

CHANNEL CROSSINGS

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CELLO OCTET

Conjunto Ibérico

Elias Arizcuren
CONDUCTOR

Claudio Prieto
Ramón Lazkano
Agustín Charles
José Luis Greco

Conjunto Ibérico

Elias Arizcuren CONDUCTOR



- Claudio Prieto (1934)**
1 Caminando por la aventura 15.43
(1996, dedicated to Conjunto Ibérico)
soloists: Jeroen den Herder, Artur Trajko

- Ramón Lazkano (1968)**
2 Su-Itzalak (Sombras de fuego) 14.18
(1996, dedicated to Conjunto Ibérico)
soloist: Jeroen den Herder

- Agustín Charles (1960)**
3 Divertimento for eight celli 11.56
(1994, dedicated to Conjunto Ibérico)

- José Luis Greco (1953)**
4 Invisible 16.15
(1995, dedicated to Conjunto Ibérico)

Total Time 58.17

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Production & Distribution

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Made in Germany

PRODUCTION	Channel Classics Records BV
PRODUCER	Tom Peeters
RECORDING ENGINEER	Arnout Probst
EDITING	Tom Peeters
COVER ILLUSTRATION	'El Rio en el Otoño' (1986) © Marta Cárdenas 1997 c/o Beeldrecht Amstelveen
COVER DESIGN	Jan van Waarden BNO
LINER NOTES	Elias Arizcuren
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	C. Jared Sacks

P All Channel Classics recordings are realised with extensive use of custom made Rens Heijnis Audio equipment & microphones

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

MICROPHONES	Rens Heijnis / Bruel & Kjaer 4003
DIGITAL CONVERTER	DCS 900C
SPEAKERSYSTEMS	Celestion & AKG K1000 Headphones
RECORDING LOCATION	Doopsgezinde Kerk Amsterdam
RECORDING DATES	13,14,15 January 1997

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Cello Octet Conjunto Ibérico

Conductor: Elías Arizcuren

cellists: Jeroen den Herder (soloist), Rebecca Smit, Hanneke van de Bund, Olga van Oeffelen,
Christiaan van Hemert, Jeanny Beerkens, Juan Pablo Alemán, Artur Trajko

(photo: A.Hakim)

The **CELLO OCTET CONJUNTO IBÉRICO** is a 'full time' ensemble, a unique formation in the world of classical music. Founded in 1989, it resides in Amsterdam (The Netherlands). The name of the ensemble reflects the nationality of its artistic director and the choice of a part of their repertoire.

With the release of its 5th CD, the aim of the Octet has been fully attained: besides the colourful and spectacular works of Villa-Lobos, Turina or De Falla, the introduction of original compositions by some of the outstanding composers of today, such as De Pablo, Halffter, Xenakis, Boulez, Pärt, Donatoni, Denisov, Nobre and others, in close cooperation, in order to enrich the repertoire permanently.

CONJUNTO IBÉRICO has received warm encouragement from Mstislav Rostropovich and Yo-Yo Ma. One critic wrote that it had reached the 'perfection and sound associated with the best chamber ensembles of middle-Europe'. The Octet cooperates on a regular base with the great voices of our time, such as Teresa Berganza and Maria Bayo.

Besides performances in many European countries and major festivals, the **CELLO OCTET CONJUNTO IBÉRICO** gave concerts in the U.S.A. and Canada.

ELIAS ARIZCUREN is one of the leading cellists and pedagogues in Europe. He was born in Spain and received his first lessons from his father. He studied with Gaspar Cassadó, André Navarra and Sandor Végh. Since 1968 he lives and works in the Netherlands where he founded the Mendelssohn Trio, an ensemble of international reputation. He made several recordings and published a video method on 'cello technique' and books on 'cello history'. Elias Arizcuren gives masterclasses in various countries, is a member of the jury in international competitions and teaches at the conservatory of Utrecht.

CLAUDIO PRIETO was born in Muñeca de la Peña (Palencia) in 1934. He received his training in Madrid from Guzmán, Rubio, and Dorado, and then went to Italy and Germany to study with Petrassi, Maderna, Ligeti and Stockhausen. His prolific oeuvre in the fields of chamber and symphonic music places him at the forefront of Spanish composers. His works have been performed by major orchestras, in Europe and in the USA. With his Second Symphony, he became the path-breaker for the new Spanish lyricism. Numerous younger composers have followed him in this path. His most characteristic orchestral works are 'Sinfonía nr.1', 'Ensoñaciones' 'Peñas arriba' and 'Fandango de Soler'.

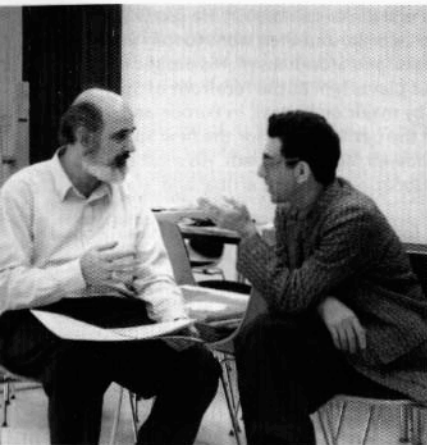
The title 'CAMINANDO POR LA AVENTURA' (on the way for adventure) is a fairly good summary of his attitude to the world around him. Aggressive passages and sensitive melodies alternate with each other and the possibilities of the cello are explored to a great degree. The piece, consisting of a single movement, has magical moments in the realm of harmonics, and it also includes an extremely virtuosic dialogue cadenza which is shared between two cellos.

'CAMINANDO POR LA AVENTURA' was commissioned by the CDMC-Center for Contemporary Music in Madrid, and is dedicated to Elias Arizcuren and his Cello Octet CONJUNTO IBÉRICO.

RAMÓN LAZKANO was born in the Basque country in 1968. He studied composition in San Sebastian with Escudero and in Paris with Blancquart. In Paris, he worked at the IRCAM with Murail and Manoury, and then departed for Canada, where he studied with Tremblay. His symphonic works and chamber music have been widely performed in Europe. He has won important prizes, including the Prince Pierre of Monaco Prize in 1995.

'SU-ITZALAK' (Ombres de feu) is extremely virtuosic and rhythmically somewhat complex. It consists of two very slow movements surrounding a passionate and feverish central movement. Most notable is the application of micro-intervals, a whole spectrum of harmonics, and a cadenza of extreme virtuosity.

The work is dedicated to Elias Arizcuren and his Cello Octet CONJUNTO IBÉRICO.



Elias Arizcuren with José Luis Greco



Elias Arizcuren with Ramón Lazkano

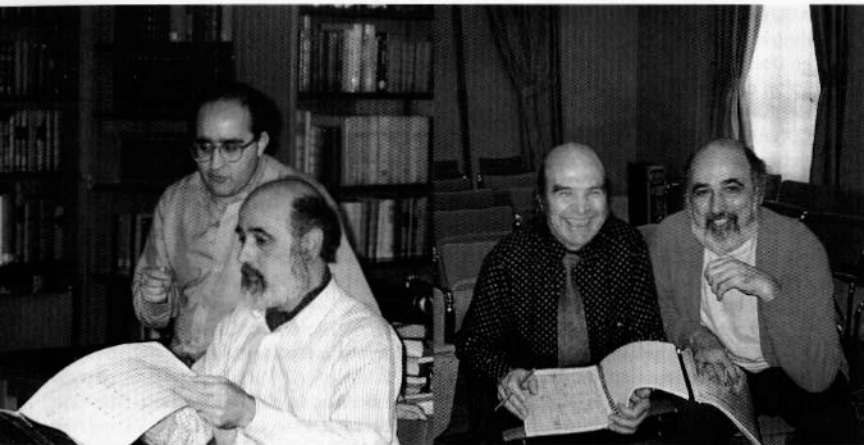
AGUSTÍN CHARLES was born in Manresa (Barcelona) in 1960. He received his training from Sardá and Soler and also took lessons with Halffter, Guinjoán, and, in Italy, with Nono and Donatoni. He has won important awards in Spain (Reina Sofia Prize, SGAE-Sociedad General de Autores y Editores Prize).

The 'DIVERTIMENTO for eight violoncelli', dedicated to Elias Arizcuren and his Octet CONJUNTO IBÉRICO, won the Francesc Civil First Prize in 1993 (Girona). The octet is based on 'Particella' for cello solo, rearranged for the timbres and the great possibilities of the ensemble. Its point of departure is a musical cell, which forms the axis around which the entire piece develops.

JOSÉ LUIS GRECO was born in New York in 1953. He was educated at Columbia University. In 1984 he settled in Amsterdam. Since 1994 he has lived and worked in Madrid. His list of works contains a.o. 'Troubles', a string quartet; 'Swallow', written for the Netherlands Wind Ensemble; and his opera 'Cuentos de la Alhambra'. His two ballets, 'Mujeres' and 'Mouvement perpétuel' were recently performed with great success.

'INVISIBLE' consists of six movements (Contraluz, Indefenso, Vislumbrado, Horizonte, Destello, Mezquita) which are performed in uninterrupted succession. The work evokes the composer's impressions associated with a journey through Andalusia.

'INVISIBLE' was composed on commission for Elias Arizcuren at the CDMC-Center for Contemporary Music in Madrid.



Elias Arizcuren with Agustin Charles

Elias Arizcuren with Claudio Prieto