ANTONIO MARÍA VALENCIA’S DÚO EN FORMA DE SONATA: AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH TO COLOMBIAN NATIONAL MUSIC

Antonio María Valencia (1902–1952) was one of the leading Colombian composers, pianists, and educators of his generation. His Dúo en Forma de Sonata (1926) for violin and piano serves as an early example of the composer’s aesthetic. According to the programmatic description he sent to his mother, the Dúo depicts Valencia’s “indelible impressions” of his homeland. Through structural and harmonic analysis, I examine the piece in relation to the composer’s informal programmatic description. The analysis argues that the work poetically re-creates the landscape of Valencia’s birthplace region through an international language, devoid of Colombian folk rhythms and melodies. Valencia proposes a different perspective on Colombian music as an alternative to the use of folk-based music elements that were predominant to Colombian music during his lifetime.

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