

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY and THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
present

“WHAT I HEAR”

A SPECIAL BSO PRELUDE PROGRAM

WITH **ROBERTO SIERRA**

MODERATED BY ERIC VALLIERE

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY STEPHEN DRURY

28 MARCH 2024 * 5:30 PM * WILLIAMS HALL

ROBERTO SIERRA
(b. 1953)

Estudio de ejecución transcendental No. 1

August Baik '27, piano

FRANZ LISZT

Transcendental Etude No. 1

Viona Natalie Sanjaya, piano (Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music '24)

ROBERTO SIERRA

Piezas Líricas

Nos. 1-7

Kexin Tian '24, piano

Nos. 8-14

Yujin Han '25 MM, piano

IANNIS XENAKIS
ROBERTO SIERRA

Rebonds B
Bongo-0

Jakob Schoenfeld '25 MM, percussion

OLIVIER MESSIAEN
ROBERTO SIERRA

Le merle noir
Eros

Anne Chao '25 MM, flute

Cynthia Chih-Yu Tseng '25 DMA, piano

No. 12 from Estudios rítmicos y sonorous

Nan Ni '26 DMA, piano

*The Boston Symphony Orchestra will perform the American premiere of Roberto Sierra's Sinfonia No. 6
tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Symphony Hall.*

For more than four decades, the works of Grammy-nominated and Latin Grammy winner **Roberto Sierra** have been part of the repertoire of many of the leading orchestras, ensembles and festivals in the USA and Europe. At the inaugural concert of the 2002 world renowned Proms in London, his *Fandangos* was performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a concert that was broadcast by both the BBC Radio and Television throughout the UK and Europe. Many major American and European orchestras and international ensembles have commissioned and performed his works. Among those ensembles are the orchestras of Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, New Mexico, Houston, Minnesota, Dallas, Detroit, San Antonio and Phoenix, as well as the American Composers Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich, the Spanish orchestras of Madrid, Galicia, Castilla y León, Barcelona, Continuum, St. Lawrence String Quartet, Opus One, and others.

Commissioned works include: *Concerto for Orchestra* for the centennial celebrations of the Philadelphia Orchestra commissioned by the Koussevitzky Music Foundation and the Philadelphia Orchestra; *Concierto for Saxophones and Orchestra* commissioned by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for James Carter; *Fandangos* and *Missa Latina* commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington DC; *Sinfonía No. 3 "La Salsa"* commissioned by the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; *Danzas Concertantes* for guitar and orchestra commissioned by the Orquesta de Castilla y León; *Double Concerto* for violin and viola, co-commissioned by the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Orchestras; *Bongo+* commissioned by the Juilliard School in celebration of the 100th anniversary; *Songs from the Diaspora* commissioned by Music Accord for Heidi Grant Murphy, Kevin Murphy and the St. Lawrence String Quartet; and *Concierto de Cámara* co-commissioned by the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Chamber Music Northwest and Stanford Lively Arts.

In 2021 Roberto Sierra was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters and in 2017 he was awarded the Tomás Luis de Victoria Prize, the highest honor given in Spain to a composer of Spanish or Latin American origin. In 2010 he was elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2003 he was awarded the Academy Award in Music by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The award states: "Roberto Sierra writes brilliant music, mixing fresh and personal melodic lines with sparkling harmonies and striking rhythms. . ." His *Sinfonía No. 1*, a work commissioned by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, won the 2004 Kenneth Davenport Competition for Orchestral Works. In 2007 the Serge and Olga Koussevitzky International Recording Award (KIRA) was awarded to Albany Records for the recording of his composition *Sinfonía No. 3 "La Salsa"*. Roberto Sierra has served as Composer-In-Residence with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra and New Mexico Symphony.

Roberto Sierra's music may be heard on CDs by Naxos, EMI, IBS Classics, UMG's EMARCY, New World Records, Albany Records, Koch, New Albion, Koss Classics, BMG, Fleur de Son and other labels. In 2011 UMG's EMARCY label released *Caribbean Rhapsody* featuring the *Concierto for Saxophones and Orchestra*, commissioned and premiered by the DSO with James Carter. In 2004 EMI Classics released his two guitar concertos, *Folias* and *Concierto Barroco*, with Manuel Barrueco as soloist (released on Koch in the USA in 2005). Sierra has been nominated twice for a Grammy under best contemporary composition category, first in 2009 for *Missa Latina* (Naxos) and in 2014 for his *Sinfonia No. 4* (Naxos). In addition, his *Variations on a Souvenir* (Albany) and *Trio No. 4* (Centaur) were nominated for Latin Grammys in 2009 and 2015. In 2021 his *Sonata para guitarra* won the Latin Grammy for best classical contemporary composition.

Roberto Sierra was born in 1953 in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. He studied composition both in Puerto Rico and Europe, where one of his teachers was György Ligeti at the Hochschule für Musik in Hamburg, Germany. The works of Roberto Sierra are published principally by Subito Music Publishing (ASCAP).

Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.



necmusic.edu/tonight