

Symphonie Espagnole
for Viola and Orchestra/OR Piano/OR Winds

Aldo Rafael Forte (ASCAP)

Symphonie Espagnole for Viola and Orchestra was composed in 2023. I also crafted a piano reduction of the piece and a version with winds is in the works. The composition is in three movements which are often imbued with Spanish – Latin flavor. Thus, I chose to title it “Symphonie Espagnole” after Eduard Lalo’s composition of the same name. I have also issued an edition for Alto Sax and Orchestra as well as a piano reduction and a version for Alto Sax and Band.

Symphonie Espagnole is scored for Solo Viola and an orchestra of (3,2,2,2), (2,2,1) 3 Perc. (mvt. 2 only 2 perc.) (Xylo., glock) (Tambourine, S.D,) (4 Tom Toms, Sus. Cym., Crash Cym.), and Strings.

I. Danza Latina, the first movement, is a fun 3 min. Latin musical “romp” indicative of a Cuban carnival party atmosphere complete with syncopated telegraph- like rhythms punctuated by lively percussion. After wild and energetic dialogues between the solo viola and the ensemble, there is a more subdued section with viola solos that give the feeling of being improvised jazzy “rides”. Eventually the volume builds with a return to the flavor of the opening of the movement culminating with a brief quote from Beethoven’s 7th! All throughout the solo viola moves between its different registers along with some excursions into pizzicati and double stops.

II. Romance, the second movement, is the expressive and emotional heart of the piece. Cast in a sort of ABA form and in a slow tempo, it features mostly lyrical passages gliding through different textures and harmonic systems along with occasional Spanish-like ornamentations.

III. Fandango, the last movement, is imbued with “Spanish” rhythm and flavor. From beginning to end this lively movement keeps building in energy and never lets up. A series of contrasting motifs keep collaging on themselves each time appearing in new garb. The writing for viola is virtuosic throughout. The mood is interrupted by a contrasting section titled “six string jive” based ONLY on the pitches of the open strings of a classical guitar. Finally the collaging motifs return followed by a “recapitulation” after which the composition closes with ultimate excitement.

Aldo Rafael Forte,

Composer

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