

Michael Mclean

Based in Los Angeles, California, Michael McLean has established a career not only as sought after violinist and pedagogue, but also as a successful composer of orchestral, chamber and film music.

As a tutor at the Colburn School of Performing Arts, he has had invitations to teach all over the world.

Many of Michael MacLeans pieces have been recorded, most recently his Violin Concerto 'Elements'. Scored for violin and string orchestra, it was recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra under Hugh Wolff, with Brian Lewis as soloist.

TANGO

Originating in Cuba as a popular dance style and imported to Spain by sailors, the 'Habanera', with its distinctive rhythmic patterns, formed the basis of not only the Argentinean Tango but in particular, the Milonga. This Tango is a classic example of this influence, not only in the sharp and precise repeating rhythmic motifs, but also the way in which the rhythm, must clearly influences the choreography of the dance itself.

SERENATA

The Serenata or Serenade, has a long and varied history. It was used by many composers either as stand-alone compositions or as pieces in their own right. Originally it exemplified the simplicity of a vocal piece of music, accompanied by a single instrument or a small ensemble. It carries with it clear implications of warm summer evenings and unrequited love. This Serenata is characterised by a gentle Latin swing.

RHUMBA

Also originating in Cuba, with the musical influence of Spanish Colonizers and African Slaves clearly in evidence, this Rhumba is typical of its genre. With its hip-swaying rhythms and 'ostinato' base line, it wears its sunny disposition blatantly on its sleeve.

FANDANGO

This Spanish style Fandango, exhibits all the features one has come to expect from such an evocative dance. It's slow haunting introduction, reflects its vocal origin, with tempo increases pointing to the expected faster section. The percussive base-line, so reminiscant of castanets or clapping, descends in typical harmonic fashion, whilst the upper instruments compete in ever increasing shows of instrumental bravado, that climax in a wild chase to the finish.