

# Newsletter — Fall 2009

Classical Guitarist Stanley Alexandrowicz



## Albany Records releases **Argento's Postcard from Morocco**

Albany Records has released the CD of the excellent Curtis Opera's production in which I was guest artist:  
"A premiere recording of one of his pre-eminent composer's operas."

Dominick Argento: Postcard from Morocco

Label: Albany Records

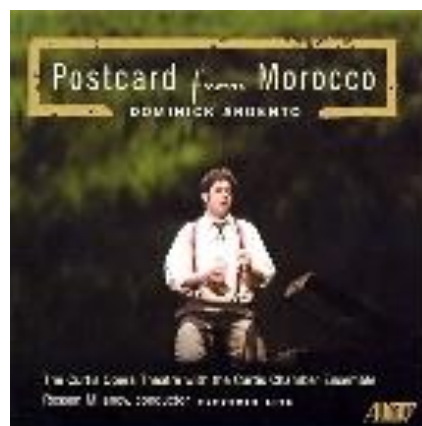
Catalog Number: TR1098-99

Running Time: 1:27:31

Composition Date: 1971

Recording Date: Apr 2007 — Aug 2007

Composers: Dominick Argento



Performers: Elliot Madore, baritone; Tammy Coil, mezzo-soprano; Alexander Michael Petersen, viola; Aaron Stewart, saxophone; Gabe Globus-Hoenich, percussion; Melissa White, violin; Joshua Stewart, tenor; Johnny Teyssier, clarinet; Eric L. Thompson III, double bass; Curtis Chamber Ensemble; Achilles Liarmakopoulos, trombone; Rossen Milanov, Conductor; Amanda Majeski, soprano; Lisa Keller, piano; Benjamin Folk, percussion; Brian Zachary Porter, tenor; Evan Hughes, bass; Rinnah Moriah, soprano; Curtis Opera Theatre; Lisa Keller, celesta; Stanley Alexandrowicz, guitar

Website Information:

<http://www.dramonline.org/performers/alexandrowicz-stanley>

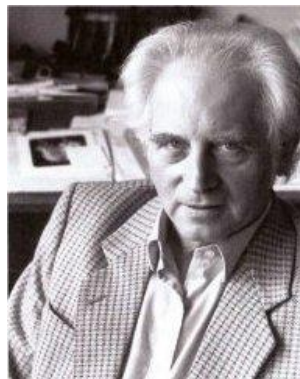
<http://www.albanyrecords.com/>

CD Booklet PDF: <http://www.theclassicalshop.net/pdf/TR%201098.pdf>



(Photo of concert performance courtesy of Albany Records)

## FALL Events:



### **Václav Kucera 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday concerts**

*"Stanley Alexandrowicz is not only an excellent musician of international significance, outstanding concert guitar virtuoso, but also a remarkable, deeply learned pedagogue on the field of musical theory—he is developing with me a very intensive and fruitful artistic collaboration, playing, presenting and analyzing my compositions for and with guitar." (Václav Kucera, Prague, 2008)*

(born 29 April 1929 in Prague)

In honor of Maestro Kucera's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, special concert events are planned, including:

#### **"80th Birthday Concert Tribute" at Goucher College Maryland on 21 October, 2009.**

It will feature an "All Czech Program" featuring the Goucher Chamber Orchestra (Stanley Alexandrowicz—Guitar Soloist)—the highlight of which will be Maestro Kucera's "Concierto imaginativo – homenaje a Salvador Dalí" a U.S. premiere.

#### **Composers Voice Series - Václav Kucera 80th Birthday Tribute**

Solo Guitar Recital  
Jan Hus Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, 29 November, 2009, 1 PM  
351 East 74th Street  
New York, NY 10021

<http://www.VoxNovus.com>

(This concert will be an All-Contemporary solo guitar recital, the highlight of which will be Kucera's "Diario—Omaggio a Che Guevara." Also featured are several premiers—including the NY premiere of Brian Fenelly's "Maverick Prelude and Tango," world premiere of Carlton Wilkinson's "Perilous Seas—Concert Fantasy for Solo Guitar," NY premiere of Eric Sessler's "Bombadiliana," and others.)

(For more information on the composer: <http://www.musica.cz/comp/kucera.htm>)

British composer and musical journalist John Duarte writes "Diario—Omaggio a Che Guevara, is a "musical-political" document, recording five notional, critical days in the life of its eponymous, revolutionary hero. The Day of Love mixes tenderly romantic passages with sterner ones, suggesting his realization that what he (Che Guevara) wishes to do cannot be accomplished without strife. The Day of Hate (for the system he opposes) is filled with trills that quiver with rages, dissonant declamation and stark, mostly quartal, chords. A grimly determined and relentless triplet rhythm frames the Day of Decision, abating only the central section in order to make a statement of intent before accelerating to a thunderous climax. Drum-beats announce the arrival of the Day of Battle, and punctuate its opening page before giving way to a violent frenzy of dissonance, chord tremolandi; a fortissimo ascent to the extreme upper register is followed by a descent to a quiet, chilling diminuendo, with notes subjected to exaggerated vibrato as the action ceases but the emotion remains. Percussion of a different kind (symbolizing heart-beats) persist through the Day of Death, a funeral cortege interrupted only by a brief, impassioned oration in which the use of parallel fourths above an ostinato based on the same interval, suggests emptiness of hope. The end signifies resignation to the inevitable."

## NOTES ON UPCOMING PREMIERES:

### Carlton Wilkinson's "Perilous Seas—Concert Fantasy for Solo Guitar"

Perilous Seas was commissioned by Stanley Alexandrowicz. The composer writes "I had written a set of three songs, based on the poetry of John Falk, for Stanley and soprano Sungji Kim. At Stanley's suggestion, I adapted the first of these songs into a fantasy for guitar alone, combining aspects of the melody and the guitar part. The imagery of the original poem, "Mermaid", involves a dreamlike encounter between a human observer and a beguiling mermaid, regarding one another in their respective elements. The music intends to illustrate the wave-inspired motions of her sensual undersea world, the somewhat clinical curiosity and resignation of the observer and the tension between the two." For more information visit the composer's American Composers Forum website at:

[http://www.composersforum.org/member\\_profile.cfm?oid=7832](http://www.composersforum.org/member_profile.cfm?oid=7832)

### Brian Fennelly's "Maverick Prelude and Tango"

Brian Fennelly (born Kingston, NY 1937) studied music composition and theory at Yale with Mel Powell, Donald Martino, Allen Forte, Gunther Schuller, and George Perle (M.Mus '65, Ph.D. '68). From 1968 to 1997 he was Professor of Music in the Faculty of Arts and Science at New York University, where he is now Professor Emeritus. In addition to a Guggenheim fellowship, his awards include three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, three composer grants from the Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund, two Koussevitsky Foundation commissions, and an award for lifetime achievement from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Major works include *In Wildness is the Preservation of the World*, *Fantasy Variations*, and *A Thoreau Symphony*, all for orchestra, choral settings of Shelley, Keats and Whitman, three string quartets, three brass quintets, two piano sonatas, and *Skyscapes I - IV* for mixed quintets. His music has been awarded prizes in such prestigious competitions as the Louisville Orchestra New Music Competition and the Goffredo Petrassi International Competition for orchestral music. He is co-director of the Washington Square Contemporary Music Society, which he founded in 1976.

Maverick Tango is in two parts, a prelude and a tango. The tango, written in 2003, is essentially an arrangement for solo guitar of the tango from Tombeau and Tango, a piece in two parts for 2 bass violas da gamba dedicated to the memory of Vincent Wagner, long-time music director of Maverick Concerts in Woodstock, NY, and written for the ensemble Parthenia. Tango was intended to be the lighter of the two pieces, and, as Vincent admitted to being less than totally agile on his feet, it includes a few lapses in metric regularity. The "Maverick" in the title refers not only to Vincent's Maverick summer concert series, but also the fact that it was there that David Starobin suggested its composition. The Prelude was added before the tango in 2008 at the request of guitarist Stanley Alexandrowicz; it is a free fantasy on a motive found in Tombeau. ( <http://www.amc.net/BrianFennelly> )

### Eric Sessler's "Bombadiliana"

Eric Sessler's works have been premiered throughout the United States and he has received numerous awards, including the ASCAP Foundation Award, the Charles E. Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, the Theodore Presser Music Foundation Award and a Meet the Composer Grant. Among the performing organizations to commission works from Mr. Sessler are Concerto Soloists Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Music Group of Philadelphia, The Red Heel Theatre, Astral Artistic Services, and Cantabile Chamber Chorale. His music is published by Silver Sun Press and Les Productions d'OZ. Eric Sessler studied composition at The Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School with Samuel Adler, David Diamond and Ned Rorem. Also an active teacher, Mr. Sessler is on the music faculty of The Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School. ( <http://www.ericssessler.com/> )

*Bombadiliana* (2001) is a virtuoso tour-de-force inspired by the Tolkien Character Tom Bombadil:

"Old Tom Bombadil is a merry fellow,  
Bright blue his jacket is, and his boots are yellow.  
None has ever caught him yet, for Tom, he is the master:  
His songs are stronger songs, and his feet are faster."

J.R.R. Tolkien

For updates and additional information : <http://stanleyalexandrowicz.com>  
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