Gota de Noche

For orchestra (1988)

The work, commissioned by Maestro Luis Herrera de la Fuente and the *Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería* was composed between October, 1988 and March, 1989, while I was a student at the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

The general idea upon which *Gota de Noche* ("A Drop of the Night") is based emerged from the work of Spanish-Mexican poet Tomás Segovia. Although my piece is not intended to be a programmatic work, *Gota de Noche* appeals to the same atmosphere of "ancestral serenity" I find in much of Segovia's.

Gota de Noche gravitates around a series of chords that are based on fourths and fifths. The initial theme, introduced by the English Horn, is manipulated throughout the piece within a musical landscape of slight textural and harmonic processes of transformation.

Gota de Noche bears a double dedicatory: to my wife Josefina and to my teacher Jean Eichelberger Ivey.

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