

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2011



LA NOCHE Works for Flute & Harp

ROBERTO ALVAREZ, Flute

KATRYNA TAN, Harp

This is a unique, unlikely to be repeated, anthology of new works for flute and harp by Singaporean and Spanish composers from the northern region of Asturias. It could only have been conceived here in Singapore, presently home to Asturian flautist Roberto Alvarez (from the SSO) and Malaysia-born harpist Katryna Tan. All eight works are World Premiere recordings, covering a wide and diverse range of voices and idioms. Most accessible is Miguel Prida's Romantic-leaning *Motionless Vault*, its lyricism starkly contrasted with the astringently atonal *Pieza (Piece)* by Maria Dolores Malumbres.

The mystery and splendour of the night is the unifying theme. Fernando Agüeria's *Moonlight* was inspired by Singapore's skyline, its restless pulse echoed by Ignacio Rodriguez Guerra's *Gigante Blanca (Gigantic White Star)* which had repose alongside restlessness. Chen Zhangyi's *Five Constellations* evoke fairy tale scenes and fantastical imagery, which was a perfect foil for Robert Casteels's *Nachtlied*, a play on a child's fear of darkness. Here, Alvarez also performs the piccolo and alto flute. Jorge Muniz's *La Nueche De San Xuan (St John's Night)* portrayed playful mythological spirits, displaying a certain kinship with flight of Ho Chee Kong's *Last Butterfly Dance*, a tranquil scene of Peirce Reservoir at dusk. Here is strikingly beautiful music, lovingly performed.