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| Rugeles, Alfredo (1949--) |
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| The Venezuelan maestro Alfredo Rugeles was born in Washington, D. C., on 13 December 1949, while his parents were on diplomatic service. Composer, conductor, lecturer, and pedagogue, his 30 years at the podium give testament to Rugeles’ brilliant and varied career as an orchestra conductor. Artistic Director of the Simon Bolivar Symphonic Orchestra since 1991, Rugeles is frequently invited to conduct renowned ensembles throughout the world, including Europe and North, Central and South America.  Rugeles is recognised as an opera and concert conductor of refined taste, accompanying world-class soloists such as Paul Badura-Skoda, Montserrat Caballé, Alexis Cárdenas, Chick Corea, Alirio Díaz, Monique Duphil, Jane Eaglen, Natalia Gutman, Maurice Hasson, Frans Helmerson, François Le Roux, Aquiles Machado, Wynton Marsalis, Shlomo Mintz, Gabriela Montero, Jorge Luis Prats, Ruggiero Ricci, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Edison Ruiz, and Renata Scotto, among many others. |
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Rugeles has been the Musical Director of the Teresa Carreño Theatre (1997-2000), Associate Conductor and Artistic Director of the Caracas Municipal Symphonic Orchestra (1982-1987), founder and conductor of the Nova Musica Ensemble, and Director of the Venezuelan Chamber Orchestra Foundation. Since 2009, he has conducted the Simon Bolivar Latin American Ensemble of Contemporary Music.    In 2000, for the 70th anniversary of the Venezuela Symphony Orchestra, Rugeles recorded his first CD as a conductor, along with the pianists Edith Peña and Arnaldo Pizzolante. During 2002 and 2003, he recorded seven other CDs with the same orchestra.  A recognised composer, he has a brief catalogue that includes chamber, choral, symphonic, and electroacoustic works. He has received national recognitions such as the Caro de Boesi Composition Prize (1979) and the Municipal Music Prize (1985) for his pieces *Somosnueve* (for chamber ensemble) and *Tanguitis* (for piano solo), respectively. Rugeles’s music has been edited and recorded by several labels, including Boosey and Hawkes, and performed all over Latin America, as well as in North America, Western and Eastern Europe, and Hong Kong.  Rugeles has a wide-ranging and varied musical background that includes diplomas in Voice and Choral Conducting as well as studies in Composition with Yannis Ioannidis in Caracas, and in Composition and Orchestral Conducting at the Robert Schumann Institute in Düsseldorf, under Günther Becker and Wolfgang Trommer. In 1993, Rugeles was elected member of the Executive Committee of the International Society for Contemporary Music, ISCM, and then re-elected in 1995. He is a founder and president (1999-2003) of the Venezuelan Society for Contemporary Music, SVMC. His profound interest and devotion to spreading the music of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries spurred him to organise 11 editions (to date) of the Latin American Music Festival, which began in 1991. He has given international conducting workshops with Sergiu Celibidache, Michel Tabachnik and Franco Ferrara. Numerous composers have dedicated their work to Rugeles, including the Venezuelan composers Diana Arismendi (1962--), Josefina Benedetti (1953--), Beatriz Bilbao (1951--), Inocente Carreño (1919--) and Federico Ruiz (1948--), and the Latin American composers Manuel De Elías (Mexico), Guido López Gavilán (Cuba), Marlos Nobre (Brazil), Carlos Vázquez (Puerto Rico) and Alberto Villalpando (Bolivia). Main Works, Editions and Recordings: *Camino Entre lo Sutil e Inerrante* [*A Road between the Subtle and the Still*], for orchestra (1979)  Recordings: (1) *Antología de la música contemporánea*, [CD], Bogotá: Sony Music, 1996, (2) Osgma; Alfredo Rugeles, conductor. *Venezuela sinfónica*, [CD], Caracas: Osgma, 1998, (3) Mexico: Colegio de Compositores Latinoamericanos de Música de Arte, 2000.  *El Ocaso del Héroe* [*The Decline of the Hero*, 1982], for narrator, mixed chorus and chamber orchestra. Recordings: (1) *Conciertos Festivos*, [CD], San Juan: Universidad de Puerto Rico, 2006, (2) *Mutaciones a través del tiempo*, [CD], Caracas: Editorial Equinoccio, 2007.  *Hace Veinte Años* [*Twenty years ago,* 1988], Homage to The Beatles, for magnetophonic tape and synthesizers.  *La Guitarra* [*The guitar*, 1976], for a cappella mixed chorus.  *Mutaciones* [*Mutations*, 1974], for nonet or string orchestra. Edited by Edition Nomos Athens, EN 112, 1975.  *Oración Para Clamar Por Los Oprimidos* [*A Prayer to Cry Out for the Oppressed,* 1989], for mixed chamber ensemble.  *Polución* [*Pollution*, 1975], for violin, viola, violoncello and piano. Recording: *Mutaciones a través del tiempo*, [CD], Caracas: Editorial Equinoccio, 2007.  *Puntos y Líneas* [*Points and Lines,* 1977], for instrumental ensemble. Recording (2nd. Version): *Mutaciones a través del tiempo*, [CD], Caracas: Editorial Equinoccio, 2007.  *Sal-Cita* (2004), for piano and percussion. Edited by Boosey and Hawkes, London, 2004. Recording: Elena Riu, pn.; Wilmer Sifontes, perc. *Salsa Nueva*, [CD], Surrey: Somm Recordings, SOMMCD237, 2004.  *Sinfonola* (1988), for chamber orchestra. Recording: Simon Bolivar Symphonic Orchestra; Alfredo Rugeles, conductor. *Mutaciones a través del tiempo*, [CD], Caracas: Editorial Equinoccio, 2007.  *Somosnueve* [*We-are-nine*, 1978-1979], for chamber ensemble. Edited by Ilves-Conac, 1984. Recording: *Mutaciones a través del tiempo*, [CD], Caracas: Editorial Equinoccio, 2007.  *Tanguitis* (1984), for piano solo. Recordings: (1) Arnaldo Pizzolante, pn. *Venezuela: Compositores y Solistas*, [CD], Caracas: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, 1989, (2) Martha Marchena, pn. *Sonoric Rituals: Rarely Performed Latin American Piano Music*, [CD], New York: Albany Records, 1996, (3) Beatriz Balzi, pn. *Compositores Latino-Americanos, Vol. 6*, [CD], Belo Horizonte: 1998, (4) Luis Julio Toro, fl.; Rubén Riera, gui. *15 Cuentos para 2*, [CD], Caracas: Contraloría General de la República, 1998, (5) Guiomar Narváez, pn.; Beatriz Klien Ayala, pn., *América a cuatro manos*, [CD], Caracas: Producciones León, 1998, (6) Gabriel Leo, fl.; Sergio Puccini, gui. *Romerías*, [CD], Buenos Aires: Aleph Records, CD-Aleph 044, 2010.  *Thingsphonia* (1978), electro acoustic music. Recording: *Unmundodentrodeunmundo*, [CD], Caracas: Juventudes Musicales de Venezuela, 1996. |
| Further reading:  (Peñín, 1998)  (Tortolero, 1996)  (Tortolero, Compositores venezolanos, (date unknown)) |