

CANTOS

CANTOS, a song cycle for baritone and orchestra, was composed under a fellowship in music composition from Cintas Foundation, Inc. (administered by the Institute of International Education in New York City) in 1985-1986. The fifth and final song was added in 1987. The texts of the five songs comprising the work are taken from two collections of poems, ISMAELILLO (1882) and VERSOS SENCILLOS (1891), by the nineteenth century Cuban poet José Martí. The songs, which contrast in character and mood with each other, are preceded by an orchestral prologue.

CANTOS is approximately thirty-five minutes in length and is scored for woodwinds in 3,3,3,3, brass in 4,3,3,1, timpani, two percussion players (Snare drum, triangle, large gong, tambourine, suspended cymbal, two plate cymbals, chimes, vibraphone and glockenspiel), piano/celesta, harp, standard orchestral string complement and baritone solo voice.

There is no break between the first and second songs as well as between the third and fourth songs, with only a momentary pause before the beginning of the final song.

Aldo Rafael Forte

November 1987

VOCAL/TEXT NOTATION: In order to imitate spoken Spanish, there are some words and/or syllables notated in parentheses throughout the score. For example, on page 22 one finds the text as "Y(en)" all under an eighth note A. These two words should blend in as one as would be done in conversational Spanish (Latin American in particular). Other examples of this sort, with a slightly different notation include page 79: "ha-cé esta" and page 126: "vuel-to (a)".