

## **Gustavo Corrales Romero, biography and fact sheet**

The Cuban pianist Gustavo Corrales Romero has enjoyed 17 years of professional musical training in the solid tradition of the Russian school for piano since he was 7, a path along which he advanced through exclusive selection procedures. After the first 7 mandatory years at elementary level in his province Guantánamo, he was selected at 14 to continue with pre-university studies at the National School of Art (ENA) in Havana, Cuba. At the age of 18 he became licensed as an Instrumentalist and Piano Instructor and won a national competition awarding him a scholarship. This enabled him to study with professor Mijaíl Leonidovich Meshlumov at the prestigious P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow for one year. After this he returned to Cuba to complete his training with a Master Degree in Music, specializing in Piano at the “Instituto Superior de Arte” (ISA, the Superior Institute for Art) in Havana. At 24, he was offered the position of professor of Piano and Chamber Music over two other candidates with more experience. During his three years in this position he completed several post-graduate studies with international guest professors such as the Argentine pianist Miguel Angel Scheba, the Spanish pianist Ricardo Requejo, the Canadian Dr. Dujka Smoje, the Cuban Dr. Ela Egozcue and Bulgarian professor Radosvet Boyadjiev. In 1997, at age 27, he was accepted as a select member of the Cuban National Association for Writers and Artists (UNEAC).

Corrales has a special passion for contemporary music. In addition to his annual participation in the International Festival for Contemporary Music in Cuba, in 1997 he co-founded the Association for the Development of Musical Contemporary Art (SODAMC), a UNESCO-sponsored association that organized meetings in Havana twice a month, which included concerts, exhibitions and lectures, providing a platform for composers, interpreters, musicologists and visual artists; a highly applauded effort that rapidly became a significant part of the Cuban art scene. Corrales performed in all concerts.

Corrales began public performances at the age of 16. Over the years he has acquired a vast amount of podium experience through participation in many national and international festivals and as a concert pianist in South America, the Caribbean and several countries in Europe, especially in The Netherlands where he has been living and working with his wife since 2002. He currently presents himself as the specialist of classical and contemporary Latin American music that he is, and has his own production company – KyG Productions – operative informally since 2000, established officially in 2011; producing CDs, books and concerts.

In 2007 Corrales obtained the Dutch nationality. In the same year his debut as a writer, “Los Herederos”, written in Spanish, was accepted for publication with great enthusiasm by Ediciones EntreRíos and presented at the Miami Book Fair International. In the meantime Corrales has finished his 2nd book, which is being readied for publication. In addition, he is working on the launch of ‘ARIOSO’: his 12 arrangements of traditional Cuban songs for piano trio to be recorded on his next CD.





### **Awards**

- Semi-finalist International Gaudeamus Competition for Interpreters 2003 in Rotterdam.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and award for best musical interpretation of Cuban music in the national “Musicalia” Competition in 1994.
- Winner of the Cuban national competition for a scholarship at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory in 1989.

### **Festivals**

- Festival “Latijns-Amerikaanse componisten aan 't IJ”, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2007.
- Festival “Q-ba Música” with performances in Amsterdam; The Hague; Utrecht, The Netherlands 2004.
- Festival “Lange Nacht der Musik” in Vienna, Austria 2003.
- Festival “De Dag van de Romantische Muziek” in Rotterdam, The Netherlands 2002 and 2003.
- ING Art Festival in Curacao by the Curacao Art Circle in 1999.
- International Festival for Contemporary Music in Colombia in 1996. One of the three musicians chosen to present the work of acclaimed composer Harold Gramatges, winner of the “Premio Iberoamericano de la Música Tomás Luis de Victoria” in 1996.
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> National Forum for Young Composers and Performers by Cuba’s International Council of Music (1996 – 1998).
- International Festival for Contemporary Music in Cuba in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998.

### **Recordings**

- Recording of second solo CD “Fresco” in 2011 (KyG Productions).
- Recording of first solo CD “Palimpsesto” in 2001 (KyG Productions).
- Live recording for Trans World Radio Bonaire, Dutch Antilles in 2000.
- Live recording for the renowned program “Agenda Cultural” for Cuban national television in an edition dedicated to Harold Gramatges in 1997.
- Recording for the CD “Homenaje” honoring Harold Gramatges, again through exclusive selection, in 1997.
- Recording for the distinguished cultural Cuban national television program “Bravo” in 1996.
- Live television recording in Santiago de Cuba (concert with orchestra in Teatro Dolores) in 1989.