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Total Time  
56:47

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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*

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Recorded at St Luke's Catholic Church, McLean, Virginia, USA in July, 2004

Producers: Joseph Holt and Norman Scribner • Associate Producer: Jeffery S. Hart

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