Anonymous

Romance de Amor

arranged for solo marimba by Ralph Hicks



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Program Notes

Romance de Amor is considered an excellent introductory piece for beginning guitar students. Known by several titles (Estudio en Mi de Rubira, Romance de Espana), and with an unknown composer (believed to be 19th century), there are many interpretations by well known artists including Antonio Rubira, Narciso Yepes, and Xue Fei Yang.

Common to most parlor music of 19th Century Spain, it is written in traditional A-B-A ternary form (beginning in minor key, venturing into its parallel major, then returning to the original minor). It became customary for artists to incorporate their own cadenza, allowing the performer to develop his or her own signature style and for each peformance to be truly unique.

Performer Notes

If you are familiar with your scales and arpeggios you will most likely learn this piece pretty quickly. With very few exceptions (ms. 24-25, and 41), mallets 1, 2, and 3 remain within the chord while mallet 4 carries the melody. Feel free to stretch the tempos whenever it makes musical sense or fits your technical needs. Sometimes the increasing intervals are more achievable when you shave off a little speed. The bookend "Tender and Expressive" sections can be played at whatever speed and volumes you wish. Experiment with different interpretations and see which one fits you best!

– Ralph Hicks

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