



KAREN LEFRAK

ROMÁNTICO

SHARON ISBIN, GUITAR

ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S
ENRICO LOPEZ-YAÑEZ

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

KAREN LEFRAK: *ROMÁNTICO*

SHARON ISBIN, GUITAR

Miami Concerto for Guitar & Orchestra (World Premiere Recording)

1. Bailamos [4:58]

2. Romántico [8:16]

3. Festivo [4:36]

Sharon Isbin, guitar

Orchestra of St. Luke's

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor

4. Habanera Nights [3:31] (World Premiere Recording)

Sharon Isbin, guitar

Carter Brey, cello

Peggy Kampmeier, piano

Javier Diaz, bongos

Victor Pablo García-Gaetán, shaker

Mariana Ramirez-Alvarado, claves

Rolando Morales-Matos, guiro

5. Urban Tango [4:10] (World Premiere Recording)

Sharon Isbin, guitar

Peggy Kampmeier, piano

Javier Diaz, bongos

Rolando Morales-Matos, shaker

Karen LeFrak, Composer

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ALBUM NOTES

"Miami = Dance." The rich culture of dance has been an integral phenomenon in Miami's diverse history. Each movement of the ***Miami Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra*** features a characteristic dance rhythm. ***Bailamos***, the first movement, is a couple's sensual dance which uses the Guaguancó, a subgenre of the Cuban Rumba. The energetic guitar writing is equally lyric as it is rhythmic, with the orchestra providing a dynamic accompaniment from the percussion section and lyricism from the strings. ***Romántico***, the second movement, features the Tango, a combination of African and European dance influences, a partner dance originating from the border area between Argentina and Uruguay. Here, a romanticism evoking a calm, warm wind on a seashore is manifested in the cantabile of the guitar and accompanying lush strings. The guitar is featured in a short cadenza which segues into another nostalgic theme of hope and optimism. ***Festivo***, the third movement, showcases the Bembé – standard drumming patterns originating in Afro-Cuban cultures. In this movement, the guitar and orchestra are equal partners contributing thematic and rhythmic material, culminating in a rousing finale. This work of love is a tribute to Miami, my second home, and the closeness and love I feel for this ebullient, colorful and lively city. ***Miami Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra*** was premiered by the Miami Symphony Orchestra under conductor Eduardo Marturet and guitarist Sharon Isbin.

Modeled after the Cuban Habanera rhythm, the European import of the island dance, ***Habanera Nights*** is comprised of an ensemble of a solo guitar, piano and cello trio, and is accompanied by a battery of Latin-inspired percussion. It evokes an atmosphere of the laid-back sensual energy of a couple dancing, under a humid, moonlit evening.

Urban Tango is my personal take on the Tango. Born in the impoverished areas between the borders of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Montevideo, Uruguay, this partner dance spread to the rest of the world as one of the most well-known forms of dance, due to its honesty and transparency of human emotions. The couple, represented in my piece by the guitar and piano, embody the partnership between the two instruments, equally generous and soulful, blending with the unconventional sounds of life in my native New York City. The captivating dance of the two instruments, flows sensually, yet is edgy with heightened emotions – a glass and concrete jungle set on top of a beautiful city island.

Karen LeFrak



Karen LeFrak

A native New Yorker, Karen LeFrak is a prolific and versatile composer and author whose vibrant, moving musical scores have been presented in prestigious concert halls around the world and iconic venues including the US Capitol, the Kremlin, and the White House. Highlights of her career include 17 studio albums, 45 million streams across global digital platforms, a catalog of over 300 works, and worldwide performances by prominent organizations including the New York Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Ballet, and Marinsky Ballet. She has also received accolades for her children's books, which are published by Bloomsbury, Random House, and Crown Books.



Sharon Isbin

Multiple GRAMMY winner Sharon Isbin received Musical America's Instrumentalist of the Year and Guitar Foundation of America's 2023 Hall of Fame Artistic Achievement Award. Soloist with over 200 orchestras, winner of Munich ARD, Madrid and Toronto Competitions, Germany's Echo Klassik and Guitar Player's Best Classical Guitarist awards, she performed in Scorsese's Oscar-winning *The Departed*, the Obama White House and as the only classical artist in 2010 Grammys. Sharon Isbin: Troubadour won ASCAP's Television Broadcast Award and streams on PBS Passport/Amazon. Author of the *Classical Guitar Answer Book*, she premiered nearly 100 works written for her and directs guitar departments at The Juilliard School and Aspen Music Festival.



Orchestra of St. Luke's



Karen LeFrak, Sharon Isbin, Enrico Lopez-Yañez

Special thanks to Richard LeFrak, Eduardo Marturet, William Ross, Sharon Isbin, Enrico Lopez-Yañez, Justin Ellis, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Elaine Martone, Gintas Norvila, Jennifer Nulsen, Cathleen Murphy, Joann Kane Music Services, 8VA Music Consultancy, Daniel Boico, Marc Johnston, Debbie Rose, and Ian Reilly.

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Sharon Isbin plays an Antonius Mueller guitar with Savarez Strings.

KAREN LEFRAK

ROMÁNTICO

SHARON ISBIN, GUITAR

MIAMI CONCERTO FOR GUITAR & ORCHESTRA*

1. BAILAMOS [4:58]
2. ROMÁNTICO [8:16]
3. FESTIVO [4:36]
4. HABANERA NIGHTS [3:31]
5. URBAN TANGO [4:10]

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SHARON ISBIN, GUITAR
ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S*
ENRICO LOPEZ-YAÑEZ, CONDUCTOR*
ELAINE MARTONE, RECORDING PRODUCER
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JENNIFER NULSEN, ASSISTANT RECORDING ENGINEER & MASTERING ENGINEER
GINTAS NORVILA AND JENNIFER NULSEN, IMMERSIVE MIXING & MASTERING ENGINEERS
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KAREN LEFRAK, VISIT KARENLEFRAK.COM

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SHARON ISBIN, VISIT SHARONISBIN.COM

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