of the *vidalita chayera*, while its second subject is in *zamba* rhythm. A characteristic *criollo* style imbues the central *Andante* with melancholy. Finally, the *Allegro spiritoso* is masterfully constructed around two alternating rhythms, namely those of the *chacarera trunca* and the *gato*, which both clash with one another and blend together to give unity to the work. The sonata is dedicated to Guastavino's brother José Amadeo, an amateur guitarist with a gift for improvising on Argentinian folk tunes.

Manuel María PONCE (1882–1948)

Sonata III (1927)

While living in Paris, Mexican composer Manuel María Ponce mixed with both Latin American and European artists, but it was his renewed friendship with Andrés Segovia, whom he had first met in Mexico, that was to spark the creation of a substantial repertoire of guitar music. Ponce's preference for Spanish and, in particular, Andalusian music grew, and he assimilated it into his own style, itself already a combination of European classical and homegrown Mexican influences, thereby gradually adding a new dimension to his compositions.

His *Sonata III*, written in response to a commission from Segovia in 1927, comprises three movements: *Allegro moderato*, *Chanson: Andantino molto espressivo* and *Allegro non troppo*. It is one of the most notable guitar works of the first half of the 20th century.

Leo BROUWER (b. 1939)

La Ciudad de las Columnas 'Variaciones sobre Pieza sin título No. 1' (2004)

The Cuban guitarist, composer and conductor Leo Brouwer is unquestionably one of the greatest musicians of our times. His works are central to and have revolutionised the contemporary guitar repertoire.

La Ciudad de las Columnas ('The City of Columns') was written in 2004 at the request of Joaquín Clerch, to whom it is dedicated, and takes its name from the title of a 1970 essay by Alejo Carpentier. Brouwer uses an early work, *Pieza*

sin título No. 1 ('Untitled Piece No. 1') as the basis for a series of variations inspired by various well-known locations in his native city of Havana: *II. Pieza sin título No. 1: Andar La Habana* ('Untitled Piece No. 1: Strolling around Havana Promenade'); *IV. La ceiba y el colibrí* ('The Ceiba tree and the Hummingbird'); *V. Convento de San Francisco* ('Monastery of St Francis'); *VII. Por la calle del Obispo* ('Along the Calle del Obispo'); *VIII. Amanecer en El Morro* ('Dawn at the Morro Fortress'); *IX. Toque en la Plaza de Armas* ('Drumming Ceremony in the Plaza de Armas'). These are linked by *paseos* – the equivalent of the promenades in Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

Juan ERENA (b. 1970)

Luz del Alba (2021)

Juan Erena is a Spanish guitar teacher, composer and arranger. His compatriot David del Puerto wrote this about *Luz del Alba* ('Dawn Light'):

How to sing the last light seen by eyes soon to be blinded forever by horror and injustice? Juan Erena's profoundly lyrical piece manages to express that infinitely sad light with serene beauty. Its rich and imaginative development captivates and mesmerises, his voice flowing through the six strings as naturally as a forest spring. And, as in the eternal circle of life, the last light of the condemned is at the same time the first light of a new day – with the youth and enormous talent of its dedicatee, Ausiàs Parejo, *Luz del Alba* inspires us with the gift of the radiant grandeur of music, feeds our hope in justice and reminds us that life goes on, like an unstoppable and eternal melody.

Lorenzo PALOMO (b. 1938)

El Manantial (2019)

This 2019 work was commissioned for the 15th 'Alhambra' International Guitar Competition, held in Valencia. Spanish composer-conductor Lorenzo Palomo began writing for the guitar when he became friends with the members of the Los Romeros guitar quartet. In 1995 he composed *Nocturnos de Andalucía* for guitar and orchestra, following it up with various chamber and solo pieces. Palomo himself has written these words about *El Manantial* ('The Spring'): 'I thought it appropriate to include an element of challenge that would enable performers to demonstrate their musical and artistic abilities. I chose to incorporate a rhythm that differs from that of other folk dances – that of the Basque *zortziko*. What sets this dance apart is the picturesque nature of its distinctive 5/8 time signature.'

Rubén PAREJO (b. 1964)

Chôro a rosa (2010)

Guitarist and composer Rubén Parejo is a professor at the Valencia Conservatory. This work was written while he was on tour in Mexico in 2010 and is dedicated to fellow guitarist Rosa Gil Bosque (b. 1930). With colourful Brazilian-flavoured harmonies and a *chôro* rhythm, this concise and evocative piece is Parejo's tribute to the dedicatee on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Rubén Parejo

English translation: Naxos



Ausiàs Parejo

Born in 2006 into a long line of Spanish guitarists, award-winning artist Ausiàs Parejo began playing the guitar at the age of four under the guidance of his father, renowned guitarist Rubén Parejo, and has already been awarded first prize in 37 national and international competitions. His virtuosity, sensitivity, wide musical background and richly nuanced interpretations have led to performances in the United States, Japan and across Europe. Parejo has appeared in numerous prestigious concert halls, including the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía (Valencia), United Palace – Grand Foyer (New York City), Millennium Hall (Tokyo) and the Palau de la Música (Valencia). As a soloist he has collaborated with the Orquesta de Valencia, the Orquesta Filarmónica de Málaga, Orchestra Classica di Alessandria and Jove Orquestra de la Generalitat Valenciana, among others. He has had works dedicated to him by composers such as Eduardo Morales-Caso, Juan Erena and Enrique Sanz Burguete. In 2018 he recorded his debut album, *Con Tanta Tenerezza*, which also featured Rubén Parejo, Ximo Tebar and Victor Mendoza. This current album marks his debut solo recording.

www.ausiasparejo.com

Photo © Josep Gil

Música original para guitarra de autores españoles y latinoamericanos

Tres grandes obras conforman el eje vertebrador de este trabajo discográfico: la *Sonata nº 1* del argentino Carlos Guastavino, la *Sonata III* del mexicano Manuel Mª Ponce y *La Ciudad de las Columnas*, del cubano Leo Brouwer. Todas ellas destacan por su ambición formal y por el cuidado lenguaje que las ha llevado a ser referentes de la producción musical para guitarra. Junto a estas obras trascendentales, otras piezas españolas de excelente calidad y de reciente creación: *El Manantial*, obra encargo del XV Concurso Internacional de Guitarra Alhambra; *Luz del Alba*, partitura de Juan Erena dedicada a Ausiàs Parejo, y *Chôro a Rosa*, de reminiscencias brasileñas y compuesta por Rubén Parejo. Un repertorio de grandes exigencias técnicas y musicales que adquiere una inusual frescura en manos de este joven y experimentado guitarrista, que en el momento de esta grabación tenía 17 años.

“El joven Ausiàs está llamado a ser uno de los guitarristas clásicos más importantes de este siglo. Pocas veces encontré en un músico el perfecto equilibrio entre lo humano, lo intelectual y lo artístico. Solo puedo como amante eterno de la guitarra, agradecer al joven Maestro por su extraordinario trabajo.”

– Joaquín Clerch

Carlos GUASTAVINO (1912–2000)

Sonata nº1 para guitarra (1967)

Carlos Guastavino, compositor argentino de sólida formación que sabe conjugar academicismo y rasgos de la música criolla rural, compone su Sonata nº1 para guitarra en 1967. El primer movimiento se inicia con una imitación del rasgueo de vidalita chayera, para continuarlo en el tema B en aire de zamba. El característico estilo criollo invade de melancolía el movimiento central, Andante. Finalmente, el Allegro spiritoso está magistralmente construido sobre una alternancia de dos ritmos: la chacarera trunca y el gato, que contrastan y a la vez se fusionan para dar unidad a la obra.

La sonata está dedicada a su hermano José Amadeo, guitarrista aficionado con una gran habilidad para la improvisación sobre música tradicional de su país.

Manuel Mª PONCE (1882–1948)

Sonata III (1927)

Durante su estancia en París, el compositor mexicano Manuel Mª Ponce se relacionó con artistas latinoamericanos y europeos, pero es el encuentro con Andrés Segovia -a quien ya había conocido en México- el que va a suponer el inicio de un repertorio de gran trascendencia para el instrumento. Se acrecienta su preferencia por la música española, y en particular la andaluza, asimilándola a su música de rasgos mexicanos y academicismo europeo, con lo que Ponce comenzó a dar una nueva dimensión a sus creaciones.

La Sonata III, compuesta en 1927 a petición del mismo Segovia, está formada por tres movimientos: *Allegro Moderato*, *Chanson: Andantino molto espressivo* y *Allegro non troppo*, y supone una de las más importantes obras para guitarra de la primera mitad del siglo XX.

Leo BROUWER (1939)

La Ciudad de las Columnas ‘Variaciones sobre

Pieza sin título nº1’ (2004)

Leo Brouwer, guitarrista, compositor y director de orquesta, es sin duda uno de los más destacados músicos de la actualidad. Su obra se reconoce como fundamental y completamente renovadora en el desarrollo contemporáneo de la música para guitarra.

La Ciudad de las Columnas fue compuesta en 2004 a petición del guitarrista y compositor Joaquín Clerch, a quien está dedicada. El título hace referencia al ensayo del mismo nombre escrito en 1970 por Alejo Carpentier. A partir de una obra de juventud, *Pieza sin título nº1*, el compositor establece una serie de variaciones que evocan distintos lugares emblemáticos de La Habana, su ciudad natal. Una serie de “paseos” se intercalan entre las distintas variaciones, a modo de los *promenade* de Músorgski.

Juan ERENA (1970)

Luz del Alba (2021)

Juan Erena es profesor de guitarra, compositor y arreglista.

¿Cómo cantar a la última luz que miran unos ojos que van a ser cegados para siempre por el horror y la injusticia?

El lirismo profundo de Juan Erena es capaz de expresar esa infinitamente triste claridad con una belleza serena, que atrapa e hipnotiza en su rico y fantasioso desarrollo, pues su voz fluye en las seis cuerdas con la naturalidad con la que lo hace el manantial en el bosque. Y es que, como en el ciclo eterno de la vida, esa última luz del condenado es asimismo la primera de un nuevo día: “La luz del alba” se inspira también en la juventud y el enorme talento de su dedicatario, Ausiàs Parejo, para regalarnos la grandeza radiante de la música, alimentar nuestra esperanza en la justicia y recordarnos que la vida sigue adelante, como una melodía imparable y eterna.

– David del Puerto

Lorenzo PALOMO (1938)

El Manantial (2019)

Obra de 2019 escrita como encargo del XV Concurso Internacional de Guitarra Alhambra (XV CIGA). Lorenzo Palomo, director de orquesta y compositor, se acerca a la guitarra a partir de su amistad con los Romero. En 1995 escribe el concierto “Nocturnos de Andalucía”, al que seguirán otros así como algunas obras de cámara y piezas a solo. Sobre “El Manantial” dice el propio autor: “... me ha parecido oportuno incluir un elemento que sea un pequeño reto que posibilite al intérprete el poder demostrar su capacidad musical y artística. Para ello escogí para mi composición un ritmo distinto de los ritmos de origen folclórico o popular: El zortziko de origen vasco. La característica que lo destaca o diferencia de los demás es el pintoresquismo de su estructura métrica del 5/8”.

Rubén PAREJO (1964)

Chôro a rosa (2010)

Rubén Parejo (1964), guitarrista y compositor, desarrolla su labor docente como catedrático del Conservatorio Superior de Música de Valencia. La obra surge en 2010 durante una gira de conciertos en México y está dedicada a la guitarrista Rosa Gil Bosque (1930). Con una armonía colorista de tintes brasileños y a ritmo de chôro, el autor crea esta breve y evocadora composición para homenajear a la dedicataria en su 80 aniversario.

Rubén Parejo

Ausiàs Parejo is the winner of the 2022 ‘Alhambra’ International Guitar Competition. In this programme he includes three cornerstones of the Spanish and Latin American repertoire. Combining idiomatic colour and rhythmic vivacity, Guastavino’s *First Guitar Sonata*, Ponce’s great tribute to Segovia, and Brouwer’s ingenious sequence of variations offer formidably ambitious technical and interpretative challenges to the performer. Inspired by his youthful brilliance Juan Erena’s *Luz del Alba*, full of radiant grandeur, is dedicated to Parejo.

AUSIÀS PAREJO

Guitar Recital

Carlos GUASTAVINO (1912–2000)		Leo BROUWER (b. 1939)
Guitar Sonata No. 1 (1967)	15:18	La Ciudad de las Columnas
1 I. Allegro deciso e molto ritmico	7:09	‘Variaciones sobre Pieza sin título No. 1’ (2004)
2 II. Andante	4:33	16:12
3 III. Allegro spiritoso	3:35	1:16
Juan ERENA (b. 1970)		
4 Luz del Alba (2021)	4:18	9 II. Pieza sin título No. 1: Andar La Habana
Manuel María PONCE (1882–1948)		1:56
Sonata III (1927)	18:45	10 III. Paseo
5 I. Allegro moderato	8:26	0:25
6 II. Chanson: Andantino molto espressivo	4:13	11 IV. La ceiba y el colibrí
7 III. Allegro non troppo	5:59	2:07
Alhambra®		12 V. Convento de San Francisco
		2:34
		13 VI. Segundo paseo
		0:24
		14 VII. Por la calle del Obispo
		2:33
		15 VIII. Amanecer en El Morro
		2:56
		16 IX. Toque en la Plaza de Armas
		1:59
		Lorenzo PALOMO (b. 1938)
		17 El Manantial (2019)*
		7:19
		Rubén PAREJO (b. 1964)
		18 Chôro a Rosa (2010)
		2:40

*WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Recorded: 11–12 March 2023 at FJR Studios, Granada, Spain • Music producer and artistic direction: José Luis Ruiz del Puerto / Fundación Alhambra Guitarras • Artistic coordination: Vicente Coves
 Engineer: Cheluis Salmerón • Booklet notes and music advisor: Rubén Parejo • Publishers: Ricordi **1–3**, Bergmann Edition **4**, Ediciones Étoile **5–7**, Ediciones Espiral Eterna **8–16**, Piles Editorial de Música **17–18**
 Guitar: Javier Mengual – Model: Spruce • Cover photo © Josep Gil