



## **HUÁSCAR BARRADAS**

The prestigious German newspaper *Allgemeine Zeitung* published: "Mr. Barradas took us farther into the expressive spectrum of the flute, beyond the point our European ears are used to. Brilliance with absolute rhythmic precision and virtuosity ...". This has been Huáscar's objective: to widen the spectrum of possibilities the flute can offer. This versatile Venezuelan artist, who also composes and produces his works, can play any musical trend, from Bach to the Beatles, as a solo artist, playing chamber music, contemporary folk, flamenco, salsa, jazz or African music. For him and his flute, everything is music. His unique talent has been presented on the main stages of more than 25 countries. He has represented his native country Venezuela in many important music Festivals, such as Radio France Festival in Montpellier, Hamburg Flute Festival 2003, Expo-Hannover 2000, National Flute Association Convention 2000 and 2007, the International Festival of Contemporary Music of Bogotá, the International Folk Festival in Turkey, I Flute Latin American Encounter in Caracas, XII International Encounter in Medellín and many more.

Huáscar has loyal followers all around the world who enjoy his 9 CDs (four of them Platinum records in the Venezuelan market) with his Group "Huáscar Barradas y Maracaibo". He has also recorded as a solo artist with the National Philharmonic Orchestra the piece "El Viaje de la Jirafa", specially composed for him by the Venezuelan composer Domingo Sánchez Bor.

Huáscar's compositions are voyages of imagination and experimentation. In 2003, Huáscar produced his unique work *Pacificanto*, *Ballenas y humanos le cantan a la vida*; this intriguing CD combines the songs and heartbeats of humpback whales in the Pacific Ocean with human voices and heartbeats, as well as electro acoustic rounds. This original piece has been recognized internationally. In 2005, he presented his piece *Tonada*, for flute, strings and percussion. In 2006, he composed the soundtrack for the Venezuelan movie "Mi vida por Sharon", created by the internationally acclaimed Venezuelan director Carlos Azpúrua.

Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Huáscar has impeccable academic credentials: studies at Maracaibo's Conservatorio de Música José Luis Paz, the Brooklyn Conservatory in New York (Cum laude), at Juilliard School of Music and the Superior School of Music in Frankfurt (sehr gut). He was a founding member of the Children Symphonic Orchestra of Venezuela and the Youth Estudiantina of Zulia state. He has been the main flute of Maracaibo's Symphonic orchestra and Caracas' Symphonic Municipal Orchestra. He worked as flute teacher at the University Institute of Musical Studies in Caracas and in the system of Youth orchestras in Venezuela. He teaches his workshop *"The art of playing the flute"* in different conservatories and universities in Venezuela and around the world. In the world of folk and pop music, he has shared the stage with several international artists, like Miguel Bose, Simón Díaz, Aldemaro Romero, María Teresa Chacín, Ilan Chester, Guaco, Pedro Castillo, Cecilia Todd, Frank Quintero, Betulio Medina, Martirio, Chavela Vargas, Neguito Borjas, Isabel Pantoja, Vos Veis and many more.

In 2006, his live show "Entre amigos" got together the most iconic Venezuelan artists. The DVD Huáscar produced will remain as one of the most valuable audiovisual documents of Venezuelan music.

He was the special guest at Miss Venezuela 2007 and he is a popular guest in many radio and TV shows in Venezuela.

Huascar also contributes to many projects in different areas, such as social and ecological projects.

In 2007, he launched his last CD *Inéditos*, that includes many live performances with the Caracas´ Municipal Symphonic Orchestra presenting symphonic versions of classic Latin American folk songs, as well as the romantic Potpourri played at his special presentation during Miss Venezuela 2007.

In 2008, his CD/DVD *"My favorite things"* was launched in the USA, distributed by WEA Records.

Right now "Venezuela´s Flute", as Huáscar is now known, lives in Caracas, with a very hectic agenda that includes over 100 live performances per year. He also hosts a radio show "El Pabellón" with Rafael "Pollo" Brito, that is broadcast nationwide by Circuito X. Right now, they are promoting a talent contest *"Ponle son al pabellón"*, to discover new Venezuelan artists.

He has received several awards, such as *Commendation of Catatumbo Lightning*, *Commendation Maracaibo Lake First Class*, *Barquisimeto Commendation*, *Commendation of Alistasia´s Illustrious Son*, *Cultural Commendation Dr. Rafael Rincón González* and many others. Besides he received several scholarships from the German Academic Exchange Program, Zulia State Government, the Beracasa Foundation and others.

In 2008, Huáscar has several projects. He has planned a 16-concert tour with 16 different regional Youth Orchestras in Venezuela plus a special workshop with all students on how to play Venezuelan music. His new CD will be ready by the end of the year and will have several musical stars as special guests, like Oscar D`León, Franco de Vita, Amigos Invisibles, and Chino y Nacho.

### **Press Notes**

#### **FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, Germany**

"Musicians brought in the blood this mixture of lyrics and explosive energy. Mr. Barradas took us farther into the expressive spectrum of the flute, from tonal strident repetitions to the deepest vibrant and warmest notes, beyond the point our European ears are used to. Brilliance with absolute rhythmic precision and virtuosity ..."

#### **RHEIM MAIN PRESSE, Germany**

"Huáscar Barradas surprised us with a daring Speedy, he went beyond allegro brilliantly".  
"Huáscar´s show was an impressive performance of virtuosity and lightness, no melody nor phrasings were lost by the Duet".

"During the slower movements, Huáscar created perfect forms of sound and tone, creating an experience of perfumed textures and dreamy love to peace".

### **SHAWABENBOTE, Germany**

"Romanic culture was represented by composer Jacques Ibert, whose 1934 concert with flute was the first climax of the evening. The eminent flutist Huáscar Barradas caused a major positive impression."

"From the beginning of the first movement he caught the attention of the audience, with a bright rollover. His extraordinary technique – that grew into an expression of tonal sensuality – allowed him to dominate the most difficult parts of the third movement. He was rewarded by a grand applause and performed a virtuoso last encore".

### **SUEDKURIER, Germany**

"Huáscar Barradas was the star of the evening. He seduced the audience with his technical ability, joined together with his musical empathy".

"The applause was awesome".

"Once again, the flutist showed his extraordinary talent and his Latin American energy".

### **EL Mundo, Venezuela**

"Barradas owns a crystal clear and smooth sound, as well as a deep technical command of his instrument that allows him rare virtuoso boastings, his held notes, his speed in perfect staccato and the elegant musicality while playing the delicate melodies of the Salzburg genius. His original cadenzas were an added delight, improvised yet performed meticulously, and with a clean style, well balanced and joyful."

### **EI Colombiano, Colombia**

"The intricate flute solos were a game for the excellent flutist Huáscar Barradas (Venezuela) who has an absolute command of his instrument. The main elements of his high carat performance were his brilliant and clear sound, supported by an amazing technique. His elegiac performance of the second movement was outstanding. After the program, he performed a flute solo, with an effervescent talent, that confirmed the wide ability of this brilliant artist."

### **"¡UN SHOW VERDADERAMENTE MOLLEJÚO!", EI Carabobeño, Venezuela**

I cannot find, in order to describe the show I am about to tell you about, a voice so rotund and true as the one used in the everyday traditional slang of Maracaibo, which I use to complete the title of this text. "Mollejúo" is, in fact, the most accurate adjective of all that is great, potent, strong, robust, powerful, aggressive, amazing, dazzling, stupendous, astounding, etc, etc, etc. Certainly, Sir! All these and more was the show that Huáscar Barradas performed last Saturday and Sunday on the great stage of the Teatro Teresa Carreño. Huáscar makes us travel for an infinite and plural country, where the classic melodies live together with rich street sounds, he swiftly invades both musical currents and invades the difficult eclectic territory. He was able to successfully include the high level Venezuelan stars who joined him in this extraordinary sonorous adventure".

Aldemaro Romero