

Argentine composer and pianist Ariel Ramírez is widely acclaimed throughout South America for his unique synthesis of popular and liturgical styles. The *Misa Criolla*, based on South American folk music, is a setting of the traditional Mass texts, in Spanish, to the accompaniment of a variety of Andean instruments. The folk drama *Navidad Nuestra*, set in the north of Argentina, is a poignant depiction of the Mystery of the Incarnation. *Missa Luba*, which adapts traditional Congolese melodies and rhythms to the Latin texts of the Mass, has been described by its creator, the missionary Father Guido Haazen, as a 'collective improvisation'. It includes a prominent and exciting part for African percussion instruments. The *Sanctus* is also well known for its inclusion in the soundtrack to the 1960s cult film *If*.

## Ariel RAMÍREZ (b.1921)

### Misa Criolla • Navidad Nuestra

1-6 **Navidad Nuestra (1964) – Folk Drama of the Nativity, based on the Rhythms and Traditions of Hispanic America**  
(Manuel Melendez, Tenor; José Sacin, Tenor; Pablo Talamante, Tenor) **18:58**

7-11 **arr. GUIDO HAAZEN: Missa Luba (1958) – Mass in Congolese Style for Mixed Chorus with Soloist and Percussion (based on an improvisation by the Congolese chorus Les Troubadours du Roi Baudouin) (Christal Rheams, Alto)** **15:33**

12-16 **Misa Criolla (1964) – Folk Mass based on the Rhythms and Traditions of Hispanic America. Arrangement by Jesus Gabriel Segade, Alejandro Mayol, Osvaldo Armando Catena**  
(Manuel Melendez, Tenor; José Sacin, Tenor; Pablo Talamante, Tenor) **22:15**

**Instrumental and Percussion Ensembles  
The Choral Arts Society of Washington • Joseph Holt**

*A complete tracklisting can be found on page 2 of the booklet*

Editorial Pigal (all Rights Administered by WB Music Corp.) (tracks 1-6)

Lawson-Gould Music Publishers, Inc. (All Rights Administered by WB Music Corp (tracks 7-11)

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Recording Engineer: Curt Wittig • Editing and Mixing Engineers: Curt Wittig and Joseph Holt  
(Assisted by Mary Gottlieb) • Cover Illustration by Celia Anderson, based on a painting by Nivia Gonzalez

**NAXOS**

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Total Time  
**56:47**



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