

## With several of the contemporary Cuban composers who feature in his programs, Gustavo Corrales Romero has a special connection

Of these composers, **Harold Gramatges** was the most prominent. This teacher and later colleague of Corrales was awarded the Spanish “Tomás Luis de Victoria” prize for music (Premio Iberoamericano de la Música Tomás Luis de Victoria) in 1996. In relation to this, Corrales was personally chosen by Gramatges to perform in several of the homage events organized to honor the composer: first to participate in a series of concerts, radio and television programs dedicated to him; then to record an ensemble piece for the CD “Homenaje” and finally also to join Gramatges for a presentation of his work in Colombia at the International Festival for Contemporary Music in 1997 during a very well-received concert. To achieve this, Corrales worked very closely with Gramatges on, among other compositions, the *Móvil I* and *Estudio de Contrastes*. It can therefore truly be said that when performing these pieces Corrales does this with great veracity as to the intentions of the composer.

Like Gramatges, **Carlos Fariñas** was also a teacher and later colleague of Corrales at the Superior Institute for Art in Havana (ISA). Noteworthy is the fact that Corrales was probably the 3<sup>rd</sup> pianist who, at 16 years of age, obtained Fariñas’ well-known tango “*Altagracia*” to perform, again with direct instruction from its composer. Corrales also did a first recording on his CD “*Palimpsesto*”, of Fariñas’ six “sones”. In his repertoire Corrales is also fortunate enough to count two unpublished short pieces by Fariñas from the last stage of his life.

And then the younger generation, whom Corrales also knows personally from the Superior Institute for Art in Havana, where they all studied. In most of his Latin-American programs, Corrales will include works by **Keyla Orozco** and **Eduardo Morales**, respectively living in Amsterdam and Spain. With Orozco Corrales worked on several projects (co) organized by her, in Cuba as well as here in The Netherlands; consecutively on the project “*Con to’y la Cáscara*” (2002) and the festivals “*Q-Ba Música*” (2004) and “*Latin-American composers at the Muziekgebouw aan ’t IJ*” (2007). Corrales’ CD “*Palimpsesto*” also holds a first recording of her work “*Won’t Blue*”.

In contemporary programs Corrales will usually include work of **Yosvani Quintero**, living in Switzerland, whose six “piezas” (pieces) he also executed the first performance of during the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Festival for Contemporary Music in Havana in 1996. Lastly, works have also been especially composed for and/or dedicated to Corrales by his peers, among which Orozco and Quintero as well as Italian-based **Ailem Carvajal**.