



(LYRCD 7253)

ARGENTINA  
THE GUITAR OF THE PAMPAS  
Roberto Lara, Guitar

*“Because I am not more than an echo of national birthsong which I brought here...” – Leopoldo Lungones*

It is amazing to think that an instrument that has its origins in the East (lute, oud, sitar, vina, vihuela, lute, etc.) will come all the way to South America to create a fresh new style of music which retains all of its ancestral heritage, plus the rich cultural expression of the natives of Argentina.

The word, “PAMPA” from the Quechua (Kechua) language meaning flatland, refers to vast yet very specific location; the province called LA PAMPA. Located at the center of Argentina, LA PAMPA is the center for this artistic expression. By the end of the 1800’s the combined mix of different native cultures (Puelches, Tehuelches, Araucanos, Quechua, etc.) blending with the influx of European migrant workers in search of farm and ranch work, created a very unique situation.

At night after work, after eating a simple meal and while sharing the customary “Mate”(popular herbal tea), “los peones” (the workers), typically would start dancing and singing improvisations or telling stories of their ancestries. The stories would reflect their laments and sorrows, often to the rhythm and melodies of a European guitar. The passionate musical form of expression gradually became a cultural hallmark of these new people referred to as “Los Gauchos” or “Criollos.”

The combination of ancient native melodies and rhythms with the European classical modulation and chord changes together with specific strums and arpeggios typical of a more intellectual, European approach to music, created Pampeano style.

As it did throughout Latin America, the influence of the guitar spread very rapidly through the whole country and many unique styles developed as a result of this. On this beautiful and varied recording, master guitarist Roberto Lara (one of Argentina's premier guitar players), celebrates the most influential composer of this part of the world, maestro Abel Fleury (1903 – 1958) a pioneer of classic folkloric Argentinean music.

The different styles evident serve as a musical compass, allowing us to trace the threads of distinct influences. Adding to this is a strong underpinning of Western classical orchestration and exquisite performance. Without a doubt, these works belong in the collection of any guitar and world music enthusiast.

The styles are:

*Milonga* - a popular dance from Buenos Aires

*Estilo* - a Pampa's born style

*Chacarera* - a 6/8 Northern dance from Santiago del Estero

*Huella* – a ¾ native of La Pampa

*Triunfo* – a Malambo rhythm typical of a male Gaucho dance

*Tonada* – a southern influence

*Vidalita* – a song form from the mountains of the Northeast

All these styles created the Pampa influence. Finally after generations of development, this music is now being played by well-known performers in major classical halls around the world as well as in popular gatherings in South America. Those who favor the guitar as a solo instrument find here subtle and challenging material that will enhance their original love of the instrument. For those who make out of music a listening adventure, the warm strains of the Pampan nights and sunrises will be a refreshing new discovery. Enjoy!

#### TRACKS

1. Ausencia [Milonga] - 2:41
2. El Codiciado - 4:12
3. Trinos y Alas - 2:02
4. El Tostao - 2:21
5. Fortin Kakel [Milonga] - 4:17
6. De Sobrepaso [Milonga] - 1:51
7. Tonada - 3:10
8. Te Vas Milonga [Milonga] - 1:44
9. Pico Blanco [Milonga] - 2:31
10. Lejanía - 2:41
11. Pago Largo - 2:14
12. El Cuando - 3:35

13. Milongueo del Ayer - 2:25
14. Cantar de Mi Pago - 3:11
15. A Flor de Llanto [Milonga] - 2:22
16. Vidalita - 4:10
17. De Clavel en la Oreja [Milonga] - 2:38

The words in parenthesis indicate certain rhythms of Argentine dance styles.

Rev. Jorge Alfano  
Founder of the Sacred Sounds Institute

Jorge Alfano, a native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer who is an expert in indigenous Andean, Eastern and Indian flutes, as well as many other world instruments. Jorge's playing can be heard on the soundtracks of dozens of documentaries produced for the Discovery Channel, National Geographic Explorer, and feature films. He has played and recorded with Astor Piazzolla, Mercedes Sosa, and has recorded for Lyrichord, The Relaxation Company, and Interworld.

Jorge Alfano's Lyrichord releases are: "Inti – Mystical Music of the Andes" (LYRCD 7429), and "One Heart" ((LYRCD 7431).

#### CREDITS

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Digital CD and A to D mastering and EQ: Vivian Stoll  
Booklet: Elizabeth Dalesandro



**Lyrichord Discs Inc.**

PO Box 1977 Old Chelsea Station  
New York, NY 10011 Ph: 212 404 8290 Fax: 212 404 8291  
email: [nick@lyrichord.com](mailto:nick@lyrichord.com) Web: [www.lyrichord.com](http://www.lyrichord.com)

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