The Night Watch

Luigi Boccherini was born in a musical family in the city of Lucca, northern italy in 1/43.

He became a cellist and studied in Rome.

After a concert in Paris in 1768, the Ambassador of Spain in France invited Boccherini to perform in Madrid. Boccherini did so in 1769 and became composer of the Spanish Court in 1770.

ons included the royal families of Spain and Prussia, as well as Napoleon's brother Lucien who was the Ambassador of Fran fell on hard times following the deaths of his Spanish patron, his two wives and four daughters, one after the other in the spanish patron, his two wives and four daughters, one after the other in the spanish patron, his two wives and four daughters, one after the other in the spanish patron, his two wives and four daughters, one after the other in the spanish patron, his two wives and four daughters, one after the other in the spanish patron, his two wives and four daughters, one after the other in the spanish patron. Boccherini remained in Spain until his demise in 1805.

Boccherini is known for his large output of chamber music. He created the quintet for two violins, viola, and two cellos. He often played the second cello part.

He wrote over 100 of these quintets, arranging many of them for guitar quintets and piano quintets. Eight of the nine guitar quartets for guitar, two violins, viola and cello have survived.

The most popular are No. 4 Fandango and ironically Nr 9. Indeed, Boccherini did not want to publish this last quintet because he believed musicians and audience outside Spain would not understand the subject matter.

The quintet Nr 9 (1790), entitled Musica notturna delle strade di Madrid, comprises seven movements, describing successively the church bells calling the faithful for the Ave Maria prayers, the soldiers' drum, a minuet of the blind beggars, the rosary or set of prayers in honour of the Virgin Mary, the Passacaglia of the Street Singers, the drum and the retreat of the Madrid military night watch.

cherini's style is described as belonging to the rococo style or style galant, a short mid-18th c. style between baroque and cla The correct interpretation of the gallant part may challenge 21th c. performers.

Until municipal or local police forces were set up in the 19th c., soldiers' patrols were a familiar fixture in many cities. The night watch announces the curfew and closes the streets for the nights.

The Mayor of Amsterdam and leader of its civic guard commissioned painter Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669). The resulting large painting The Night Watch (1642) is recognized as one of the most important Dutch paintings.

he opera Carmen by French composer George Bizet (1838-1875) contains a children chorus who are mimicking the changing la garde montante or the soldiers taking up their post versus la garde descendante, or the soldiers ending their shift.

In 1975 the Scala Orchestra commissioned Italian composer Luciano Berio (1925-2003) to compose a short opening piece Berio layered four versions of Boccherini's Ritirata over each other, creating a magnificent orchestral crescendo portraying the city watch coming closer and diminuendo as the military parade vanishes.

In 2022-2023, I conceived the idea of transcreating Boccherini's Ritirata for Niibiro guitar orchestra. Having at my disposal far less timbral variety than Berio, I expanded Boccherini's 11 variations to 23 thanks to the fact that Boccherini's counterpoint is reversible.

the tonalities, transposing the original C Major to the guitar-friendly E Major with a sudden shift in F Major just before and The percussive climax is entirely in NRM with a solo trumpet (NRM stands for Niibori Rhythm Method).

> Since the entire composition is to played strictly in one tempo, I decided that a snare drum playing on the forefront of the stage would replace a conductor. The fun piece ends with a humoristic vocal twist.

Duration: 8 minutes

Instrumentation:

soprano guitar
alto 1 divided into 2
alto 2 divided into 2
primes divided into 4
2 alto cembalo
2 prime cembalo
bass
contrabasses
guitarrone

4 percussionists:
- snare drum
- side drum
- suspended cymbal and tam
- glockenspiel

trumpet

The snare drum is positioned centrally where a conductor normally stands. The player performs from memory, holding its instrument with a shoulder strap. Snares off, on and off will emphasize the orchestral crescendo and diminuendo.

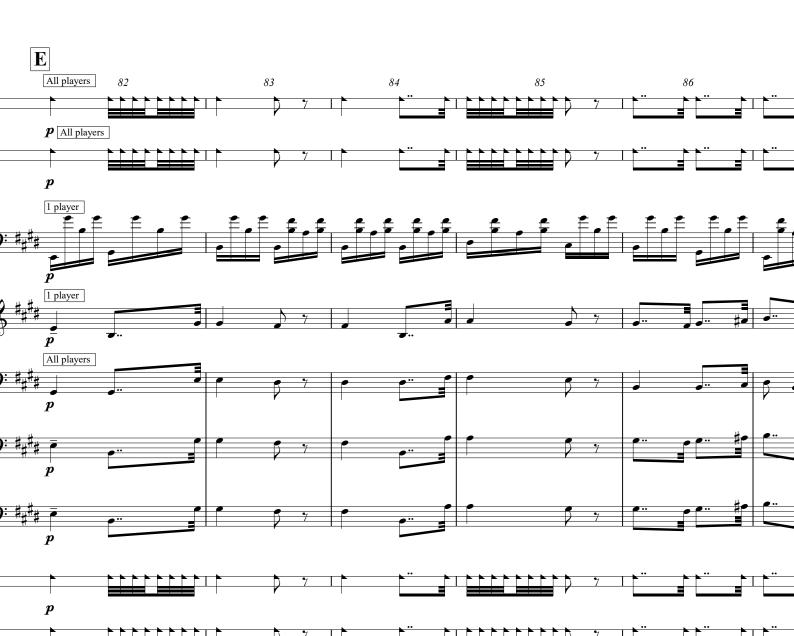




















































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