



University of North Texas College of Music

Doctoral Lecture Recital | Tuesday, November 28, 2023 | 2:00 pm | Recital Hall

Fabiana B. González-Cobos, mezzo-soprano
Luis Marín, piano

THE USE OF LATIN AMERICAN BOLERO AS A TOOL FOR TEACHING BEL CANTO TECHNIQUES TO AN UNDERGRADUATE MEZZO-SOPRANO

Applied voice teachers continually search for new repertoire that meets the technical needs of the student while keeping them motivated. This research investigates the use of the Latin-American bolero as a suitable resource.

As it was established in its origins, the compositional form of boleros consists of thirty-two measures divided into two sections of 16. The melodies incorporate sequences of melodic lines that are usually four measures long and are easily accessible, helping students to practice musical memory and stimulating their ear-training development. The poetry in Spanish gives the student the opportunity to be trained to sing pure vowels that are essential for the unification of the registers and the development of a healthy technique.

This thesis discusses teaching the Latin-American bolero genre to undergraduate mezzo-sopranos, combining it with the bel canto approach, as found in four elements from the method of the famous pedagogue, Manuel Garcia (1805–1906). These four elements are the clean onset or coup de la glotte, the unification of the registers, legato, and expression devices or bel canto idioms like timbre and tempo rubato.

The guidelines used to choose the repertoire are range, tessitura, simple meter and rhythm, tonal melodic lines, and piece duration. The boleros chosen for this study are "La gloria eres tú" by José Antonio Méndez (1927–1989), "Aquellos ojos verdes" by Nilo Menéndez (1902–1987), "La Mentira" by Álvaro Carrillo (1921–1969), "Solamente una vez" by Agustín Lara (1897–1970), "Alma mía" and "Así" by María Grever (1885–1951), "Tú me acostumbraste" by Frank Domínguez (1927–2014), and "Bésame mucho" by Consuelo Velázquez (1916–2005).

Solamente una vez (1953) Agustín Lara (1897–1970)
La gloria eres tú (1947) José Antonio Méndez (1927–1989)
La Mentira (1965) Álvaro Carrillo (1921–1969)
Aquellos ojos verdes (1929) Nilo Menéndez (1902–1987)
Bésame mucho (1932) Consuelo Velázquez (1916–2005)
Tú me acostumbraste (1955) Frank Domínguez (1927–2014)
Alma mía (1933) María Grever (1885–1951)
Así (1946) María Grever