Notes:

"Gosh, what is that piece you're playing!" I said from the other room. Stephen was playing the theme from Ginastera's "Variaciones Concertantes" and it was the most beautiful, noble and heroic music I had ever heard coming from a double bass. Wow. And so I wrote the Fantasia inspired by this theme, which can be played beforehand.

Developing variations turn, in the Stately section to a programatic "Walking in the Andes" with a "Breezy" looking out on beautiful vistas there, and a "Tender" moment of companionship. A section of harmonics paints an eerie rememberance that Argentina has had its share of cruel dictators. "Gathering resolve," one sees their humanity, courage and moral heroism.

The premiere by Stephen Sas on his Doctoral recital 1999 was followed by a version for strings for the Sejong Soloists.

Deborah Mason 2018

Theme by Alberto Ginastera for Bass and Harp from Variaciones Concertantes





