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Playing Time
68:52

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The Barcelona-born composer Leonardo Balada is credited with pioneering a blending of ethnic music with avant-garde techniques. The symphonic tragedy *María Sabina*, one of Balada's best-known works, tells the extraordinary story of Sabina, a Mexican Indian mushroom-cult priestess who meets fierce resistance from her people when endeavouring to open the holy rituals to the outside world. Some of the text in Balada's work is based on her incantations, of which the composer has written, "While composing the music, the power of the text was so extraordinary that I felt inspired by it. I recall composing the music even when I was travelling, in airports or hotels". The cantata *Dionisio: In Memoriam* is a homage to Dionisio Ridruejo, a poet and politician from Soria, Spain, on whose ideological, philosophical and descriptive writings the work is based.

Leonardo BALADA

(b. 1933)

María Sabina (1969)	38:09	Dionisio: In Memoriam (2001)	30:43
1 Part I: En la serranía de Oaxaca ¹	7:56	4 Part I: Hambre, Gloria, Vida ⁴	12:43
2 Part II: Las viejecitas impedidas quieren ahorcar a María Sabina ²	16:33	5 Part II: Guerra, guerra, la guerra ⁵	18:00
3 Part III: Pedimos que el verdugo ahorque a María Sabina ³	13:40		

Susi Sánchez, Narrator (María Sabina) 1-3

Ángel Sáiz, Narrator (The Town Crier/Constable) 1, 3

Fernando Tejedor, Narrator (Executioner)³ • Carlos Hipólito, Narrator 4, 5

Orchestra and Chorus of the Comunidad de Madrid José Ramón Encinar

Spanish sung texts and English translations included

Recorded at the Rehearsal Hall of the Orchestra and Chorus of the Comunidad de Madrid, Teatro Isabel Clara Eugenia, Spain, from 27th to 30th June, 2006 (tracks 1-3), and from 29th November to 1st December, 2006, and 23rd to 25th May, 2007 (tracks 4 and 5)

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