

William Grosvenor Neil

Son Fantástico

for solo guitar

(2020)



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Commissioned and edited by guitarist, Robert Nathanson

Program Notes:

Son Fantástico as interpreted by Robert Nathanson on his newly released CD, truly embodies what I love so much about the guitar. The music I compose for guitar, unlike many instruments and ensembles, resides firmly in an imagined world. This universe of sound "is a miniature orchestra in itself" (Beethoven) where timbres and rhythms are fantastic and lyrical. And like all stringed instruments, the notes are most alive at the moment of execution. A single note on the guitar, when struck, immediately ripples in our ears and when the guitar is passionately strummed, it stirs up a sensuous urge for movement in a world where we, the listeners, "are a dream, an unfinished song". (Neruda) The 6/8 and 3/4 rhythms in the piece are characteristic of the "son" a category of Mexican folk music and dance. "Son" literally means "sound" in Spanish and I want to thank Rob for introducing me to this genre as it fit well with my predilection for brilliant sonorities that cascade over driving rhythms. Finally, I want to acknowledge his meticulous fingering and editing that will assist in the execution and interpretation of the piece.
robertnathanson.com williamneil.net. thecomposerstudio.com

Duration: ca. 4:45

Info & Bios:

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Son Fantástico

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♩.=112

Musical score for "Son Fantástico" by William Grosvenor Neil, dedicated to Robert Nathanson. The tempo is marked as ♩.=112. The score is written for guitar in 6/8 time.

The score consists of several systems of music, each with a measure number at the beginning:

- System 1: Measures 1-6. Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Includes fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4) and accents.
- System 2: Measures 7-10. Includes a VII fret marking and fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4). Lyrics: "i m i p".
- System 3: Measures 11-14. Includes a XII fret marking and fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4). Lyrics: "p a i m".
- System 4: Measures 15-18. Includes a 5th fret marking and fingerings (4, 5). Lyrics: "a m i a m i".
- System 5: Measures 21-28. Includes a 5th fret marking and fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4). Lyrics: "i m a m a". Dynamics: *ff*, *f*. Includes a "metallic" effect marking.
- System 6: Measures 29-35. Starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Includes a 5th fret marking and fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4). Lyrics: "p i a i a m i a m i".
- System 7: Measures 36-42. Includes a 4th fret marking and fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4). Lyrics: "i m a m". Dynamics: *p*, *f*. Includes a C1 marking.
- System 8: Measures 43-46. Includes a 2nd fret marking and fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4). Lyrics: "i m a m". Dynamics: *p*, *p*, *p*.

50

mp

meno mosso

56

$\text{♩} = 70$

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

59

⑥

f *mp* *ff*

62

p *f* *p* *f*

66

p *mp* *p* *f* *p*

72

f *mp* *p*

m i a m i a m i

75

⑥ XII

(mute strings and strum)

meno mosso

a tempo

C2

f *p* *mp* *f*

m p i m i p i m i m i p

79

VII

f *mp* *p*

p i m p i m

a tempo primo

♩.=112

[illegible]

The first system of the musical score for 'The Little Boat' consists of two measures. The first measure contains a complex chordal texture with multiple notes beamed together, featuring a sharp sign (♯) and a downward-pointing arrow. The second measure continues this texture with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a circled '3' and a downward-pointing arrow. The system concludes with a final chord and a downward-pointing arrow.

89

1 4 3

1 a.

4 ③ ② ②

③

mi m p i p a i

VII-----

① ②

molto vib.

[illegible]

101

p

105 

[illegible]

117 *meno mosso*

118 *a tempo*

119 *f*

120 *f*

121 *f*

123 *f*

127 *p* *tenuto* *port.*

130 *f*

134 *f*

139 *f*

142

4 2 1 4 2 1 3 1 0 m i m

a i i m i

146

ff rit.

a tempo

148

mf *p*

154

a ③ i

f

158

p i m p p (pull off) +

ff *f*

163

⑤ ④ ③ ② XII

ff