

Chamber America

Ensemble: Manuel Valera and New Cuban Express

Bandleader: Manuel Valera

Ensemble members:

NAME	INSTRUMENT
Manuel Valera	Piano
Sofia Rey	Voice
Yosvany Terry	Saxophone
Hans Glawischnig	Bass
Ludwig Afonso	Drums
Mauricio Herrera	Percussion
Tom Guarna	Guitar

Title of Work: *José Martí en Nueva York*

Composer: Manuel Valera

Date completed: 2013

Work Length: 60 minutes

Work Description:

An eight-part song cycle that interprets the poems of José Martí's *Versos Sencillos*, written in New York in the late 1800s by this Cuban national hero, revolutionary philosopher and poet.

Valera explains: "The music is a mixture of Afro-Cuban folkloric music with contemporary harmonies and lyrical melodies. These poems were meant for everyday folks. So, when composing the music I wanted it to be accessible even for any listener. On some of the pieces I decided to use two poems for the same song, especially if the subject matter and rhythm of the prose were similar. Martí's poetry has a wide range of emotions and Martí in New York has a similar approach: some of the music is sorrowful and introspective while some is joyous and exuberant."

Recording:

A CD recording of the work is in progress.

Technical Requirements/Specs:

General Information:

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