

Aires de Marinera

Instrumentation

- 2 Alto Saxophones, 2 Tenor Saxophones, 1 Baritone Saxophone,
4 Trumpets in Bb, 4 Trombones
- Drum Set
- Double Bass

Aires de Marinera, for Big Band.

Duration: 6 minutes.

'Aires de Marinera' was created as part of a joint project between UMO Jazz Orchestra, Ears Open Composers Society and Musica Nova Festival (Helsinki) in 2002. The aim of this project was to stimulate the creation of new works for Big Band by young, classically trained composers. This idea prompted me to look back toward folk music from Peru, and so I decided to inject my composition with fresh rhythms from 'Marinera', a folk dance from the central and northern part of coastal Peru. This dance is generally sung and accompanied by guitar and cajón (a percussion instrument originally from Peru) and it has a strictly tonal character, but since my aim was to blend it into my own musical language, I decided to give away with all tonal constructs and concentrate mainly on its rhythm and form.

The drum set and other instrumental groups are given freedom to improvise at certain sections. I did this in homage to the improvisatory character of Jazz, of which UMO is a tireless champion. The beginning of the 'Marinera' section can be easily recognized by a Snare Drum call, which is the typical way in which a 'Marinera' begins. This call occurs in the piece only after a minute-and-a-half long introduction.

The 'Marinera' makes use of a 6/8 time signature, which, through accentuation, fleetingly changes to 3/4 and back. The ambiguity of this rhythm is constantly exploited by the dancing couple, which engages in a mutual game of courtship and seduction. I wanted to extend the relationship of 6/8 and 3/4 to the whole piece, so that not only would this rhythmic phenomena occur from bar to bar, but also within larger sections. That is why the piece goes back and forth between two main tempos: quarter note = 112 (introduction tempo) and quarter note = 84 (marinera tempo).

Aires de Marinera was written for and premiered by Kirmo Lintinen conducting the UMO Jazz Orchestra on March 9, 2002 in Espoo, Finland, during the Musica Nova Festival.

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