

# Man and Man

## Instrumentation

- Countertenor
- 1 Flute, 1 Oboe, 1 Clarinet in Bb, 1 Bassoon
- 3 Horns in F
- Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello and Double Bass

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**Man and Man**, for countertenor and ensemble. Published by Filarmonika.  
Duration: 7 minutes.

May 16, 2015 was, undoubtedly, one of the most eagerly awaited dates in my life. On that day I exchanged vows with Heleno, my love, my friend, my now husband. Our journey began more than five years ago, and looking back I can say with confidence that meeting him was one of the greatest gifts that life has bestowed upon me.

"Man and man" is scored for twelve musicians and counter tenor. It begins with three notes that correspond to Heleno's initials: H (B natural) M (E) and L (A). This succession of notes outlines two intervals that will play a major role throughout: the fifth and the fourth. The piece flows through several tonal centers, always shifting and refusing to settle until the very end. Toward the last third of the piece, the singer utters the words that gave the title to this song, and it does so by using the same notes and intervals from the opening. This is the climax and it marks the beginning of the poem's final stanza.

The lyrics, written by our friend, renowned playwright Nilo Cruz, are full of joy and optimism toward the future. The piece displays different moods and tempi, all representing the journey of two lovers who go from the initial excitement of romance and passion, passing through joys and struggles, and culminating in a life commitment in front of the altar. The final A major chord represents our union. The names López and Leitão both begin with L, which stands for the note "la" or A, thus bringing the piece to an end charged with musical symbolism, and signaling a new beginning.

The premier performance was an intimate affair. It took place at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco in front of family and friends. Many of the performers are good friends of ours, including our soloist, countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, and our conductor, Andrés Lopera. It was, no doubt, a date to remember.

This piece is dedicated to my beloved Heleno and to the love that binds us.

Jimmy López © 2015



## To Your Wedding

From Nilo Cruz

Sooner than  
my hand  
met your hand,  
sooner than your lips  
met my lips,  
a star had promised  
to unite us.

The light...  
The light, blue,  
and daring...  
The light, swift  
and flowing  
awakens  
a sleeping bell  
and the stillness  
of a candle.  
The light,  
punctual  
and exact,  
invades  
an altar  
to marry us  
this day.

Arm in arm,  
step by step,  
we walk the aisle,  
man and man,  
with hats of dignity.  
Arm in arm,  
with boutonnières  
that bind us  
until death do  
us apart.

Sooner than my eyes  
met your eyes,  
sooner than my knees  
met your knees,  
a star had promised  
to unite us.

With a yes  
a flower opens  
in our mouths.  
With a yes  
we give evidence  
of the heart  
and our house  
in the rose.

Arm in arm,  
We'll be showered  
with petals and rice,  
husband and husband.  
Man and man.

Because more than vows  
more than rings,  
to unite in marriage  
is proof that love prevails.