

LINN

Xiaowen Shang

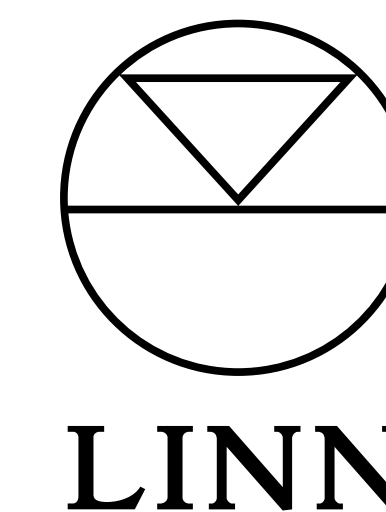
Music of Silence

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC
BICENTENARY SERIES

Music of Silence

46:07

ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF
MUSIC



XIAOWEN SHANG piano

- 1 — **Música callada I, No. 1: Angelico** Federico Mompou (1893–1987) 1:57
- 2 — **Sonata in D minor, R. 39** Antonio Soler (1729–1783) 3:42
- 3 — **Diferencias sobre ‘La Dama le demanda’** Antonio de Cabezón (c. 1510–1566) 2:27
- 4 — **Música callada I, No. 3: Placide** Mompou 2:02
- 5 — **Diferencias sobre ‘La Gallarda Milanese’** Cabezón 2:20
- 6 — **Sonata in G minor, M. 38** Soler 4:06
- 7 — **Música callada I, No. 5** Mompou 3:36
- 8 — **Música callada II, No. 13: Tranquillo** Mompou 2:45
- 9 — **Sonata in D flat major, R. 88** Soler 4:30
- 10 — **Música callada II, No. 12: Lento** Mompou 2:55
- 11 — **Sonata in B minor, R. 10** Soler 4:36
- 12 — **Música callada I, No. 2: Lent** Mompou 1:51
- 13 — **Música callada II, No. 16: Calme** Mompou 2:39
- 14 — **Canción religiosa** Cabezón 2:40
- 15 — **Música callada I, No. 7: Lento** Mompou 3:56

Recorded in the Angela Burgess Recital Hall,
London, UK, on 5 & 6 April 2023

Recording Producer & Engineer
Philip Hobbs

Post-production
Julia Thomas

Design
stoempstudio.com

Cover Image
© Inis Asano

Royal Academy of Music Bicentenary Series

The Royal Academy of Music has been training musicians to the highest professional standards since its foundation in 1822. As Britain's oldest conservatoire, its impact on musical life, both in the UK and abroad, is inestimable.

Every year, talented young musicians from nearly 60 countries come to study at the Academy, attracted by renowned teachers and a rich culture that broadens musical horizons, develops professional creativity and fosters entrepreneurial spirit. Students benefit from an ambitious calendar of concerts, operas, musical theatre shows and other events, in the run-up to which they work regularly with leading practitioners.

The Academy's long history of success has been underpinned by generations of philanthropic support. The state-of-the-art Susie Sainsbury Theatre and Angela Burgess Recital Hall, which opened in early 2018, were made possible thanks to the overwhelming generosity of donors. As the Academy enters its third century, it continues to focus on ambitious initiatives that will widen access to its world-class training.

A few words by Xiaowen Shang

My programme weaves a gorgeous, thought-provoking tapestry from three centuries of Spanish music. Federico Mompou's late utterance *Música callada* (*Music of Silence*, 1959–67) was his profound summation as a composer: a cycle of meditative miniatures, distilling flamenco rhythm and ethereal ancient melody. Mompou's visionary masterpiece forms the touchstone of the recital, combining Antonio Soler's eighteenth-century flamboyant sonatas with piano transcriptions of the sixteenth-century sacred composer Antonio de Cabézon.

The programme is divided into four sections:

A D minor plainchant from the *Música callada* No. 1 evokes a world of solitude and self-searching. It continues with Soler's lively D minor sonata and finishes with Cabezón's variations on the well-known Renaissance tune 'La Dama le demanda'.

The dance between B flat major and G minor begins with No. 3 of *Música callada*, quoting the bell-sound that Mompou heard many times in his childhood: his family were bell makers. Cabezón's variations on 'La Gallarda Milanese', a vivid Renaissance court dance, matches Soler's vigorous G minor sonata, and concludes with Mompou's introverted No. 5.

Ice and fire. Five virtuoso movements from Mompou and Soler interleave, creating a rollercoaster effect.

Meditation, with three solemn pieces by Mompou and Cabezón.
The gentle Christmas Carol (*Canción religiosa*) sings of the Virgin Mary's atonements for mankind, and ends with *Música callada* No. 7: the poetic journey travels back to where it began.