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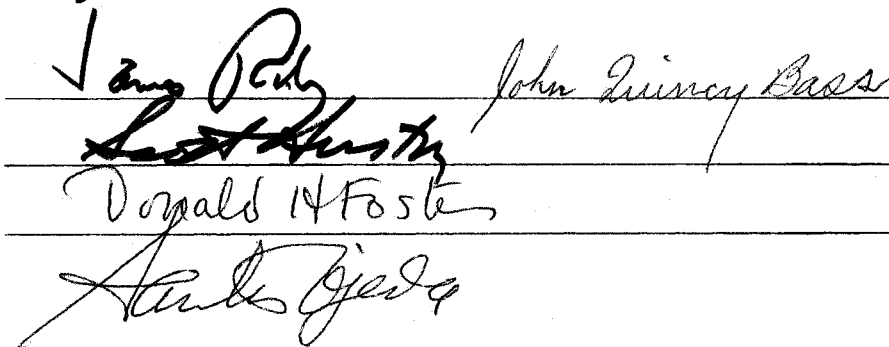
August 24, 1969

I hereby recommend that the thesis prepared under my supervision by Sister Mary Ann Hanley, CSJ

entitled *supervision by* positions for Solo Piano
by Alberto Ginastera, (1916---)

be accepted as fulfilling this part of the requirements for the degree of Doctoral of Musical Arts

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THE COMPOSITIONS FOR SOLO PIANO
BY ALBERTO GINASTERA, (1916--)

Presented by

Sister Mary Ann Hanley, CSJ

To fulfill the thesis requirement for the degree of
Doctor of Musical Arts

College-Conservatory of Music

of the

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PREFACE

This study had its beginning in 1962, when the author attended a lecture-recital on Alberto Ginastera's Sonata para piano given by the Latin-American pianist, Salvador Ley, at the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota. The interest aroused by this recital led to a search for additional information about Ginastera's piano music. A careful examination of periodical literature and books has revealed that very little material has been written about the piano music of Ginastera up to the present time. To date no survey of the complete works for solo piano has been available. The purpose of this study is to fill the need for such a survey at a time when performers and audiences are becoming increasingly interested in the piano music of Ginastera.

In this thesis the melodic, rhythmic, harmonic, and structural devices used by Ginastera in his piano music will be analyzed. Attention will be given to influences on the composer's music. The works will be discussed in chronological order, noting the evolution of the composer's style. In Ginastera's own words, "I think I achieved what I wanted to back in 1944. My ballet Estancia and some pieces for piano, violin, and 'cello . . . are the expression of an objective Argentine feeling. In my own development this problem has acquired another outlook. I am not so much interested in finding an intrinsically Argentine language any more be-

cause I know that if I achieve a personal musical idiom, this will also be the inevitable expression of my own surroundings. So I am no longer searching for a national style, but a personal style."¹

I would like to express my gratitude to Professors Mario di Bonaventura and Paul Zeller of Dartmouth College, who gave me a scholarship to attend the Sixth Congregation of the Arts at Dartmouth College during the summer of 1968. Alberto Ginastera was composer-in-residence there from July 1 to July 15. During this period I attended the lectures by Ginastera and listened to rehearsals and concerts of his music. I am greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Ginastera, who together graciously granted me interviews at Dartmouth. A special note of thanks is due my thesis advisor, Professor Santos Ojeda, for his invaluable guidance.

¹Alberto Ginastera, "Alberto Ginastera Speaks," Musical America, LXXXII (October, 1962), 10-12.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Argentine Musical Heritage

The music of Argentina today is the product of a long evolution from pre-Columbian culture through the Colonial and post-Colonial periods to the present time. Before the arrival of Europeans several Indian tribes inhabited Argentina. The high plain and mountain areas of northwestern Argentina were populated by the Inca Indians. Although the early Incas had no known system of musical notation, musicologists have deduced that their music was mostly improvised on their own traditional melodic patterns, based on tritonic and pentatonic scales. Inca musical instruments included flutes, panpipes, drums, rattles, and a one-stringed bow.¹

Spanish explorers discovered Argentina in 1516. During the Spanish Colonial period Iberian, Indian, and Negro influences contributed to the development of Argentine folk-songs and dances. The aboriginal influence on Argentine folk music was greatest in the northern provinces, where Spanish trade and intermarriage between settlers and natives led to an emphasis on Indian-type melodies.² Much of the

¹Carlos Vega, Panorama de la música Argentina (Buenos Aires: Editorial Losada, 1944), pp. 106-121.

²David Wallace, "Alberto Ginastera: An Analysis of His Style and Techniques of Composition" (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Dept. of Music, Northwestern University, 1964), p. 2.

early population, however, was concentrated on the level, grassy pampas. Here cattle roamed the open range on large ranches called estancias, herded by cowboys called gauchos.

The picturesque gauchos have become legendary figures in Argentine literature, depicted as spectacular horsemen and excellent singers and dancers. After the first generation of Spanish immigrant gauchos, these cowboys were mostly Creoles,¹ with some admixture of Indian blood. Slonimsky states that the origin of a number of Argentine songs and dances is attributed, rightly or wrongly, to the gaucho.² These include the vidalita, the gato, the ranchera, the malambo, and many others.

The Argentine musicologist Carlos Vega defines many different types of Argentine folksongs, including Inca pentatonic melodies, hybrid Inca-Creole melodic types, and Creole songs. Although Creole folksongs stem primarily from Spanish sources, some Negro and Inca characteristics are apparent. Vega describes Creole songs as generally fast and light; triple or compound meter featuring frequent hemiola is characteristic. Quite common is a dual time signature of three-four and six-eight, the latter often evolving into syncopated duple time. Melodies are major or minor and sometimes bimodal.³

¹"Creole" (Spanish: criollo) refers to American-born descendants of European immigrants.

²Nicolas Slonimsky, Music of Latin America (New York: Thomas Crowell Co., 1945), p. 74.

³Vega, pp. 104-148.

Although Argentina declared its political independence on July 9, 1816, Argentine art-music was dominated by European influences until well into the 1880's. From colonial times musicians in urban centers performed music by European composers.¹

In summarizing the cultural influences of the various ethnic groups comprising the population of Argentina, Gilbert Chase has declared that Argentina is more "Latin" than most of the other countries in Latin-America. He gives three reasons:

1. Only a small remnant of the Indian population has survived.
2. The Negroes, never numerous, have gradually disappeared.
3. The liberal Constitution of 1853 opened the door to immigration, so that between 1857 and 1900 1,200,000 settlers came to stay permanently in Argentina. [These immigrants were mostly from Italy and secondly from Spain and France.]²

Consequently, despite its Spanish beginnings, Argentina, an immense bowl of racial blends of predominantly European white strains, has grown into a cosmopolitan land. Conflicting cultural ingredients and lack of strong native musical tradition have caused Argentine music to evolve with much difficulty.³

¹Charles Seeger (ed.), Music of Latin America (Washington, D. C.: Pan-American Union, 1942), pp. 9-10.

²Gilbert Chase, "Alberto Ginastera: Argentine Composer," Musical Quarterly, XLIII (October, 1957), 439.

³Iazare Saminsky, Living Music of the Americas (New York: Howell, Soskin & Crown, Pub., 1949), p. 227.

Alberto Ginastera's native city of Buenos Aires early became a densely populated cosmopolitan center, a vortex of dissimilar cultural currents. Here may be observed two divergent streams in music, which have run through Argentine history, a sort of rural-urban dichotomy. The old Ibero-Indian dance songs are still kept alive and nurtured by the geographic juxtaposition of Buenos Aires to the surrounding hinterlands.¹ On the other hand, another more sophisticated stream of music has been developing since the nineteenth century, with composers striving to write serious music of universal appeal.

Until the last two decades of the nineteenth century Argentine composers had the goal of emulating the best in European styles.² Ginastera writes that the "musicians of the generation born before [1880], many of whom studied in Europe, were influenced by composers of the second half of the past century, by the first splendors of French Impressionism and the Italian realism of Puccini."³

The first Argentine composer who was able to support himself through his work in music was Alberto Williams (1862-1952), a man of great energy and firm convictions. Williams was the greatest single influence on all Argentine

¹Ibid., p. 232.

²Alberto Ginastera, lecture, "The Latin American Scene," Dartmouth College, July 5, 1968.

³Alberto Ginastera, "Notas sobre la música moderna argentina," Revista Música Chilena, Año 4, No. 31 (Santiago, Chile, October-November, 1948), 21.

music during the first half of the twentieth century. Like most of his contemporaries, he studied in Paris. His composition teacher there was César Franck. In Williams' compositions the influence of Franck and of French Impressionism is combined with elements of musical nationalism.¹

A notable change of style occurs in the next generation of composers. According to Ginastera,

The generation born in the nineties presents a very different picture. Knowledge of the works of Debussy, Ravel, Schönberg, etc., provoked an evolution in Argentine music the most admirable result of which was the overcoming of the Romantic tradition

The rhythmic force of 'Petroushka', or of 'Le Sacre du Printemps', the novelty of 'L'Histoire du Soldat' or of 'Pulcinella', the simplicity and grandeur of 'Le Roi David', the use of folkloristic material in Falla and Bartok and the originality of Hindemith and Milhaud were at that time the fountains which originated the new aesthetic movement in Argentina.²

Ginastera notes that composers of the eighties used folklore as a self-conscious means of declaring their nationalism. When they employed the rhythms, melodies, and spirit of Argentine folklore they did not realize that they were again copying Europe, where nationalism appeared in Russia, England, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Spain at the end of the nineteenth century. Early attempts at Argentine nationalistic music resulted in grafting folksong characteristics onto pre-existent European styles, first to nineteenth-century Romanticism and then to French Impressionism. However, composers

¹Wallace, p. 7.

²Ginastera, Revista Música Chilena, Año 4, No. 31, 21.

born in the nineties or later "used folk song subjectively--used it only when it was an emotional necessity."¹

The era of folklorism is over in Latin-American music; after World War II, music in Latin America began a new stage in its evolution. Ginastera observes that at this time the ease and speed of travel in commercial planes as well as quick means of communication between different countries and continents produced universal technical materials to be used by everyone. According to Ginastera, at present the individuality of a musical work depends on the personality of the composer, not on his nationality.²

Composers born since 1900 are represented by a wide variety of styles; we shall mention only a few examples. Ginastera and Garcia-Morillo are eclectics, choosing what suits the current need. Washington Castro writes in a style approaching atonality, but without a definite attachment to serialism. The most successful composer of electronic music is Maurice Kagel (1929).³

Ginastera summarizes the contemporary Argentine musical scene by declaring that in the last twenty years musical life has grown rapidly, with an increase in the number of orchestras, music societies, interpreters, and music schools. He goes on to say that while in 1944 almost all Argentine music

¹Ginastera, lecture, "The Latin American Scene," Dartmouth College, July 5, 1968.

²Ibid.

³Wallace, p. 11.

was in the hands of the government, today the influence of private enterprise is important. In Buenos Aires alone "there are at least three big societies which give concerts regularly: the Mozarteum, Friends of Music, and Sociedad de Música de Cámara--all are supported by private capital."¹ One of the most influential institutions supported by private enterprise is the Latin-American Center for Advanced Musical Studies sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation. Promising young composers receive fellowships to this Center, where Ginastera has been Director since its opening in 1962.

Ginastera has declared that all avante-garde trends are represented in Argentine music. He believes that young composers must be acquainted with every element of contemporary music so that they are able to do their own experimenting.²

In his own words:

The preoccupations which concerned the generation of the 80's and 90's (technical skills, the acquisition of a modern language, the depiction of a national style, et al) are not those which move younger composers. We have found a musical culture more solid and advanced, which has permitted our activities to be worked out in a medium more apt than was possible thirty years ago. The problem, seen from a purely musical point of view, is digging at basic elements, with projection towards a universal art.³

¹Ginastera, Musical America, LXXXII, 10-12.

²Ibid.

³Ginastera, Revista Música Chilena, Año 4, No. 31, 21.

A Biographical Sketch of Alberto Ginastera

Alberto Ginastera was composer-in-residence and guest lecturer at Dartmouth College from July 1 to July 15, 1968. The following account is based primarily on his lectures at Dartmouth, especially his "Essay for an Autobiography" given July 3. Additional information was obtained through interviews the composer granted the author.

The cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires, Argentina, was the place of Alberto Ginastera's birth on April 11, 1916, of Argentine parents, Alberto and Luisa (née Bossi) Ginastera. His father was a wool trader whose family came from Catalonia in Spain, where the surname "Ginastera" means a flower symbolizing freedom. Lombardy in northern Italy was the birthplace of his mother's parents. No record can be found of a musician in Ginastera's family.

Young Alberto's gift for music was discovered by the family when he was given a toy flute at the age of six. He soon learned to play the national anthem on the seven-note instrument, becoming very upset when it would not play B flat. Also during his childhood he liked to use the kitchen pots and pans to produce varied percussion sounds, and he often improvised little songs. Encouraged by these signs of talent, his parents sent him at the age of seven to a neighborhood piano teacher. He continued his musical studies at the Williams Conservatory in Buenos Aires, taking private lessons in piano, harmony, and composition from 1928 until his gradua-

tion from secondary school in 1935.

In 1936 Ginastera entered the National Conservatory of Music in Buenos Aires, where his composition teacher was José André. Through André, who had studied at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, he came under the influence of French Impressionism. Towards the end of his student days at the Conservatory Ginastera definitely decided to become a professional composer. He chose this vocation because he felt the need to communicate with the world around him, the need to express his personal feelings about contemporary life and society through his music. In 1938 he was graduated from the National Conservatory with highest honors, receiving a professor's diploma.

In 1941 Ginastera was appointed teacher of music rudiments and harmony at the National Conservatory and also teacher of music appreciation at the Military Academy. In December of that year he married Mercedes de Toros, whom he had met earlier at the National Conservatory. Two children were born of this union, Alex in 1942 and Georgina in 1944.

Ginastera's career as a professional composer began with the première of a symphonic suite from his ballet Panambí at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires in 1937 under the direction of Juan José Castro. Panambí was again performed at the Teatro Colón in 1940, this time in its original ballet version. It was well received; this performance prompted a commission from Lincoln Kirstein, the impresario of the American Ballet Company, for a second ballet, Estancia.

During this early period Ginastera also wrote Danzas Argentinas (1937) for piano, which contains seeds of the Piano Sonata composed fifteen years later. Important recognition came when Obertura para el "Fausto" criollo para orquesta (1943) won for the composer the coveted National Prize of Argentina, and Sinfonía elegíaca (1944) won the Municipal Prize in Buenos Aires. Twelve American Preludes (1944) for piano reveal that Ginastera was now experimenting with new styles.

The Peronist regime which took over the Argentine government in 1945 was extremely oppressive to artistic freedom. Alberto Ginastera and a number of other artists and intellectuals signed a manifesto defending democratic principles and freedom. As a result, the composer was dismissed from his teaching position at the Military Academy, and all of the other signers were also relieved of their posts. Ginastera decided in those dark days to make use of a Guggenheim fellowship which he had been awarded in 1942 but had not used because of World War II. He came to the United States for a fifteen-month period ending in 1947.

During his stay in the United States Ginastera composed Hieremíae Prophetæ Lamentations for mixed chorus, Duo for flute and oboe, and Suite de Danzas Criollas for piano. Performances of his works were programmed by the NBC Symphony, the League of Composers, and the Pan-American Union. Ginastera regards this first United States visit as a stimulating period in which he made important contacts and began his inter-

national career. He visited Columbia, Yale, and Boston Universities; attended the Tanglewood Festival at the invitation of Aaron Copland; and visited the Music Educators National Conference meeting in Cleveland.

Ginastera describes his first style period, from 1937 to 1947, as marked by "an objective nationalism" in which "the primitive impulse rings strong." He acknowledges being considerably influenced during this period by a number of composers: Bartók, Stravinsky, de Falla, Debussy, Ravel, and contemporary Russians. However, his paramount source of inspiration was Argentine folklore; his musical language was associated with images and symbols of his native land. Without ever directly quoting folksongs, the composer used rhythmic, melodic and harmonic characteristics of Creole and Indian music. In this first style period, Ginastera began to imitate the sound of guitar of the gaucho in his music, using guitar chords as a symbol of Argentina. He continued to use this device in every style period.

When Ginastera returned home from his United States visit, he found life very difficult because of the Perón regime, which lasted until 1955. Until then he was at times forced to supplement his income by giving private lessons and writing film music. In 1948 he founded the Conservatory of the Province of Buenos Aires and became its director, only to be removed from that post by the Perón regime in 1952.

Ginastera's String Quartet No. 1, completed in 1948,

marks the beginning of his second style period, which he describes as a period of "subjective nationalism". He states that his musical thought now became deeper, the form more elaborate, and the musical construction based on more advanced techniques. Although rhythmic and thematic elements of Argentine music were still present, he began to use some atonal language and also serial techniques.

In 1950 Ginastera composed Pampeana No. 2 for 'cello and piano, a follow-up to Pampeana No. 1 (1947) for violin and piano. In the midst of his trials from the Perón regime the composer received two great encouragements from abroad which gave him the economic help he needed so urgently and the spiritual support which was even more important at the time. The first was a commission by the Carnegie Institute and the Pennsylvania College for Women to write a Piano Sonata for the Pittsburgh Festival of Contemporary Music in 1952. The second was a commission by the Louisville Orchestra to compose Pampeana No. 3 for orchestra. In 1953 he finished one of his most popular scores, Variaciones concertantes, commissioned by the Friends of Music of Buenos Aires.

Since the 1950's Ginastera's works have been heard with increasing frequency all over the world. International festivals at Frankfurt, Oslo, Stockholm, Rome, Madrid, Venice, Salzburg, Warsaw, and Washington (Inter-American Festival) have programmed his music.

In 1958 Ginastera was appointed Dean of the new Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the Catholic University of Buenos

Aires, with the task of organizing the school. Further recognition of his ability as an administrator and educator came in 1962, when he was appointed head of the new Latin-American Center for Advanced Studies established under the sponsorship of the Rockefeller Foundation at Instituto di Tella in Buenos Aires. Ginastera has resigned all his other posts in order to dedicate himself exclusively to his work at the Latin-American Center and to composition.

With Cantata para América mágica for soprano and percussion ensemble, commissioned by the Fromm Foundation in 1960, and the Piano Concerto, commissioned by the Koussevitsky Foundation a year later, Ginastera began his third period, in which he has written his most important works to date. Other compositions of this period are a Violin Concerto (1963), a Harp Concerto (1965), a Piano Quintet (1963), the operas Don Rodrigo (1964) and Bomarzo (1967), the Concerto per Corde (1965), the Estudios Sinfónicos (1967), and finally the Cello Concerto (1968), commissioned by Dartmouth College. Ginastera describes his third-period style as more personal, more international, and more abstract, with growing interest in inner emotions and unreal elements. He has developed a technique and an aesthetic of his own, using elements of serial music, but stressing the dramatic impulse of an expressive art. He calls this style New Romanticism or Expressionism because it has an excited lyricism, passion, and drama as well as poetic mystery.

The opera Bomarzo exemplifies Ginastera's late style.

The composer explains:

In Bomarzo I have tried to write a more advanced work than in Don Rodrigo or any of my latest compositions. I use series and other devices as microtonalism, chromatic whole, aleatory forms. I have also employed three kinds of different techniques in the texture: clusters, which are massive sounds of chords like big sonorous columns, clouds and constellations. Clouds are sounds which are produced in an aleatory form and which stay suspended in the air but change slowly in color and form, as clouds do. Constellations are bright flashes of sounds which suddenly appear and which disappear the same way.¹

Ginastera was well established as a composer years before the great success of his opera Bomarzo at its world première in Washington, D. C. When he returned to Buenos Aires after the première he was shocked to learn that Bomarzo had been banned from his native city on the grounds that it contained "too much sex, violence, and hallucination." Ginastera has replied that these elements are necessary and are found in all great operas. He believes that opera requires strong drama, presented in an atmosphere of unreality, which takes us out of everyday life into the realm of dreams and poetry. He has taken a firm stand, refusing to allow any of his works to be performed in Argentina until Bomarzo is staged there.

Since the ban on Bomarzo Ginastera has been offered several important posts in the United States. He has refused them all, declaring that he does not wish to be cut off from his people. He prefers to remain in his native land as a

¹Alberto Ginastera, "How and Why I Wrote Bomarzo," Central Opera Service Bulletin, IX (May-June, 1967), 12.

conscience, a reproach to the regime.¹ In Argentina today many artists, musicians, and writers regard Ginastera as a champion of the freedom which every artist needs.

At present Ginastera receives more commissions than he has time to fill. He plans to publish soon a second Piano Sonata, commissioned by Dartmouth College; a second Piano Concerto; a third String Quartet; Lieder with chamber ensemble, set to poems by the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda; and Turbas (for the Passion) for chorus, soprano soloist, and orchestra. A third opera, Beatriz Cenci, will be based on a play by Shelley.

¹Donald Henahan, "(1) 'Why Not?' (2) 'One Step Forward'," New York Times, March 10, 1968, Section 6, p. 70.

CHAPTER II

EARLY PIANO COMPOSITIONS

Throughout the remaining pages of this thesis, references will be made to Ginastera's comments about his piano music. This information was obtained through interviews which the composer granted the author at Dartmouth College in July, 1968.

Ginastera possesses a thorough knowledge of the varied sounds which the piano is capable of producing--knowledge based on his own study of the instrument. He urges the performer to observe carefully the numerous indications in his scores regarding tempo, dynamics, mood, and touch. The composer has made the following general comments about the interpretation of his piano music:

1. A well-articulated sound is essential in much of my music; whenever there are no slurs in the score I want the performer to play non-legato.

2. In all of my piano music the sustaining pedal should be used, sometimes only half way down. For example, even in the opening measures of "Danza del viejo boyero" [see Example 2, p. 19,] shallow touches of pedal should be used.

3. Argentine folk elements are found in varying degrees in all of my compositions for piano. Performers need some knowledge of Argentine sources in order to interpret this music correctly.

Danzas Argentinas

The three Danzas Argentinas were composed in 1937 while Ginastera was still a student at the National Conservatory. Together with the ballet Panambí (1937) they mark the begin-

ning of his first style period, characterized by objective nationalism.

"Danza del viejo boyero"

The first of the Danzas Argentinas, "Danza del viejo boyero," (Dance of the Old Ox-driver), is marked animato e allegro. It makes effective use of the rhythms of the malambo. Ginastera describes the malambo as an exciting contest dance for men in which the participants take turns vying with each other in improvising new steps. He tries to embody in his malambo movements the spirit of the dance: its energy, virile strength, and emotional impact. Musically, the malambo consists of a basic metrical pattern of six units to the measure, in 6/8 time, at a fast tempo. Gilbert Chase shows the basic pattern and some of its more common variants as follows:¹

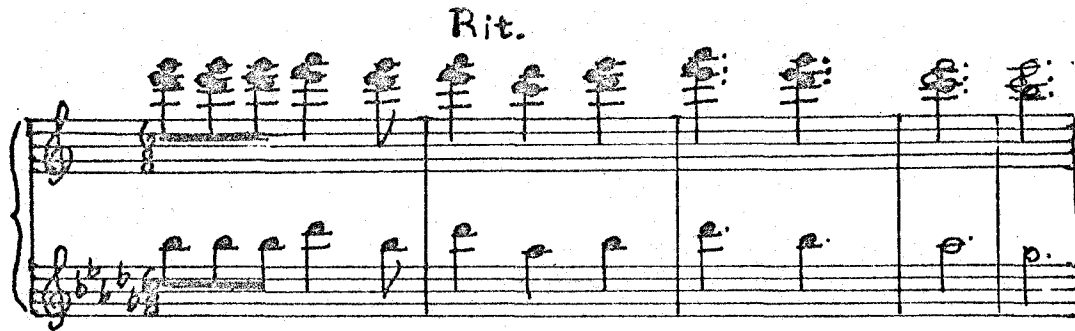


Hemiola, a device found in many different types of Creole

¹Chase, Musical Quarterly, XLIII, 455.

folk music, is especially characteristic of the malambo.

Dotted quarter notes serve as points of repose in this dance type, slowing down the movement at endings of sections. Example 1 shows the use of hemiola followed by the common cadential pattern ♩.♩. in "Danza del viejo boyero."



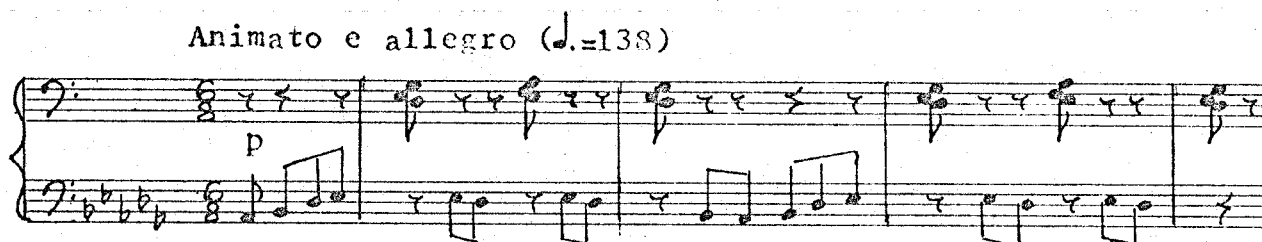
Example 1. "Danza del viejo boyero," measures 57-60.

The form of this dance is a rondo type made up of five short parts as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Measures</u>
A	1-10
B	11-40
A	41-52
C	53-61
A	62-70
Coda	71-81

Many of the folk characteristics found in this dance were to be used often by the composer in later compositions. These characteristics include sequential treatment, use of ostinato, and repetition of short rhythmic and melodic pat-

terns. Example 2 shows the first phrase of the work, which consists of a two-measure pattern immediately repeated.



Example 2. "Danza del viejo boyero," measures 1-4.

The dance is composed primarily of four-measure phrases, many of them similar in construction to the first phrase. In the B section two folkloric devices are found: sequential treatment and use of ostinato. Example 3 shows the one-measure ostinato pattern which continues throughout the first period of section B.



Example 3. "Danza del viejo boyero," measure 11.

This Argentine dance is bitonal throughout; the left hand has a key signature of five flats, while the right hand has no flats or sharps. In the A section the left-hand melody is pentatonic, suggesting Inca pentatonic scales. The use of chords in the composition is non-functional; there are several passages consisting of streams of chords of similar construction (see Example 1).

The use of chords derived from the sound of the guitar is a highly significant device found in Ginastera's music of

all periods. The guitar is the chief instrument of Argentine folk music; the composer uses guitar chords to symbolize the gaucho, the pampas, and Argentine folk culture. A guitar chord appears suddenly near the end of "Danza del viejo boyero," coming as a surprise after the continuous left-hand figuration in D flat. The tones of this chord correspond exactly to the open strings of the guitar: E-A-D-G-B-E (see Example 4).



Example 4. "Danza del viejo boyero," measures 77-78.

While this type of guitar chord with the tones arpeggiated and then sustained is found often in Ginastera's music, he also uses the chord in many other ways. Frequently he alters the pitches of the notes but keeps the ascending arpeggio structure of the guitar chord.¹

According to Ginastera, in order to communicate the rhythmic verve of this dance the performer should play "with a non-legato touch, accenting lightly on the first beat of

¹Gilbert Chase traces Ginastera's use of the guitar chord over a period of nearly twenty years in his article (Musical Quarterly, XLIII, 439-460).

each measure."

"Danza de la moza donosa"

The second dance of the suite, "Danza de la moza donosa," (Dance of the Graceful Maiden), is appropriately marked dolcemente espressivo and tempo rubato. The form is as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Measures</u>
A	1-24
B	25-61
A	62-78

The lilting melody of this dance is gracefully spun out by much use of repetition and sequence. The general tonality of the piece is A minor; however, Ginastera points out that the piece has elements of both major and minor, relating it to bimodal Argentine folksongs. This duality of mode is found in many early works of the composer. Example 5 shows the second phrase of the dance, with the major and minor third of the chord circled.



Example 5. "Danza de la moza donosa," measures 8-11.

Although the left hand maintains a repeated rhythmic pattern throughout most of the piece (see Example 5), in-

interesting harmonic devices prevent any feeling of monotony. A long series of similarly constructed cluster chords in the B section leads to a climax marked intenso. In the reprise the melody is harmonized by parallel thirds; this type of harmonization, used often by Ginastera, is characteristic of Latin-American folk music. The dance closes with a modified version of the guitar chord, an ascending arpeggio containing only the notes A and C, as shown in Example 6. This arpeggio leads to a final chord consisting of F⁴, F#, and C#, foreshadowing the alteration of the guitar chord that Ginastera was to make in Pampeana No. 3 seventeen years later.¹



Example 6. "Danza de la moza donosa," measures 80-81.

"Danza del gaucho matrero"

The finale of the suite, "Danza del gaucho matrero," (Dance of the Outlaw Gaucho) is a malambo, a type of Argentine dance which Ginastera uses often as a closing movement: an example is the brilliant finale of his Piano Sonata. Because of its association with the folklore hero, the gaucho,

¹Ibid., p. 450. Here Gilbert Chase explains that Argentine rural guitarists often tune to F# and C#.

the rhythmically exciting malambo makes an ideal finale in compositions permeated with the spirit of Argentine folk song and dance.

The form of "Danza del guacho matrero" may be summed up as a repeated ABCDE, diagrammed as follows:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Measures</u>
A	1-16
B	17-32
A	33-49
B	50-57
C	58-71
D	72-104
E	105-154
A	155-171
B	172-182
C	183-193
D	194-209
E	210-232 (Coda)

Throughout the dance there is much repetition of both large and small units: many phrases consist of two measures repeated, and there are numerous examples of immediate repetition of a single measure or of a whole phrase. Sequential passages are found in both D sections. In the B and E sections there is extensive use of left-hand ostinato.

The vertical sonorities used in the dance include cluster chords, streams of consecutive major chords (first

C section), and streams of chords built on fourths (D sections). Polytonality is found in the D sections (measures 71-82 and 194-210), where the left hand has a key signature of five flats and the right hand has no flats or sharps. In both E sections there is a long double pedal in the bass on C and G, while the right hand has a pedal on C.

In discussing this composition, Ginastera called attention to the opening recurring rhythmic pattern, stating that the performer should accent the first beat of each measure even though the pattern begins on the fifth beat (see Example 7).

Furiosamente ritmico e energico (♩.=152)

Example 7. "Danza del gaucho matrero," measures 1-3.

The composer went on to say that in the B section the off-beat chords should be played staccato and sharply accented. He declared that he wants the sostenuto pedal to be used to sustain the bass pedal points in measures 94-97 and 210-225. Ginastera concluded with the comment: "The final page of the "Danza" [the final E section] calls for a martellato touch; however, the performer must not reach maximum power until the closing measures, marked ffff salvaggio."

David Wallace finds a similarity of themes in all three Danzas Argentinas, as is shown in Example 8.¹ Motive 1 appears in sections B and C of "Danza del viejo boyero," in both A sections of "Danza de la moza donosa," and in the C sections of "Danza del gaucho matrero." Motive 2 is used only in the last two dances, where it follows motive 1.

Danza del viejo boyero, measures 11-14.

Danza de la moza donosa, measures 4-7, transposed.

Danza del gaucho matrero, measures 58-61, transposed.

Example 8

Economy in the use of material, exemplified above, is a vital part of Ginastera's compositional technique.

Piezas Infantiles

Although Ginastera has removed Piezas Infantiles from his catalogue because he does not consider them significant, some brief comments about them will be made in the interest

¹Wallace, p. 38.

of tracing the composer's stylistic development. The three Piezas Infantiles (date not available) belong to Ginastera's early period.

The first two Piezas, "Antón Pirulero" and "Arroz con leche" (Rice Pudding), are children's songs from the region of Río La Plata. In basing these pieces on specific folk songs Ginastera was making an exception to his usual practice of incorporating folk characteristics in his music without directly quoting folk sources. "Chacarrita," diminutive of chacarera, derived from chacra (farm), is a dance found in the pampas as well as in northern Argentina.¹

Each of the three brief Piezas Infantiles is based on the same formal design: a short melody is presented, followed by a few measures of pianistically brilliant bridge passage leading to a return of the melody, which appears this time with a different accompaniment. Folk elements found in all three Piezas include repeated rhythmic patterns and much use of repetition and sequence in the melody. Stylistic characteristics of Ginastera are also apparent, including planing, polytonality, and writing that makes use of the full keyboard.

Milonga

Milonga is a pianistically simple fifty-measure piece which Ginastera does not consider sufficiently important to

¹Francis Lange, "Preface," Latin-American Art Music for Piano, (New York: G. Schirmer, Inc., 1942), p. xiii.

list in his catalogue. When the composer was asked to write a piano piece for students he transcribed his song, Canción al árbol del olvido for piano, calling it Milonga.

In the history of Argentine music, the milonga is probably the most important of the urban airs. It began as a song of the lower classes in Buenos Aires, where it was popular until the turn of the century, when it was absorbed by the tango. However, the name milonga is still occasionally used. Both the tango and the milonga retain the swinging rhythm of the habanera.¹

Tres Piezas

The suite Tres Piezas (Three Pieces), composed in 1940, is comprised of three dances: 1) "Cuyana," 2) "Nortena," and 3) "Criolla." Ginastera states that each dance represents a different type of woman.

"Cuyana"

The form of "Cuyana" (from the Province of Cuyo) is ABAB, with simple folklike melodies in each part. The initial meter signature of 12/16 continues throughout most of the piece. The accompaniment consists of almost continuous sixteenth notes moving in arpeggiated figuration, while the melodic line follows the meter signature in its rhythmic scheme, occasionally adopting some mild syncopation. In

¹Slonimsky, p. 77.

the final A and B sections the rhythmic continuity is interrupted by the insertion of eighth-note chords built in fourths, with the right and left hands interlocking a half-step apart in polytonal fashion, as Example 9 demonstrates. The composer indicates in the score that this section should be played pp. Perhaps he wants the effect of distant guitars playing on open strings.

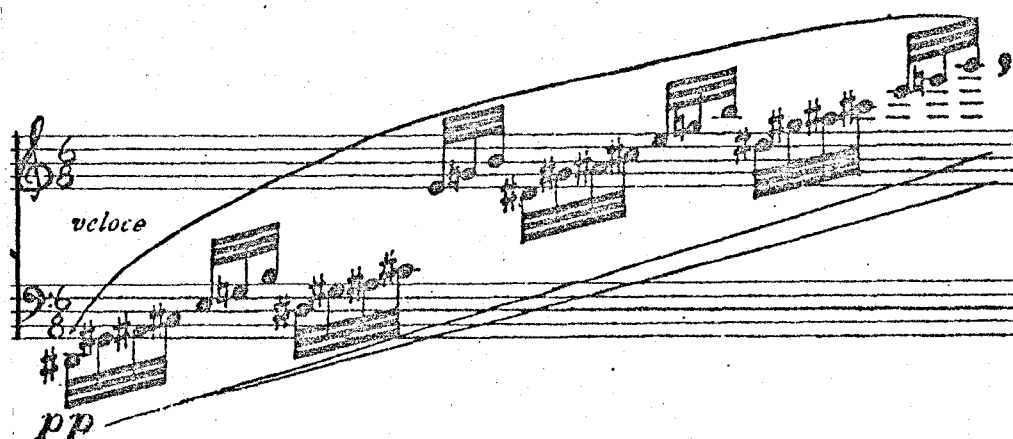


Example 9. "Cuyana," measures 43-44.

In discussing this piece Ginastera said that the sustaining pedal should be held through each measure which has the widely sweeping arpeggiated figuration in order to create an Impressionistic effect.

"Nortena"

"Nortena" (From the North) is a slow dance characterized by complex rhythms. It is in ABA form. In the opening A section the right hand follows the meter signature of 3/8 throughout, while the left hand alternates measures of 3/4 and 3/8. Against this intricate rhythmic background the simple melody is harmonized in parallel thirds, as is illustrated in Example 10.



Example 11. "Nortena," measure 23.

The final section of "Nortena" thins out in texture, with the melody now stated as a single line interrupted occasionally by distant drum beats.

"Criolla"

The finale of the suite, "Criolla" (Creole), has elements of several different Creole dance types. In structure it is a song form and trio, with the trio providing contrast by its slower tempo and more lyrical character.

The piece opens with an introductory section consisting of chords reiterated in the rhythmic patterns of a malambo; the meter signature is 6/8. The harmonic rhythm of this section is slow, and its harmonies are tertian.

A single-line melody begins in measure 15, accompanied by widely sweeping arpeggios. This section incorporates characteristics common in Ginastera's early period: quartal harmony (arpeggiated) and much use of repetition and sequence.



Example 10. "Nortena," measures 4-6.

Ginastera describes the left-hand rhythmic pattern (see Example 10), which is reiterated through much of the piece, as an imitation of the sound of native drums. He wants the drum-figure to be played with a steady beat and without dynamic nuances.

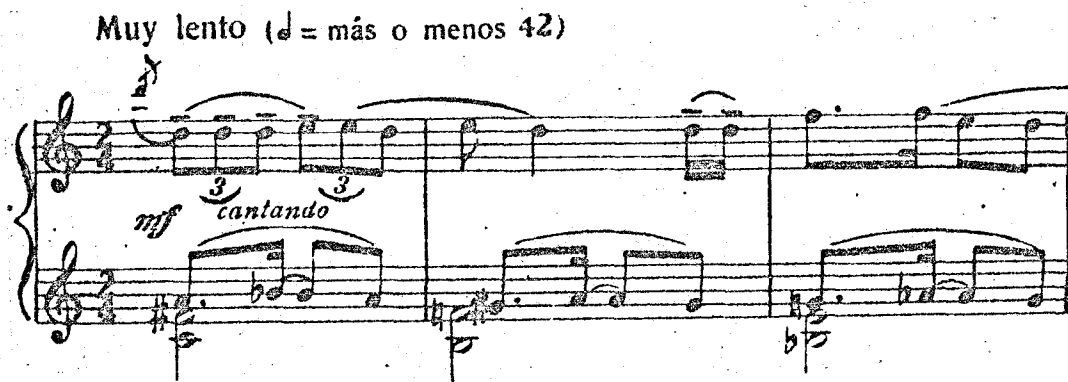
The B section is primarily in 6/8 meter, with some measures of 7/8 interspersed. In the climax of this section a polychordal effect is created by two different streams of consecutive minor chords moving against each other in contrary motion. An ascending arpeggio in the B section consists of the alternation of two different chords in different registers of the piano, covering four octaves (see Example 11). The chords are D $\sharp$ -G $\sharp$ -A $\sharp$ -C $\sharp$ and E-G-B, implying the interlocking of two tonal centers, a device Ginastera was to use again in later works. The composer has stated that he wants the pedal to be held through this arpeggio, creating an Impressionistic shimmer.

The trio, marked muy lento, is a milonga, an Argentine popular song discussed above. At the beginning of the trio Ginastera quotes a popular copla (verse) as follows:

Dicen que los ríos crecen
cuando acaba de llover;
así crecen mis amores
cuando no te puedo ver.

They say that rivers swell
after it rains;
thus my love swells
when I cannot see you.

The first eight measures of the trio fit the meter of the verse exactly. This part of the trio is harmonized by a series of chromatically descending diminished chords, sounding like a Latin-American popular song. Example 12 illustrates the beginning of the trio.



Example 12. "Criolla," measures 89-90.

The remainder of the trio is quite different: the harmony becomes polytonal and the style features sweeping arpeggios accompanying a chordal melody. This is not the only composition in which Ginastera uses the quotation of a copla to set the mood of a composition. He does this as late as the String Quartet No. 2 (1958), where he quotes a line from a triste in the score.

The reprise of "Criolla" is very similar to the opening section, with the addition of glissandos and a final brilliant sequential passage rising to the top of the piano.

As in his earlier works for piano, Ginastera employs in this suite melodic, rhythmic, and structural characteristics of folk music. However, in Tres Piezas he no longer bases each piece on a specific type of folk song or dance. Instead, he tries to reflect the spirit of a geographic area or ethnic group. Especially significant is "Criolla," the finale of the suite, which is a synthesis of rural and urban Argentine song types contrasting within a single composition.

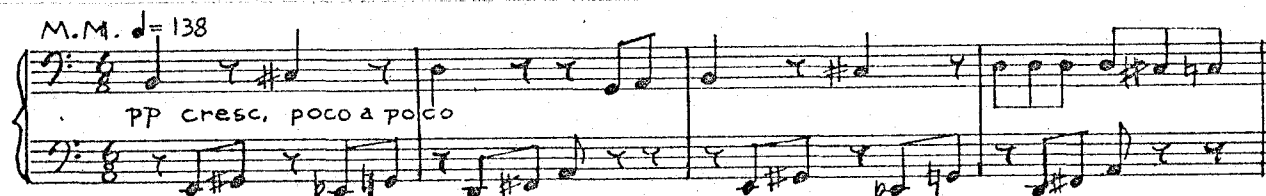
Besides reflecting rural and urban environmental influences on the composer, the suite shows Impressionistic tendencies passed on to Ginastera by his teachers at the National Conservatory, graduates of French music schools. The widely sweeping arpeggios found in this suite constitute a type of pianistic figuration new to the composer; he has stated that he uses them to create Impressionistic effects.

Malambo

Ginastera describes his Malambo (1940) as a toccata based on the gaucho contest dance for men. He explains that the use of frequent repetition in the piece stems from the nature of the dance. The malambo begins with one dancer performing intricate steps alone, followed by a succession of dancers who try to outdo each other in virtuosity. Each

dancer in turn imitates some of the steps of his predecessor and adds new steps. Ginastera does not adhere to one particular formal scheme in all of his malambo movements; instead, he follows the general plan of the dance by including repetition of small units within each section. This Malambo is an ABACBA form, with a one-page coda.

The piece begins with an introductory guitar chord (E-A-D-G-B-E) played lentamente. The malambo proper follows in rapid 6/8 meter. The first four measures of the dance, shown in Example 13, are repeated almost exactly to complete the first period.



Example 13. Malambo, measures 2-5.

The melody of the initial eight measures of the Malambo is stated in its entirety five times in the A section, each time on a different pitch level. Interest is maintained by a different harmonization of the melody at each recurrence. It is harmonized first in thirds, next by successive major triads, then by chords built on fourths, and finally by seventh chords. Further interest is added by the two-measure left-hand ostinato figure shown in Example 13, which is reiterated unchanged during the melodic transpositions and re-

harmonizations.

The remainder of the Malambo continues in the style of the first part; in each section a new left-hand ostinato appears against a melodic line characterized by the use of both repetition and sequence and frequently harmonized by planing. Typical malambo hemiola and cadential dotted quarter notes are found in the composition.

Certain features found in Malambo are typical of Ginastera's style in many piano compositions of the brilliant type. The piece has a quiet, thin-textured beginning confined to the lower register of the piano. In the following sections additional harmonies are gradually added, while at the same time higher registers of the piano are brought into play until the full keyboard is used.

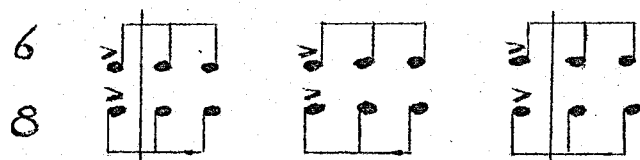
Twelve American Preludes

Twelve American Preludes for piano were composed in 1944. At that time the composer, having used Argentine folk elements extensively in his music, was looking for other idioms. Ginastera calls his American Preludes an experimental work, explaining that each Prelude deals with one separate musical problem. He compares the American Preludes to the six studies for violin found in the first movement of his Violin Concerto, "Cadenza e Studi" (1963). Twelve American Preludes are published in two volumes, with six preludes in each volume.

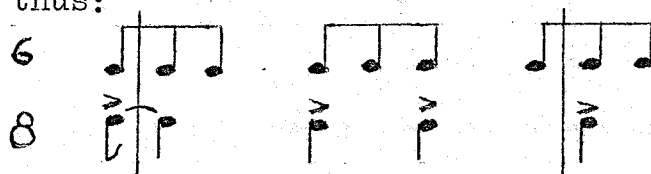
"Accents"

Ginastera states that this study in the placement of accents is based on a Creole dance. The piece is in 6/8 meter and is marked vivace. The form is ABA, with segments of the melody subjected to octave displacement in the final A section.

The piece begins with eighth-note patterns in groups of three, with accents in both hands coming on the third and sixth beats of the measure as follows:



The right hand continues its three-note arpeggiated figures throughout the piece, always accenting in the same manner. The left hand begins to play accented quarter notes in measure 9 thus:



The left hand resumes its three note pattern of eighth notes in measure 13 at the interval of one eighth-note behind the right hand. To catch up, the left hand accents every two eighth notes in measures 17 and 19. From the return of the A section in measure 19 until the end of the piece, both hands accent in groups of three eighth notes as at the beginning.

"Sadness"

While "Triste," the original title of this composition, may be misleadingly translated as "Sadness," the term is used in Argentina to refer to a type of folk song: a slow and melancholy love song. This short piece is a through-composed work consisting of two voices which move independently. Ginastera points out that it is in the Aeolian mode, with a major-minor ending.

"Creole Dance"

Ginastera states that "Creole Dance" is based on the gato, a popular Argentine dance in 6/8 meter. The piece has a remarkably high dissonance level, being polychordal from beginning to end. The form is ABACA. The composer has indicated in the score that this sonorous dance should be performed marcato e violento.

"Vidala"

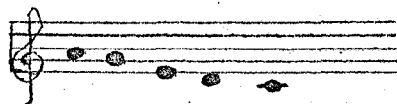
The vidala is a slow Argentine folk song which shows Indian and Spanish influences.¹ This "Vidala" is a seventeen-measure piece in AB form with chordal texture throughout. The meter signature is 3/8.

"In the First Pentatonic Minor Mode"

This short composition is based on the following de-

¹Slonimsky, p. 74.

scending pentatonic scale, which was used by the Incas:



The piece is a strict canon for two voices, with the second voice entering at the octave in the fourth measure. The meter is 7/8 and the tempo andante. It is interesting to note that up to this time Ginastera has composed very little contrapuntal piano music.

"Tribute to Roberto García Morillo"

García-Morillo (b. 1911) is an Argentine composer whose compositions are generally devoid of folkloric associations.¹ Ginastera calls his "Tribute" a toccata. This brilliant piece appears to be an attempt by the composer to exploit the resources of the piano in a style new to him. The meter is 2/4 and the tempo marking presto. Throughout the piece the right hand is in the key of D-flat major, while the left hand has a tonal center of C. The predominant texture consists of octaves in the left hand alternating with single notes in the right hand; the right hand also has some passages of arpeggios extended over four octaves. Near the end the sonority is gradually built up by adding one more note in each measure to the repeated right-hand chords until at the climax five-note cluster chords are used.

¹Ibid., p. 94.

"Octaves"

Volume II of Twelve American Preludes opens with this study in octaves. The piece is in 6/8 meter, marked allegro molto. It consists of eighth-note octaves from beginning to end. Parallel, contrary, and oblique motion between the hands is found in the various patterns used in the composition. The form is ABA and the tonality C major.

"Tribute to Juan José Castro"

Juan José Castro (b. 1895) is an Argentine composer and conductor who conducted the first performance of Ginastera's ballet Panambi, Op. 1, at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. This "Tribute" is in 2/4 meter, with the indication Tempo di tango. The tango is a strictly urban dance of fairly recent origin, typical of Buenos Aires only. Its cosmopolitan background, strongly Italianate, contrasts with the Creole rural folk dances of Argentina. Ginastera draws most of the nationalistic material used in his compositions from Creole sources; this piece is an exception.¹ "Tribute to Juan José Castro" consists of a phrase repeated four times, with variation in the melody and a different harmonization each time. In the left hand a pedal on D continues through most of the piece, emphasizing the D-minor tonality.

"Tribute to Aaron Copland"

Ginastera states that in this "Tribute" he imitates

¹Chase, Musical Quarterly, XLIII, 455.

Copland's jazz style. In the A sections of this ABA piece the composer keeps the right hand moving in steady sixteenth-note broken chords against rhythmic patterns of $\frac{2}{4}$  and $\frac{2}{4}$  in the left hand. The initial A section builds to an ff climax, featuring a stream of consecutive major chords in the left hand moving contrary to a series of octaves in the right hand. The two-voiced B section is marked by a diminuendo to pp before the return of A. Syncopation is used frequently throughout the piece, and off-beat accents are found in both A sections.

"Pastorale"

"Pastorale" is marked lento and con molto espressione. Ginastera says that the style of this composition is similar to Brazilian music. This short piece is through-composed, and the ostinato pattern in the alto voice shown in Example 14 continues through the entire composition. Parallel fifths in the bass moving independently of the melodic line provide the basis of the harmonic scheme.



Example 14. "Pastorale, measures 1-2.

"Tribute to Heitor Villa-Lobos"

Ginastera classifies this piece as "Brazilian-type music." The composition is in 2/4 meter, marked vivace. It is based on a repeated rhythmic pattern stated in chords:
 $\frac{2}{4}$ ♩ ♩ | ♩, above which the right hand plays sixteenth notes in perpetual motion. The score is marked violento and sempre ff a giusto.

"In the First Pentatonic Major Mode"

Ginastera describes this composition as a slow Inca processional march, a cortège of the type connected with the worship of the sun. It is based on the Inca descending pentatonic scale A-G-E-D-C. The form of the piece is ABA. The composer's marks indicate that he wants a steady crescendo from the opening measure, marked mf, to the close, marked ffff. The meter changes frequently within the piece; in the A section 3/2 alternates with 4/2, and in the B section there are measures of 5/2, 4/2, and 6/2. A bass octave C is reiterated as a pedal throughout the entire composition.

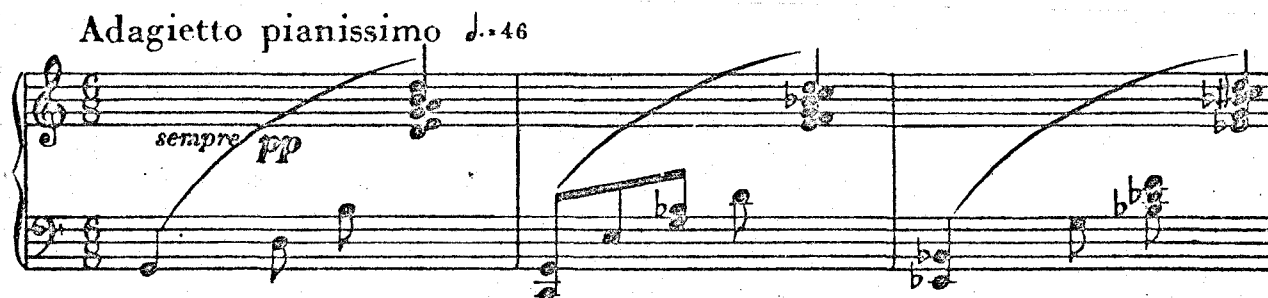
Ginastera seems to be exploring the possibilities of sonority within the limitations of the mode in the A section of this piece, where he uses the tones of the pentatonic scale in a variety of combinations. In the B section a new rhythmic motive is added, and four notes outside the mode (C#, D#, F#, and G#) are used in various patterns, suggesting chimes.

Suite de Danzas Criollas

In discussing his own piano compositions, Ginastera has declared that his favorite works are his Piano Sonata and the Suite de Danzas Criollas. He regards the Suite, composed in 1946 and revised in 1956, as marking the beginning of his second style period in piano music, a period characterized by subjective nationalism. Although he still uses melodic and rhythmic elements of Argentine folk music, he now uses them in a more personal way, farther removed from folk sources. Suite de Danzas Criollas contains sublimated versions of Creole dances in both slow and fast tempos within its five movements.

"Adagietto pianissimo"

"Adagietto pianissimo," the first dance of the Suite, is in 6/8 meter with the dynamic indication sempre pp. The piece begins with an eight-measure introductory pattern establishing the tonal center of G. Example 15 shows the first three measures of this pattern, using chords built on G, C, and E^b. The harmonic scheme of the rest of the dance is similar to these opening measures, employing cluster chords in the right hand. The rhythmic patterns shown in Example 15 are also predominant throughout the piece.



Example 15. "Adagietto pianissimo," measures 1-4.

The melody of this dance is spun out in an improvisational style from the motives contained in its first four measures, which are shown in Example 16. The piece ends with an Impressionistic effect created by a four-octave arpeggio made up of a succession of fourths played over a G pedal.

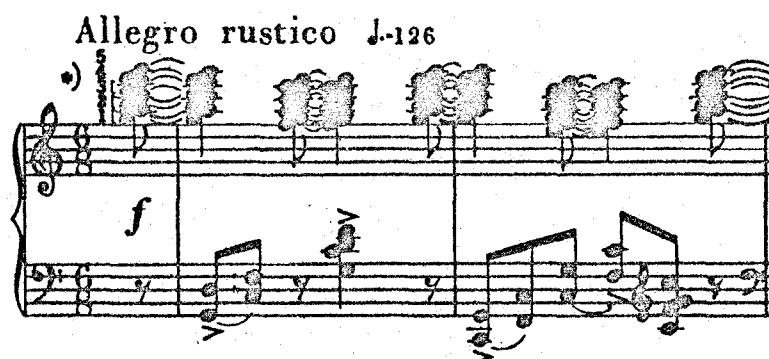


Example 16. "Adagietto pianissimo," measures 9-12.

"Allegro rústico"

In this rustic dance two contrasting sections alternate; the overall form of the piece is ABABA and coda. Within sections of the piece there is much repetition of small units. The dance is an idealized version of the gato, a favorite gaucho dance of the nineteenth century. As is typical in the gato, the meter is 6/8. The A sections of the piece employ eight-note cluster chords in the right hand (see

Example 17). The composer indicates in the score that these chords could be played either with the fingers or with the palm of the hand.



Example 17. "Allegro rustico," measures 1-2.

In the B sections there are some polychordal passages, as may be seen in Example 18. The same Example shows the use of planing, a device employed frequently throughout the piece.



Example 18. "Allegro rustico," measures 19-20.

The general tonality of the dance is C major. Ginastera has marked the score sempre marcato; his dynamic indication is f until the coda, which is marked ff.

"Allegretto cantabile"

The third dance of the Suite, "Allegretto cantabile," is described by Ginastera as "not really Creole. It is closer to subjective music, as is String Quartet No. 1 1948 ." Only the simple stepwise melody is related to Creole music. The composition has a meter signature of 11/8 (6/8 + 5/8). The rhythmic scheme features patterns of eighth notes grouped in threes in one hand against eighth notes grouped in pairs in the other, as Example 19 demonstrates. This Example also shows the canon at the octave which begins in measure 5 and continues for four measures. There is much planing in this composition, both in the broken chords in the accompaniment (see Example 19) and in the closing series of rolled chords. The composition has a tonal center of F sharp.



Example 19. "Allegretto cantabile," measure 5.

In discussing "Allegretto cantabile," Ginastera said that the

performer must be careful to observe the directions he has printed in the last measures of the music: molto rubato, followed by a tempo and finally ritardando molto.

"Calmo e poetico"

Ginastera calls this piece a "poetic nocturne inspired by the pampas." He remarks that it is "devoid of Spanish influence. Spanish music would be more sensual." Both quartal and tertian harmonies are found in the composition, and there is some use of open fifths. The opening measures, shown in Example 20, establish the predominant rhythmic and melodic patterns used in the piece. Structurally, the composition is based on one theme, which is varied and presented in different registers of the keyboard.



Example 20. "Calmo e poetico," measures 1-2.

"Scherzando"

Ginastera describes "Scherzando" as a "sort of sublimated malambo, like a folklore dream." The initial meter

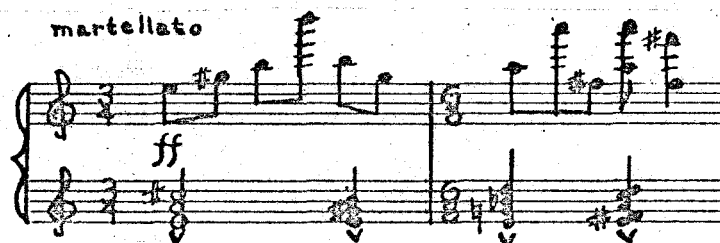
signature, 3/4-6/8, is typical of the malambo. The form is ABA. The movement begins as shown in Example 21, with the left hand playing an ostinato pattern which lasts for four measures.



Example 21. "Scherzando," measures 1-2.

As is usual in this type of dance, there is much use of ostinato and much repetition of units within phrases. The piece employs both tertian and quartal harmony, and chords with added seconds are used often. There are many passages of planing in the composition.

In the B section, marked ff quasi martellato, tension is increased by frequent changes of meter, including 5/8, 3/4, 6/8, and 7/8. A five-octave glissando leads to the climax of this section, where accented left-hand chords support the right-hand arpeggiated figuration, as shown in Example 22.



Example 22. "Scherzando," measures 37-38.

In the reprise the opening melody is presented in different registers of the piano, beginning alternately on B and on E. Ginastera asserts that the final scale of the piece should sweep up the keyboard with a crescendo and an accelerando.

"Coda"

The "Coda" is the longest and the most brilliant of all the dances in Suite de Danzas Criollas. In discussing this finale of his Suite, Ginastera underlined the indication sempre ff e marcatissimo and placed accent marks over several of the octaves at the beginning (see Example 23), commenting that he wants "a very percussive sound all through the piece."

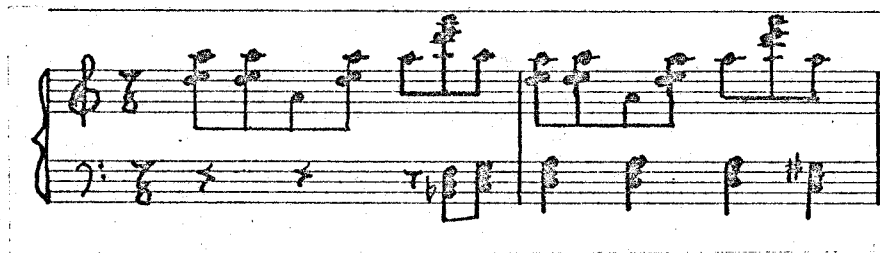
The composition is in ABA form. The initial meter signature is 6/8; there are frequent meter changes throughout the piece, which give it a restless feeling. In the A sections the texture consists of octaves in both hands accompanied by secundal harmony, as shown in Example 23.



Example 23. "Coda," measure 1.

The B section employs streams of consecutive triads as

well as chords with added seconds, as Example 24 illustrates.



Example 24. "Coda," measure 47.

This exciting dance is brought to a close by a chordal sequence covering a range of five octaves.

Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tunes

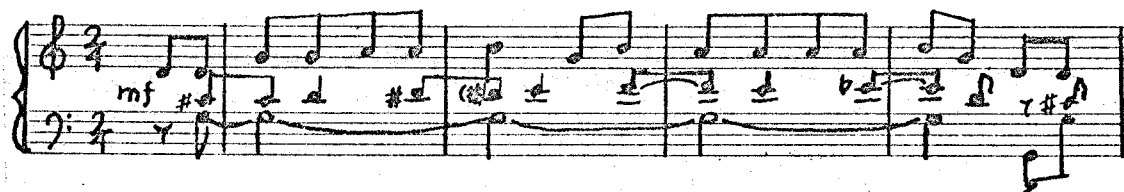
This Rondo was composed by Ginastera in 1947. The composer dedicated it to his children, Alex and Georgina. Ginastera states that although he was following a trend away from the obvious use of folk sources in his music at the time he wrote the Rondo, he decided to base this piece on specific Argentine children's folk tunes in order to entertain his children. The composer states that "the tunes used in the composition are probably of French derivation."

The form of the Rondo is ABACA with a short introduction and coda. The meter is consistently 2/4 until the C section; here the meter is predominantly 4/4, with some measures of 3/4 and 2/4 interspersed. The final A section returns to 2/4 meter, and the coda alternates measures of 7/8 and 2/4.

The A sections are in the Mixolydian mode, with G as the final and a key signature of no sharps or flats. The B

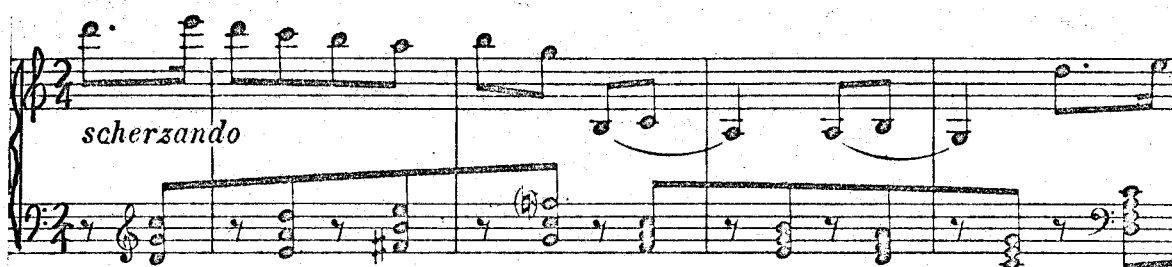
section is in B major with the appropriate key signature. The Mixolydian mode is used again in the C section, where the final is A and the key signature is two sharps.

The initial melody of the Rondo has an accompaniment consisting of a single voice moving chromatically over a G pedal, as shown in Example 25.



Example 25. Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tunes, measures 5-8.

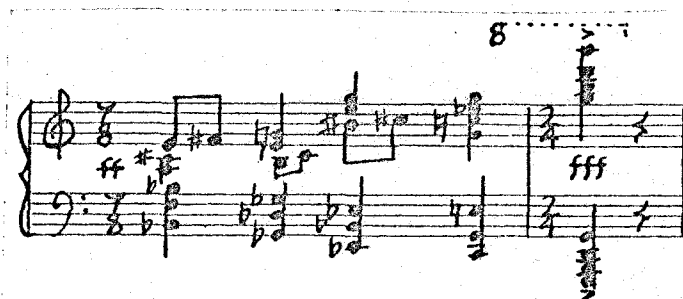
The second melody of the A section is accompanied by off-beat chords; here planing in quartal harmony is followed by planing in tertian harmony (see Example 26).



Example 26. Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tunes, measures 13-16.

In the B and C sections of the Rondo folklike melodies are accompanied by off-beat chords. At the climax of the final A section, after a three-and-one-half-measure glissando, the melody is harmonized by planing, while the left hand plays

an independent stream of triads. In the short coda there is much additional use of planing, this time occasionally accompanied by cluster chords. The Rondo concludes with a polychordal passage leading to a G major chord (see Example 27).



Example 27. Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tunes, measures 132-133.

In summary, Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tunes incorporates many features which are characteristic of Ginastera's style: planing, pedal points, quartal as well as tertian harmony, use of modes, polychordal textures, a climactic glissando, and the use of extreme registers of the piano.

CHAPTER III

THE PIANO SONATA

The Sonata para piano (Sonata for piano), composed in 1952, is the last of the compositions for solo piano which Ginastera has published to date. The following information regarding the circumstances of its publication is printed on the score:

This work was commissioned by the Carnegie Institute and the Pennsylvania College for Women for the 1952 International Contemporary Music Festival.

It was afterwards chosen to be performed at the XXVIIIth. Festival of the International Society for Contemporary Music - Oslo 1953.

1st. performance
Johana Harris
Carnegie Music Hall - Pittsburgh, Pa.
Noviembre 29 de 1952¹

The composition is dedicated to Johana and Roy Harris.

Ginastera's statement regarding the Sonata para piano is quoted by Gilbert Chase:

The Sonata is written with polytonal and twelve-tone procedures. The composer does not employ any folkloric material, but instead introduces in the thematic texture rhythmic and melodic motives whose expressive tension has a pronounced Argentine accent.²

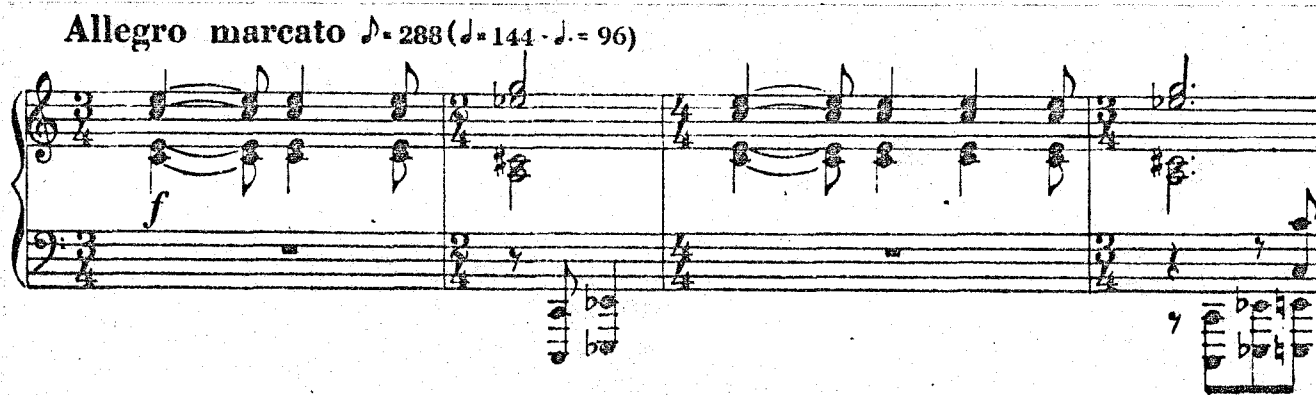
In the following discussion of the work, attention will be given to the techniques and sources mentioned by the composer.

¹Alberto Ginastera, Sonata para piano (Buenos Aires: Barry & Cia., 1954) frontispiece.

²Chase, Musical Quarterly, XLIII, 451.

I. "Allegro marcato"

The first movement of Sonata para piano, "Allegro marcato," is in sonata form. The first theme, in the Aeolian mode, contains the skip of a minor third, which is used as a germinal motive in this section (see Example 28).



Example 28. "Allegro marcato," measures 1-4.

The chord A-C $\sharp$ -E $\flat$ -G appearing in measure 2 has the structure of a French sixth; however, it is not resolved as a French sixth. This vertical sonority might be more accurately called a polychord consisting of A-C $\sharp$ and E $\flat$ -G, since two different streams of consecutive thirds continue throughout the phrase. Parallel thirds, characteristic of Argentine music, are found extensively in the movement.

Ginastera's use of parallel thirds in piano music may be traced back to the second and third dances from his early suite, Danzas Argentinas. The composer has stated that his "Danzas Argentinas contain the seeds of the Sonata para piano written fifteen years later."¹ Another characteristic of both

¹Ginastera, lecture, "Essay for an Autobiography," Dartmouth College, July 3, 1968.

compositions, the frequent use of repetition, has been discussed earlier in connection with the Danzas. An example of the use of repetition in the first movement of the Sonata is found in the opening phrase (see Example 28), which consists of a two-measure unit repeated in varied form.

The first theme of the Sonata employs contrasting sonorities in different registers of the piano; these sonorities alternate antiphonally and overlap. Example 28 shows the antiphonal writing found at the beginning of the first movement.

The skip of a minor third, a motive noted in the opening phrase, is used again in measures 12 and 13. Here the interval of a third is filled in by passing tones, as may be seen in Example 29. The same Example shows polychordal writing resulting from independent streams of consecutive thirds.



Example 29. "Allegro marcato," measures 12-13.

The movement as a whole is marked by much tertian harmony used in polychordal progressions.

The second theme of the movement is based on a pentatonic scale derived from Inca music: A-F#-E-D-B, with the A only implied. Example 30 shows the opening measures of the second theme.



Example 30. "Allegro marcato," measures 52-55.

This section of the movement, marked *p*, *dolce e pastorale*, has been described by Ginastera as "cantando, intimate, lyrical, and suave, as opposed to the energetic first theme." Gilbert Chase states that this lyrical second theme may be regarded as representing the pastoral-lyric vein in Ginastera's music as contrasted with the pastoral-barbaric spirit epitomized in the malambo. He goes on to say: "Both aspects are strongly represented in Ginastera's music, which consistently follows the main pastoral tradition that has been predominant in Argentine life since the earliest times."¹

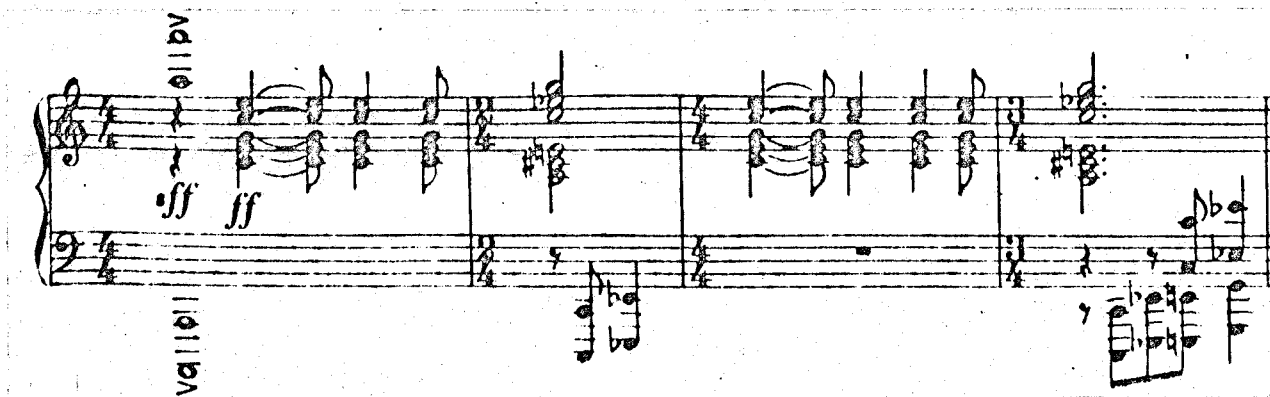
Within this section of the movement, the second theme is repeated in varied form, first at the same pitch level. After a transitional passage of planing, the theme is presented at the interval of a fifth higher.

The development section of the Sonata movement, beginning in measure 79, uses motives from both the first and second themes. Both quartal and tertian harmony are found

¹Chase, Musical Quarterly, XLIII, 456.

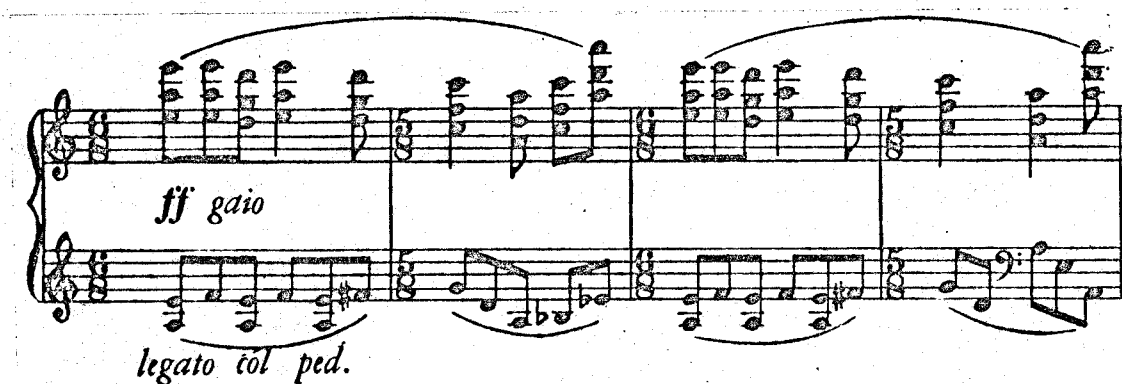
in the development, as well as polychordal passages, planing, and shifting meters.

In the recapitulation, beginning in measure 138 (see Example 31), the texture is thickened by added notes, a device Ginastera uses often for emphasis.



Example 31. "Allegro marcato," measures 138-141.

Both themes are in the Aeolian mode in the reprise. The second theme, beginning in measure 184, takes on a character very different from its initial lyrical mood; this time it is harmonized by full chords, with the indication *ff gaio* (see Example 32).



Example 32. "Allegro marcato," measures 184-187.

The scale passage in octaves near the close of the movement covers a five-octave span; this wide range is typical of Ginastera's pianistic writing.

Throughout the movement there are frequent changes of meter, as may be seen in the examples quoted above. The multiple metronome indications of the composer are shown in Example 28, p. 52. In addition to the shifting meters used, there is much syncopation in the movement; one illustration of this is found in Example 28.

This discussion of the first movement will be concluded with a résumé of the comments made by Ginastera regarding the interpretation of the first movement of his Sonata. In his words: "The movement is to begin in tempo; because of the shifting meters it is important to establish a steady eighth-note pulse and to maintain it throughout the movement except in the few places where rhythmic nuances are indicated in the score." However, he wants a slight ritard in the measure preceding the recapitulation. The composer asserts that performers should be careful to play non-legato wherever there are no slurs marked in the score. He adds that "in the loudest passages which are not slurred, this non-legato should take on the character of a martellato touch."

II. "Presto misterioso"

In the second movement of the Sonata, Ginastera makes use of a twelve-tone row for the first time in his piano mu-

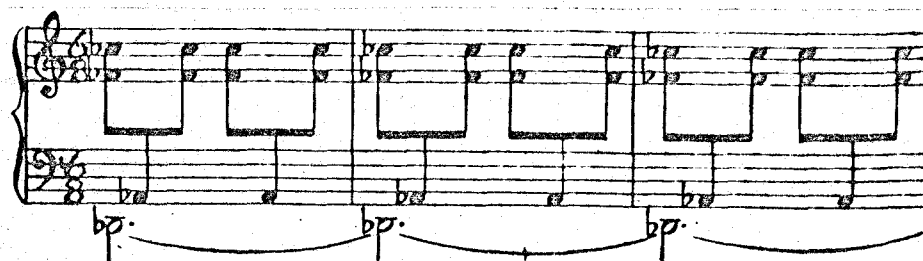
sic. However, the tone row is used only linearly, and not as the structural basis of the composition. The row is found in the opening measures, shown in Example 33.



Example 33. "Presto misterioso," measures 1-2.

The movement is in rondo-sonata form, ABACABA, with the tone row appearing only in the A sections. As is typical of Ginastera, many phrases consist of repeated two-measure units. The movement, marked presto misterioso, has a scherzo quality similar to the second movement of String Quartet No. 1, "Vivacissimo."

The symbolic guitar chord appears in several different guises within the movement. Bridge passages in the A and B sections of both the exposition and the recapitulation use a punteando guitar technique. Example 34 demonstrates a punteando bridge passage in the initial A section.



Example 34. "Presto misterioso," measures 17-19.

The passage in chromatic consecutive sixths within the first A section (measures 36-37), as well as the passage in chromatic consecutive thirds (measures 164-168) leading to the final A section, are in accord with the chromatic character of the opening tone row. As shown in Example 35, alternate notes of the row form chromatically rising and falling lines.



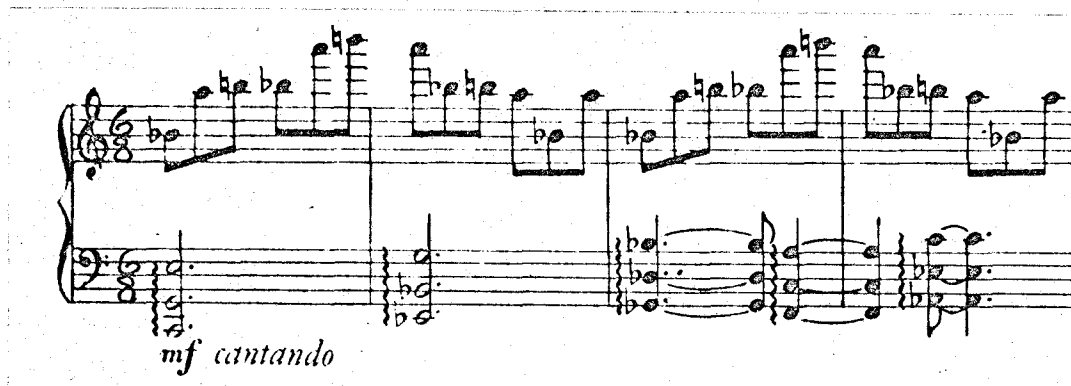
Example 35. "Presto misterioso," measures 1-2.

The B theme of the second movement, beginning in measure 48, employs rhythmic and melodic patterns derived from Argentine folk music. The melody is harmonized by consecutive triads in the right hand, accompanied by a left-hand pattern which intermittently employs quartal harmony. Example 36 shows the opening measures of the B section.



Example 36. "Presto misterioso," measures 48-49.

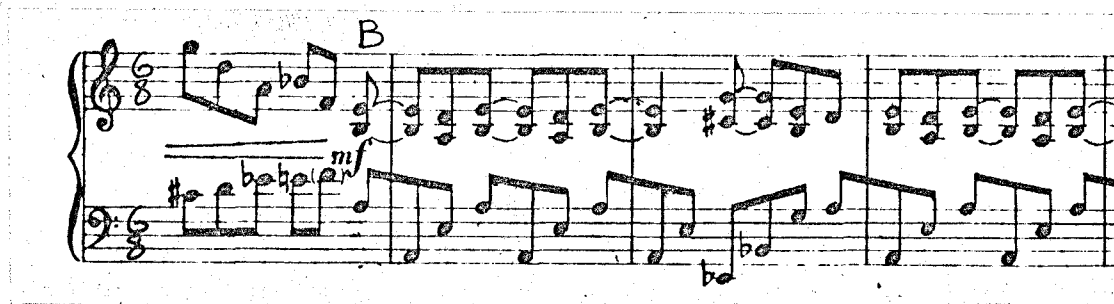
In the C section an Impressionistic type of sonority is found; the opening measures are marked pp leggero and lasciar vibrare. A two-measure ostinato is used almost continuously throughout the section. Noteworthy is the device shown in Example 37; here the ostinato is accompanied by left-hand chords which suggest the strumming of a guitar.



Example 37. "Presto misterioso," measures 97-100.

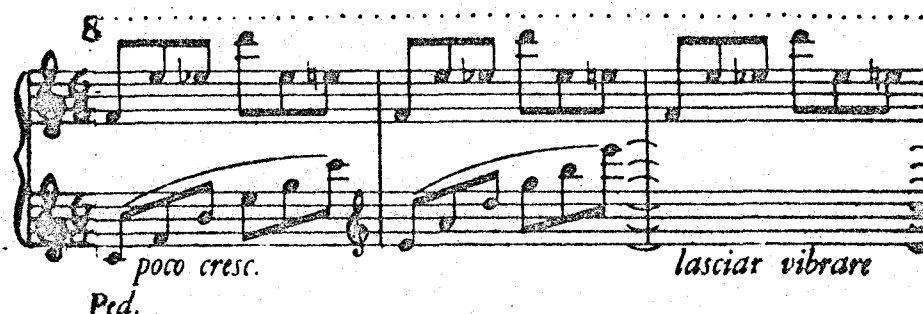
In the above Example the tone G serves as a pivot from the C-major chord to the E-flat-major chord, and B flat is the pivot between the E-flat-major chord and the G-flat-major chord; C is the pivot tone between the two concluding chords in the Example.

The C section is followed by a recurrence of A transposed a perfect fourth above its original pitch level. In the ensuing return of the B section quartal harmony is used, and the theme is more syncopated than at its initial appearance (see Example 38).



Example 38. "Presto misterioso," measures 144-147.

In the final return of A, the row is presented at its original pitch level. While the left hand continues a steady succession of eighth notes, the right hand follows the same pattern five octaves higher in fragmented fashion, with rests inserted to replace some of the notes. The symbolic guitar chord makes a fleeting appearance in the left hand near the close of the movement (see Example 39). Gilbert Chase remarks that here "its diatonic simplicity, contrasting with the restless chromatic motion that has been going on previously, brings a feeling of repose and leads quickly to the pianissimo ending."¹



Example 39. "Presto misterioso," measures 186-188.

¹Chase, Musical Quarterly, XLIII, 452.

III. "Adagio molto appassionato"

The slow movement of the Sonata is improvisational in character. Structurally the movement consists of an introduction, ABAB, and coda. In the introduction the symbolic guitar chord appears, arpeggiated and with altered pitches (see Example 40).



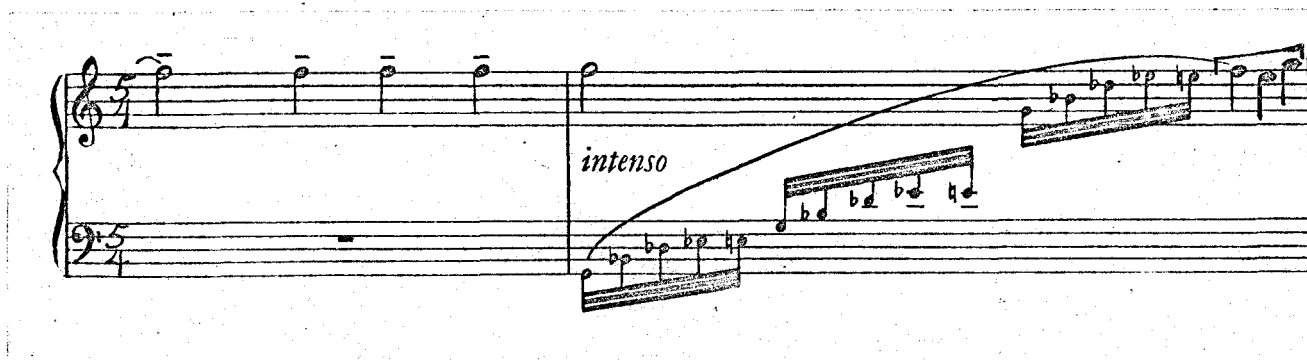
Example 40. "Adagio molto appassionato," measures 1-4.

This arpeggiated figure spins out into a rhapsodic cadenza at measure 12. There is an obvious relationship between the opening measures of this movement and the closing measures of the previous movement (see Example 39); in both movements a rising six-note arpeggiated chord is found, accompanied by the indication lasciar vibrare col ped.

In "Adagio molto appassionato" the twelve tones of the chromatic scale are used freely and equally, but the composition is not atonal. Temporary tonal centers are found throughout the movement, and both the introduction and the coda have a tonal center of D.

Example 41 shows the opening measures of the A theme;

the melodic motive bracketed is structurally important in both A sections.



Example 41. "Adagio molto appassionato," measures 13-14.

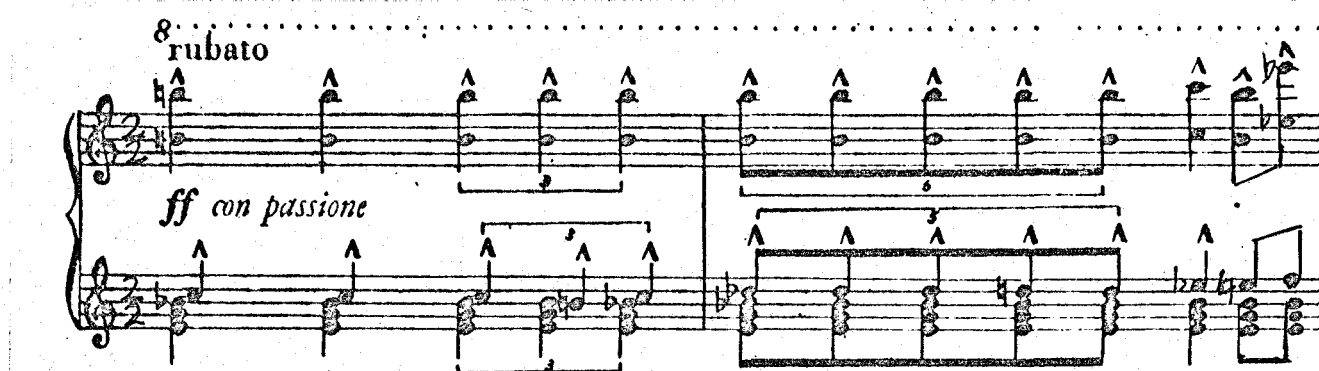
At the close of the A section, an arpeggiated guitar chord leads to a repeated high F, which serves as a pivot into the B section. This transitional measure and the opening measures of B are shown in Example 42.

This musical score shows measures 21, 22, 23, and 24. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody in the treble clef starts with a half note (F4) in measure 21, followed by a half note (F4) in measure 22, and then a half note (F4) in measure 23. The bass line in the bass clef is mostly silent, with a few notes appearing in measure 24. A bracket connects the first three measures of the melody to the first three measures of the bass line in measure 24, indicating a structural relationship. The word 'poco rall.' is written above the melody in measure 21. The word 'a Tempo' is written above the melody in measure 22. The word 'p lirico' is written below the bass line in measure 24.

Example 42. "Adagio molto appassionato," measures 21-24.

The B section dissolves into a transitional passage in which arpeggiated bass figuration is used, beginning a half-step lower in each measure. This transition, marked agitato and precipitatamente (molto accel.), leads to the return of A,

illustrated in Example 43.



Example 43. "Adagio molto appassionato," measures 34-35.

In the return of A the melody is treated sequentially, punctuated twice by a five-octave arpeggio in both hands.

The B theme returns in new guise in measure 40 (see Example 44).



Example 44. "Adagio molto appassionato," measures 40-43.

The coda, marked poco più lento del primo tempo, begins with the same arpeggio used in the introductory measures, and makes some brief use of the motive of the A theme bracketed in Example 41. The movement closes with an arpeggiated chord using all twelve tones (see Example 45).

8

allargando

pp sonoro ma lontanissimo

Ped.

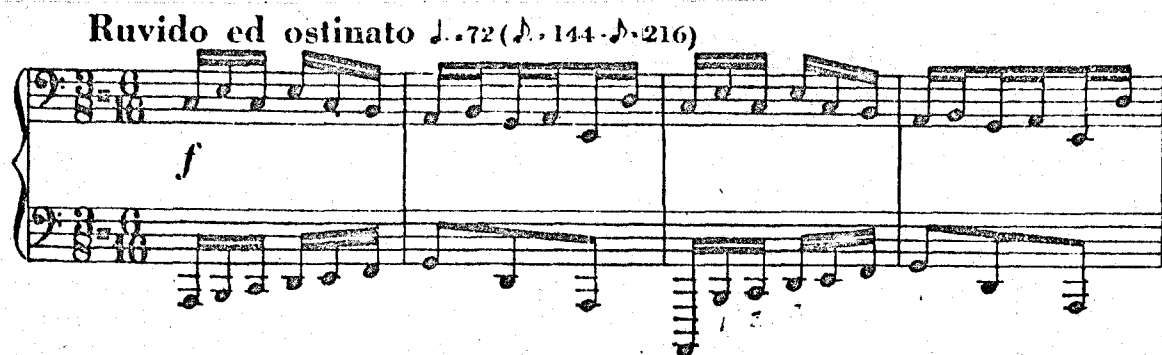
B & C . 10004

Example 45. "Adagio molto appassionato," measures 67-68.

IV. "Ruvido ed ostinato"

The marking of the finale of Sonata para piano, "Ruvido ed ostinato," draws attention to two important characteristics of the movement: a rough style (ruvido), and extensive use of ostinato. The movement is in modified rondo form: ABCABAB. As is usual in Ginastera's fast movements, most phrases are four measures in length, built up of two-measure units.

The melodies and rhythmic patterns of this movement are more closely related to folk music than are those of the two preceding movements of the Sonata. Several malambo characteristics are found in the movement: use of the meter 3/8-6/16, hemiola, and repetition of motives within phrases. All of these characteristics are found in the opening phrase of the movement (see Example 46).



Example 46. "Ruvido ed ostinato," measures 1-4.

Quartal harmony is used frequently throughout the movement. The B theme (see Example 47) is accompanied by an ostinato consisting of a quartal chord repeated for eight measures.



Example 47. "Ruvido ed ostinato," measures 27-28.

Two bridge passages lead to the C theme, which is in the Dorian mode, contrasting to the Aeolian mode which is predominant in the rest of the movement. Example 48 shows opening measures of the C theme, characterized by an ostinato accompaniment in the right hand combined with a left hand melody covering a range of three octaves.



Example 48. "Ruvido ed ostinato," measures 62-65.

After a return of A, the B theme reappears, this time becoming the basis of a canon, as is shown in Example 49. The accents shown in the Example were placed under the notes by Ginastera during an interview.



Example 49. "Ruvido ed ostinato," measures 94-96.

A long and brilliant bridge passage follows, using motives from the B theme. Within this bridge passage there are many measures of double pedal point accompanied by ostinato figuration (see Example 50).

alternate with right-hand chords in a passage beginning in the lower register of the piano and sweeping upward for five octaves. In this closing movement Ginastera has used relatively simple melodic materials, developing highly energized rhythmic drive through the use of ostinato.

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CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this survey of the complete piano works of Alberto Ginastera we have traced the evolution of his style from Danzas Argentinas (1937) through the Sonata para piano (1952). We have noted that the composer's piano compositions have followed a gradual trend away from the style of his early period, in which the influence of Argentine folk music was paramount, toward a more international style, which represents a synthesis of contemporary compositional techniques with the composer's environmental heritage. The following paragraphs will summarize the stylistic development found in the piano compositions of Ginastera.

Ginastera has stated that his first published piano work, Danzas Argentinas, "is based on melodic and rhythmic patterns similar to those found in the folk music of my native land."¹ Characteristics of Creole folk music found in the Danzas include: use of ostinato, repetition of short rhythmic and melodic patterns, sequential treatment, and harmonization of melodies in parallel thirds. The second Danza has elements of both major and minor modes, relating it to bimodal Latin-American folk songs. The symbolic guitar chord found in Danzas Argentinas is a very significant feature of Ginastera's music of all periods. Inca influence appears in

¹Ginastera, lecture, "Essay for an Autobiography," Dartmouth College, July 3, 1968.

the first Danza, where a short melody is based on a pentatonic scale.

The harmonic idiom of Danzas Argentinas includes tertian, quartal, added-second, and polytonal chord types. Streams of similar chords as well as pedal points are used often. The first and third dances of the suite are based on modified rondo forms derived from the repetition scheme of the malambo; these dances also employ the rhythmic patterns and the frequent use of hemiola typical of the malambo. All of the characteristics mentioned above in connection with Danzas Argentinas are found again in later piano compositions of Ginastera, and may be considered typical of his style.

In Tres Piezas (1940) the composer continues to use melodic, rhythmic, and structural elements of Argentine folk music. However, in each of these pieces he now tries to reflect the spirit of either a geographic area or an ethnic group, rather than using characteristics of a specific song or dance. The composer also uses a type of keyboard figuration new in his piano compositions; he employs widely sweeping arpeggios, achieving Impressionistic effects reflecting the influence of his teachers at the National Conservatory of Buenos Aires. In the finale of the suite, "Criolla," urban as well as rural Argentine song types are juxtaposed for the first time within a single piano composition.

Twelve American Preludes (1944) represent a new stage in Ginastera's development as a composer for the piano.

Ginastera describes the preludes as experimental studies written while he was searching for new musical idioms. The following preludes are based on Creole folk music not used earlier in Ginastera's compositions: No. 1) "Sadness" (triste), No. 2) "Accents," No. 3) "Creole Dance," and No. 4) "Vidala." An Argentine urban air, the tango, is the basis of No. 8), "Tribute to Juan José Castro." Inca pentatonic scales are used in No. 5), "In the First Pentatonic Minor Mode," and No. 12), "In the First Pentatonic Major Mode." Prelude No. 6), "Tribute to Roberto García Morillo," is a toccata in which Ginastera uses the resources of the keyboard to achieve a type of pianistic brilliance new in his style. The composer calls Prelude No. 9), "Tribute to Aaron Copland," an "experiment in American jazz style," and describes No. 10), "Pastorale," and No. 11), "Tribute to Heitor Villa-Lobos," as "compositions based on the style of Brazilian music."

Ginastera regards his Suite de Danzas Criollas as marking the beginning of his second style period in piano music, a period of subjective nationalism. The composer states that "all of the melodies and rhythms in the Suite are Argentine; however, this material is used in a new, personal, and imaginative way, as if inspired by a folklore dream."

While Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tunes (1947) does not represent a notable advance in the composer's style, it may be cited as containing elements found in Ginastera's piano music from the early Danzas Argentinas through the Piano

Sonata: polychordal textures, quartal as well as tertian harmony, planing, pedal points, use of modes, a climactic glissando, and use of the extreme registers of the piano.

The Sonata para piano (1952) shows several advances in the composer's trend toward an international style. However, Ginastera still draws on Argentine sources in this work. In the composer's words: "Although Sonata para piano incorporates stylistic elements found in the early Danzas Argentinas, it is less simple and folklike."

The opening movement of the Sonata uses sonata-form for the first time in the composer's piano compositions; earlier piano works have been based primarily on AB, ABA, or various types of rondo forms. Unlike the three Danzas Argentinas, the first movement of the Sonata is characterized by frequent meter changes; these shifting meters give a restless feeling. The movement is strongly marked by polytonality, with many passages employing two different chord streams moving independently.

In the second movement Ginastera uses twelve-tone procedures as well as rhythmic and melodic motives related to Argentine folk music; here he synthesizes national and international style characteristics. This movement, "Presto misterioso," also represents a new type of fantastic scherzo not found in his earlier piano compositions.

The third movement of the Sonata, "Adagio appassionato,"

might be called a study in sonorities which the composer develops into a whole movement. This movement represents a trend away from key-oriented writing; the composer uses the twelve tones equally in relation to temporary tonal centers.

The finale of the Sonata, "Ruvido ed ostinato," is in toccata style. Here, as in Danzas Argentinas, Ginastera concludes a composition with an exciting malambo. However, this movement employs contrapuntal and developmental techniques not found in earlier malambo movements for the piano.

Although our survey of Ginastera's piano music has revealed gradual changes in his style, these changes are quite minor in comparison to the stylistic evolution found in his compositions as a whole. The reason for this is quite obvious; the Sonata para piano, Ginastera's latest published composition for solo piano, was written in 1952. The composer has explained that his interest in composing for the piano has not diminished; however, he has not had time in recent years to compose for piano because he has been kept busy fulfilling commissions for other types of works. Consequently, none of his piano music represents the style of his third period, beginning in 1958, which the composer has described as "more international, with growing interest in inner emotions and unreal elements."¹ Ginastera's Sonata para piano sounds quite conservative when compared with his opera Bomarzo (1968), in which the composer strives to pre-

¹Ginastera, lecture, "Essay for an Autobiography," Dartmouth College, July 3, 1968.

sent a mysterious and magical world, using serial technique, microtonalism, chromatic whole, and aleatory forms.¹ However, the unreal and magical qualities found in many third period compositions are foreshadowed in the second movement of Sonata para piano.

In discussing the future development of music for the piano, Ginastera expressed the hope that within this century pianos with microtones will become readily available. He is also interested in having pianos equipped with different registers which may be operated by stops.

Alberto Ginastera's compositions represent a synthesis of rural and urban, of national and international elements. His constantly developing musical style has brought him to the forefront of the composers of the western hemisphere. Whatever trend his piano music may follow in the future, the author believes that he will continue to assimilate international techniques without relinquishing the influence of the musical heritage of his native land.

¹Ginastera, Central Opera Service Bulletin IX, 12.

LIST OF PIANO SOLO COMPOSITIONS,
FIRST PERFORMANCES, AND PUBLISHERS¹

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>First Performance</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
1937	<u>Danzas Argentinas</u>	Oct. 27, 1937. Buenos Aires. Antonio De Raco	Durand & Cie.
?	<u>Piezas Infantiles</u>	Information not available	G. Schirmer, Inc. in <u>Latin-American</u> <u>Art Music</u>
?	<u>Milonga</u>	Information not available	Ricordi
1940	<u>Tres Piezas</u>	Oct. 16, 1940. Montevideo. Hugh Balzo	Ricordi
1940	<u>Malambo</u>	Sept. 11, 1940. Montevideo. Hugh Balzo	Ricordi
1944	<u>Twelve American Preludes</u>	Aug. 7, 1944. Buenos Aires. Raúl Spivak	Carl Fischer, Inc.
1946	<u>Suite de Danzas Criollas</u>	July 26, 1947. Buenos Aires. Rudolf Firkusny	Barry & Co.
1947	<u>Rondo on Argentine Children's Folk Tunes</u>	May 3, 1949. Buenos Aires. Julio Perceval	Barry & Co.
1952	<u>Sonata for piano Commissioned by the Carnegie Institute and The Pennsylvania College for Women</u>	Nov. 29, 1953. Pittsburgh. Johana Harris	Barry & Co.

Note: The compositions published by Barry & Co. are available in the United States and Great Britain through Boosey and Hawkes.

¹The above information was extracted from the article by Chase in Musical Quarterly, XLIII, 558-560.

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