

## Goyescas for flute and guitar (2008)

Goyescas is a cycle of seven short pieces written for flutist Marina Piccinini and guitarist Emanuele Segre. I was inspired to write Goyescas to express musically my impressions of five exciting paintings by Francisco Goya. This work has a Spanish folk flavor imparted by mysterious harmonic and modal overtones. The fiery dance rhythms and the infectious spirit imbue this cycle with a special fire and vitality only found in the music of the Spanish people. I especially enjoy spicing up my melodies with grace notes and the elaborate, intricate melismas (ornamental melodic embellishments) found in Flamenco music and other traditional folk music of Spain. I have blended these beloved musical traditions with contemporary compositional techniques that meld these ancient forms into a poetic, lyrical and intimate personal musical language.

- I. *Pregón* is a brilliant fanfare that echoes the brash trumpet calls (or pregones) that imperiously summoned villagers to important communal festivals. In this occasion they announce the arrival of the Royal family.
- II. *La familia de Carlos IV* is inspired by a portrait of the majestic and noble royal family of Charles IV of Spain.
- III. *Las majas en el balcón* depicts two sultry 'majas' (maidens) flanked by two threatening 'guardias civiles' (Spanish police).
- IV. *El sueño* is Goya's poetic, sensual and passionate depiction of a vulnerable and mysterious sleeping woman.
- V. *La Fragua* is a grim, dark portrait of three men toiling at a blazing forge.
- VI. *Toque* is a variation of the initial Pregón that prepares the lightness and playfulness of La gallina Ciega.
- VII. *La gallina ciega* is Goya's humored, sunny depiction of a childhood game of "blind man's bluff."

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