

LA TERCERA

Cultura

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Vicente Bianchi and the Chamber Orchestra of Chile to record a CD featuring songs so far unreleased

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Eleven compositions by Bianchi will be recorded for the first time during a gala at the Ñuñoa Municipal Theater



At his home in La Reina, Vicente Bianchi (96) meets with the conductor of the Chamber Orchestra of Chile (OCCh in Spanish) to work on a joint project. Sitting down in his living

room, he looks at her and says “She (Alejandra Urrutia) is going to conduct my music. This is a part of my spirit which I give to her, for her to preserve”. Both are working on a CD with 11 unreleased compositions by the National Music Awardee. The pieces will be interpreted by the regular orchestra of the National Culture and Arts Council (CNCA in Spanish).

The Project aims to record the work of Bianchi for the benefit of Chile’s cultural heritage and is funded by CNCA. The themes selected for the CD are mostly inspired in the history of Chile, as do many other pieces composed by this musician. He estimates his whole production in around 100 to 130 songs and claims not to have a favorite one: “Songs are like your children; you never know who’s going to do better. Some songs are liked, some are not... they all taste differently”.

The live recording will take place on November 7 during a gala at the Ñuñoa Municipal Theater. Urrutia explains the process: “The master is very clear about what each work entails and how each should be interpreted; then, what I do is study the scores and come back to him so he can teach them to me in more depth. That is to say, he will explain to me what that particular piece meant to him when he composed it, or what it means to him now”.

Some of Bianchi’s songs to be interpreted by the OCCh are ‘Recordando a Molinare’, ‘Momento Andino’, ‘Fantasía de La Tirana’ and ‘Sajuria y Sajuriana’.

New and old melodies

Another CD with compositions by Bianchi was recently launched in August. It is called ‘Chile Fértil’ and he says it represents the continuation of ‘Songs for the History of Chile’, a Project he started together with Pablo Neruda in the 1950s, the origin of emblematic songs such as ‘Tonada para Manuel Rodríguez’ and ‘A la Bandera de Chile’.

“The last song we wrote together was ‘La Noche de Chillán’. I visited him on Isla Negra in January 1973, shortly before he passed away into history. He was happy but already somehow bedridden. We had lunch with Matilde and then he took some papers and started to write. He wrote one after the other, five or six pages, very quickly, and said to me “this is for you to add the music whenever you want”. This song, a winner at the Viña del Mar Festival in 1998, along with seven others, is featured in the new CD. In addition, last Thursday the National Library launched ‘Vicente Bianchi: a visual story of his life and works’, a book by Missael Godoy that compiles photographs, scores and hundreds of other documents that portray the seven decades in the career of this pianist and composer. The book closes with the master receiving the National Musical Arts Award, finally awarded to him after being nominated 17 consecutive times.