

Piano Music of Cuba

Alexandre Moutouzkine



STEINWAY & SONS

My journey into Cuban music started when I met my teacher and mentor, Solomon Mikowsky, a man to whom I owe so much in my development as a musician and a person. Over the years, Dr. Mikowsky has become an endless source of inspiration, motivation, and encouragement.

My early studies of Cuban music – predictable and enjoyable – were little pieces by Cervantes and Lecuona. But after settling into Dr. Mikowsky's studio, my perception of Cuban music changed immensely. Here, an entirely new world of rich, complex harmonies, percussive statements, and swirls of imagination was opened up to me.

During this time I had the privilege of performing at the Ignacio Cervantes International Piano Competition in Havana – an unforgettable experience which had an indelible impact on my love for Cuban music. As a requirement for the contest, I learned a Concert Etude by Juan Piñera, a piece that was so different from anything that I had ever thought of as Cuban music. Its sound palette, inventiveness, and blissful strokes of color – every note magically transported me to a glistening world of incredible imagination and unique harmonies. Winning the prize for the best performance at this competition was one

of the most meaningful moments in my life. I will always consider Piñera's Etude as my first true Cuban music experience.

Since then, every new Cuban composer whom I have come across has presented a feast of musical discovery. Roldan and Caturla create lush harmonies that are disparate and unique, yet work together in flawless layers. Roberto Valera's witty, captivating mind and masterful craft radiates with depth and dimension. The breathtaking delicacy and charm of Léo Brouwer is mesmerizing. Then, there is the absolutely enchanting world of Juan Piñera. Thankfully, the list goes on and on.

Looking at the map, Cuba appears to be a little island. No one though, should be fooled by its size. This little island carries more merit than one can imagine. Through each composer's offerings, we can fully envision the possibilities that music holds for those whose lives have been touched so deeply by their work. It has been exceptionally rewarding for me to make this recording. I hope it will open the doors, even slightly, into the endless talent of this fascinating place!

– Alexandre Moutouzkine

Alexandre Moutouzkine

Russian-American pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine is one of today's most sought-after artists, whose expressive sound, deft phrasing, and virtuosic brilliance has garnered critical acclaim from around the world. Upon his win of the prestigious Van Cliburn International Competition Special Award for Artistic Potential at age 19, the *Dallas Morning News* wrote that Mr. Moutouzkine "played Brahms' Op. 117 Intermezzi more beautifully, more movingly, than I've ever heard them. At once sad, tender and noble, this was playing of heart-stopping intimacy and elegance." Since then, Mr. Moutouzkine went on to win top prizes in more than 20 international competitions, including the Naumburg, Cleveland, Montreal, New Orleans, Iturbi (Valencia), Maria Canals (Barcelona) and Arthur Rubinstein (Tel Aviv). He also won the Astral Artists' 2009 National Auditions. He has appeared as a soloist with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Brno Philharmonic Orchestra of the Czech Republic, Israel Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra and Radiotelevision Orchestra of Spain, among other orchestras around the world. Highlights of the upcoming season include Mr. Moutouzkine's debut at

Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, return engagements at Florida's Kravis Center and Miami Music Festival, the CD release of Cuban works on the Steinway and Sons label, and performances and master classes in Shanghai, Taipei, Halle, Madrid, Havana, Bogotá, and Moscow. After winning First Prize in Vladimir Krainev's International Competition in 1995, he joined Mr. Krainev's studio at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover. He also holds an undergraduate degree from Nizhny Novgorod Music Academy under Natalia Fish, as well as master's and post-graduate degrees from Manhattan School of Music in New York, where he studied with Solomon Mikowsky. Most recently, Mr. Moutouzkine received an "Artist of the Season Award" from Chamber Music International in Dallas and a "Distinguished Alumni Award" from Manhattan School of Music, where he was appointed to its faculty in September 2013.



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Piano Music of Cuba was recorded at
Steinway Hall, New York City:
Spirio recording made January 15 and June 14, 2016,
audio recording made October 13, 2016.

Producer: Jon Feidner | Engineer: Lauren Sturm
Mixing and Mastering: Daniel Shores | Editing: Robert Hillinck
Equipment: Pyramix using Merging Technologies Horus Converters;
mixed and mastered through Merging Technologies Horus Converter
Microphones: AEA N8, Schoeps MC6/MK2

Executive Producers: Eric Feidner, Jon Feidner
Design: Cover to Cover Design, Anilda Carrasquillo
Photos of Alexandre Moutouzkine: Svetlana Blasucci
Jacket and pants: Jussara Lee

Spirio Record Pianos: Steinway Model B #567568 (New York),
Steinway Model D #519960 (Hamburg)
Spirio Playback Piano: Steinway Model D #597590 (New York)
Piano Technicians: Glen Bingham, Lauren Sturm
Performances captured using Steinway's
exclusive Spirio® technology;
audio recording made using Spirio®
piano in playback mode.

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Alexandre Moutouzkine

Russian-American virtuoso Alexandre Moutouzkine explores the solo piano repertoire of Cuba, a world of rich, complex harmonies, percussive statements, and swirls of imagination.

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| Tomás Buelta y Flores (1791–1844) | 1 La Valentina 0:40 |
| Ernán López Nussa (1958) | 2 Niña con violín 2:37 |
| César Pérez Sentenat (1896–1973) | 3 Palmas reales rubias 2:01 |
| Enrique Guerrero (1818–1887) | 4 La que a ti te gusta 1:12 |
| Argeliers León (1918–1991) | 5 Invención No. 3 2:14 |
| Roberto Valera (1938) | 6 Cuento sonoro 6:09 |
| Léo Brouwer (1939) | 7 Boceto No. 4 "Acosta Leon" 3:47 |
| José Ardévol Gimbernat (1911–1981) | 8 Danzón 2:44 |
| Juan Piñera (1949) | 9 Estudio de concierto 3:45 |
| José María Vitier (1954) | 10 Habanera del angel 4:23 |
| Nilo Rodríguez Suárez (1921–1997) | 11 Preludio No. 3: Motivos de danza 2:54 |
| Héctor Angulo (1932) | 12 Zapatéo Cubano 1:50 |
| Amadéo Roldán Gardes (1900–1939) | 13 Mulato 1:32 |
| Edgardo Martín Cantero (1915–2004) | 14 Preludio No. 6 de "Seis preludios" 1:16 |
| Andrés Alén (1950) | 15 Que confusión de tonos 1:34 |
| Alejandro García Caturla (1906–1940) | 16 Comparsa 2:32 |
| Juan Piñera (1949) | 17 Y el brillo de la luna te encantaba 6:24 |
| Aldo López Gavilán (1979) | 18 Pan con "Timba" 3:35 |

Playing Time: 51:09



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