

Tango Cappella *Argentina*

Including the tango is an indulgence amid the folk music which makes up this collection. The Argentinian tango was a 1920s phenomenon which spawned hundreds of compositions by a wide range of composers. I selected two of them from a collection of scores which I was given, chosen partly because of their similarly nostalgic and sad mood and partly because they could be performed together without too much interference. However, their harmonies were very basic, and it seemed to me that it would be possible to incorporate in them some of the sophisticated chord progressions of jazz and of the more serious composers of that period. Tango Cappella is essentially a chamber piece. It is both tongue in cheek and a homage to a particular style and period.

Here the pronunciation is essentially the same as El cascabel. However, unlike the rest of the pieces included in this set, Tango Cappella is based not on folk songs but on two similar but different composed songs from the 1920s in Argentina. They do not have the powerful flourishes of the more modern tango, but are songs of great sadness and loss, and can be sung in a gentle and not overacted way.

Make unpitched percussion noises or pitched sounds as written. Improvise other rhythms and sounds as appropriate.

*I imagine the flickering of lights in the distance marking my return:
Those same lights whose pale reflections lit hours of deep pain.
Even though I didn't want to come back, one always returns to the first love.
The quiet street where the echo said: 'Her life is yours, her love is yours,'
Under the mocking gaze of the stars that with indifference watch me return today.*

*Return – with face withered, forehead silvered by the snows of time.
To feel – that life is a gust of wind, that twenty years is nothing, that feverishly
The look wandering in the shadows seeks you and names you
To live – with the soul enchained to a sweet memory, so that I cry once more.*

*I am afraid of the encounter with the past that returns to confront my life.
I am afraid of the nights which, filled with memories, enchain my dreams.
But the traveller who flees sooner or later stops walking.
And although forgetfulness, which destroys everything,
Has killed my old illusion, I keep hidden a humble hope,
Which is my heart's whole fortune.
To return ...*

Alfredo Le Pera (1900–1935)

*Little path, erased by time, that once saw us pass by together,
I have come for a last time, I have come to tell you my misfortune.*

*Little path which was once embroidered with clover and flowering reeds:
You will soon be a shadow, a shadow just like me.*

*Little path which time that changes so much leaves in my heart.
Mocked by the stars, which with indifference see me return today.*

*Since she left, I live sadly. Little path, my friend, I'm leaving too.
Since she left, she has never returned. I'll follow her steps. Goodbye, little path.*

Gabino Coria Peñaloza (1881–1975)

El cascabel

'Son jarocho' from Mexico

(Soloists, Sopranos 1 & 2, Altos 1 & 2, Tenor, Bass)

arr. Mike Brewer

♩ = 100

S or T *f* *very freely*

SOLO 1 *f* *very freely* Yo te - nia mi - ca - sca - bel. Yo te - nia mi ca - sca - bel,

SOLO 2 *f* *very freely* Yo te - nia mi - ca - sca - bel.

1 *f* *rit.* mi ca - sca - bel, mi ca - sca - bel, mi ca - sca - bel, mi ca - sca - bel, mi ca - sca -

2 *f* Yo te - nia mi ca - sca - bel, mi ca - sca - bel, mi ca - sca - bel, mi ca - sca -

12 *ten.* *slower* ♩ = 80 *Meno mosso* ♩ = 60

1 - bel!

2 - bel!

S1 *mp* Pa - ra ju - gar con el! *p*

A1 *mp* Pa - ra ju - gar con el! *p*

T *mp* *rit.* Ju - gar con...

16 *Very fast* ♩ = 160 *f*

A2 *f* Pa - ra pa pa pa - ra

T *f* Pa - ra pa pa - ra pa - ra pa, pa - ra pa pa pa - ra

B *f* Pam pam pam pa da da, pam pam pam pa da da, pam pam pam

21 S1 and 2 in competition with each other *mf*

S1 Yo te -

A1 *f* Pa-ra pa pa pa-ra pa-ra pa, pa-ra pa pa pa-ra pa-ra pa! *p* Ma-dum-a

A2 pa-ra pa, pa-ra pa pa pa-ra pa-ra pa, pa-ra pa pa pa-ra pa-ra pa! *p* Ma-dum-a

T *f* pa-ra pa, pa-ra pa pa pa-ra pa-ra pa, pa-ra pa pa pa-ra pa-ra pa! *p* Ma-dum-a

B pa da da, *f* pam pam pam pa da da, *f* pam pam pam pa. Dmm dmm

26

S1 - nia mi ca - sca - bel con u - na cin - ta mo - ra - da.

S2 *mf* Con u -

A1 dum - a ma-dum thrum - a - dum, dum - a dum - a ma-dum thrum - a - dum, dum - a

A2 dum - a ma-dum thrum - a - dum, dum - a dum - a ma-dum thrum - a - dum, dum - a

T *f* dum - a ma-dum thrum - a - dum, dum - a dum - a ma-dum thrum - a - dum, dum - a

B *mp* dmm dmm dmm dmm dmm dmm dmm dmm dmm dmm dmm dmm

Pueblo sunrise song

from New Mexico

(Soloists, Sopranos 1 & 2, Altos 1 & 2, Tenor, Baritone, Bass)

♩ = 88 The earth stirs before dawn.

arr. Mike Brewer

TENOR SOLO

BARITONE SOLO

TENOR

BARITONE

BASS

pp Distant

Wah_ ta - ho, ta -

pp *div.* *pp* *Eh* *unis.*

Ah Ah ah ah

A FEW VOICES

pp *p*

Ah ah ah

10

T Solo

Bar Solo

T

Bar

B

p Distant echo

Wah_ ta - ho, ta - ho.

mf Nearer

Wah ut ta - ho na - wi ta - na - lo.

p

ee ee ee

ah ah ah

ah ah ah

Tango Cappella

from Argentina

(Chamber Group, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass)

Tango ♩ = 112

arr. Mike Brewer

Both times

SOPRANO GROUP 1 *p* Da - ra - dum dum dum. Da - ra dum dum dum. Da - ra

Enter second time

SOPRANO GROUP 2 *p* Dang dang dang dang. Dang dang dang dang.

SOPRANO *p* Chk chk chuck a chk chk chk chk. Chk chk chuck a chk chk chk chk.

ALTO *p* Ta - ka ta — ka ta ka. Ta - ka ta — ka ta ka.

TENOR *p* Ting ting ting tang ting ting ting. Ting ting ting tang ting ting ting.

BASS *p* Rram bam bam. Rr - ram bam bam. Rr -

3

1 dum dum dum. Da - ra dum dum dum. Da - ra

2 Dang dang dang dang. Dang dang dang dang.

S Chk chk chuck - a chk chk chk chk. Chk chk chuck - a chk chk chk chk.

A Ta - ka ta — ka ta ka. Ta - ka ta — ka ta ka.

T Ting ting ting tang ting ting ting. Ting ting ting tang ting ting ting.

B - ram bam bam. Rr - ram bam bam. Rr -