



## **ARIOSO, THE NEW PROJECT OF GUSTAVO CORRALES ROMERO**

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*By Mirna Guerra*

*Arioso* is the title of the recording project in which the renowned Cuban-Dutch pianist and composer **Gustavo Corrales Romero** finds himself immersed. He already owns two previous solo albums: *Palimpsesto* (2001) and *Fresco* (2011) in which he sensibly and masterfully recreates a varied repertoire that in essence captures Cuban and Latin American music of the nineteenth and twentieth century.

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

**Gustavo Corrales Romero** is a talented musician native to the Cuban eastern province of Guantanamo. He has an established career as an interpreter of the piano and has explored different musical styles. His repertoire includes works of classical composers of concert piano literature, as well as contemporary creations of composers of his time, becoming one of the leading interpreters of this music. Outside of Cuba, Gustavo has specialized in the study of Cuban and Latin American music repertoire and has performed in numerous festivals and concert halls in Europe and the Americas. With his wife he is the founder of **KyG Productions** (based in the Netherlands), for the realization and promotion of Latin American classical and contemporary music around the world. In addition to his music he launched his first book 'Los Herederos' at the Miami Book Fair International, United States (2007).

His discography includes two solo works, one of which is *Palimpsesto*, a record with a touch of nostalgia that the pianist has dedicated to his teacher César López and which invites you to take a musical journey through the Cuban pianistic tradition. The performed works were carefully selected and provide a worthy sample of the most important composers of the musical literature of the island: **Ignacio Cervantes**, Ernesto Lecuona Casado, Alejandro García Caturla, **Harold Gramatges**, Carlos Fariñas and Keyla Orozco.

On his second album **Fresco Gustavo Corrales** extends his musical journey beyond the borders of Cuba to Latin America, establishing himself as a specialist in the interpretation of the music of Latin American composers. In *Fresco* the works of Cuban artists such as Ernesto Lecuona, Carlos Fariñas and Luis Gonzalez Valdes converge with the great composers of Latin American concert music, like the Mexican Manuel Maria Ponce, the Argentine Carlos Guastavino, the Paraguayan Agustín Barrios, Venezuelan Moisés Moleiro, Colombian Antonio Maria Valencia, Brazilian Ernesto Nazareth, Arubans Karen D. Russel de Corrales and Juan C. Lampe and Curaçaoan Wim Statius Muller. A compact disc in which folkloric airs are recreated in academic music through its various musical genres, traveling from the tango, the habanera to the waltz and the danza, together with the joropo and the pasillo. A whole range of rhythms that show the sonic richness of our continent.

## DETAILS ARIOSO

In his new project **Arioso** Corrales is inspired by the sonic richness of traditional Cuban music and especially the traditional 'Trova', opening a new window of sound to the interpretation of this popular genre of music from the island. For Corrales songs of the traditional Trova (*songs by the Cuban troubadours of the early twentieth century, Note by KyG*) in themselves are the synthesis of the 'Creole' in the music, given their high poetic content charged with refinement and lyricism besides the wit and rhythm provided by the music.

This time the instrumental format used is extended to the chamber trio with piano, violin and cello. In the words of the artist himself: *"The idea was entwining the popular tradition, the academic and the modern to be played by a piano trio, the sound of which has perhaps been the most used for both academic works and popular pieces for the salon. Referencing, among others, Trio Matamoros and Das Negertrio (the latter, formed by Lico Jimenez, his father and brother, were famous in Europe in the late nineteenth century)." This work will undoubtedly be a new contribution to Cuban chamber music.*

The album will feature several titles and will include an original composition of the author and twelve arrangements of traditional Cuban songs conceived from the aesthetics of academic music and elevated to the musical expression of concert music. Thus it will unify the traditional vernacular with current compositional techniques, to achieve a balance between both sonic worlds.

*"Arioso was designed so that a balance between the academical, the popular traditional and the modern is achieved. The purpose has been to turn these songs into concert pieces. Arranged so that they can be played independently as well as a suite. The original songs were written in a tonal, romantic, very warm and enjoyable musical language. In the arrangements the texture has been made more complex, sometimes varying forms (adding introductions, interludes or codas) and transforming original rhythms. Harmonies of the original music have been left largely intact to preserve the freshness and charm of the songs."*

To this pianist who identifies with the Cuban through his music, who vibrates Cubanness with each note wrenched from his instrument, we wish every success in this new venture that he has set himself to. We are sure it will be very well received by all lovers of good Cuban music.

Sources:

<http://www.gustavocorralesromero.net/default.html>

<https://worldwidecubanmusic.com/2014/10/16/musicos-gustavo-corrales/>

Data provided by the artist.

Header image: Gustavo Corrales Romero.

Arioso promotional video still (Recorded by Het Haags Productiebedrijf, 2016)

*Additions by KyG:*

## **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

*(Spanish)*

<https://worldwidecubanmusic.com/2016/07/11/arioso-el-nuevo-proyecto-de-gustavo-corrales-romero/>

## **REFERENCE TO VIDEOS**

*(In the original article)*

Gustavo Corrales Romero – collage of pieces included on the Fresco CD

<https://youtu.be/7Sv34Xg4LYI>

Arioso promotional video

<https://youtu.be/zPofH8xOP7M>

Gustavo Corrales Romero (piano), Inés Salinas Blasco (cello) and Gustavo Cabrera (violin).  
Mariposita de Primavera by Miguel Matamoros. Arrangement by Gustavo Corrales.

<https://youtu.be/gr18OXnK-0k>

## **ABOUT WORLD WIDE CUBAN MUSIC**

**Worldwide Cuban Music**, Inc. is a socio-cultural organization of global scope designed to collect, organize, present and disseminate the work of Cuban musicians who live and work outside Cuba, through the exchange of information, promotion and artistic management of interest projects that help achieve this purpose.

Founded in 2014 on the initiative of the musicologists Imilka Fernández and Mirna María Guerra, with Marly Velasco Morales, Worldwide Cuban Music, Inc. has offices in Miami, USA and Seville, Spain.

<https://worldwidecubanmusic.com>