

## *Concierto andaluz*

Instrumentation: piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, strings.

Duration: 25 minutes in three movements.

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**THE COMPOSER** – JOAQUÍN RODRIGO (1901-1999) – It is impossible to imagine a world in which Rodrigo did not meet guitarist Regino Sainz de la Maza in Paris just before World War II. The concerto that grew from that encounter holds a very important place in the sweep of 20<sup>th</sup>-century creativity and it made certain, more than anything else he wrote during his long life, that the name of the composer would never be forgotten.

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**THE HISTORY** – *Concierto de Aranjuez* (1939) would not be Rodrigo’s only guitar-centric utterance. He wrote two other solo guitar concertos (including the *Fantasia para un gentilhombre* of 1954), a concerto for two guitars and orchestra (*Concierto madrigal* in 1966) and a feature work for quartet and orchestra in 1967. *Concierto andaluz* was commissioned by Celedonio Romero and the group he founded with his three sons under the family name. Americans who love guitar quartets in general, and the fabulous Los Angeles Guitar Quartet specifically, have the Romeros to thank for creating a following for the genre a generation before. It all started with them. The commission was the start of a long and fruitful association and, given how popular Rodrigo also was at the time, it really was a collaboration between celebrities. “Los Romeros” recorded the work twice and Rodrigo wrote them with a new cadenza as a Christmas gift a year after the premiere. Andalusia, home region of the original “Royal Family of the Guitar”, is a large and varied section of southern Spain with a historically autonomous identity. The concerto Rodrigo composed for his compatriots is, in the inimitable words of Nicolas Slonimsky, “a poetic evocation” of a special place, “with its sounds, its lights, the fragrance of its flowers” on full display by way of brilliant orchestral colors that “sparkle in the Mediterranean sun”.

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**THE WORLD** – 1967 was also the year of the Montreal World’s Fair “Expo 67,” a Military coup in Greece, the arrest of Muhammad Ali as a conscientious objector and the publication of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

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**THE CONNECTION** – The *Concierto andaluz* was last performed by the CCSO in \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ conducted and \_\_\_\_\_ appeared as soloists.

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