

**Evencio Castellanos - Santa Cruz de Pacairigua □ El Río de Las Siete Estrellas □ Suite Avilena (2012)**



*1 Santa Cruz de Pacairigua 2 El Río de Las Siete Estrellas Suite Avilena 3 Avilena 4 La Ronda de Niños 5 Nocturno 6 Amanecer de Navidad 7 Navidad*  
Orquesta Sinfónica De Venezuela Jan Wagner - conductor

Evencio Castellanos belonged to the generation of Venezuelan composers who established a new nationalistic style in the first half of the 20th century. One of his best known works, *Santa Cruz de Pacairigua* pays homage to the construction of a church in Guatire, near Caracas, quoting popular dance rhythms and melodies, as well as a Venezuelan medieval carol. *El Río de las Siete Estrellas* (The River of the Seven Stars), inspired by a poem about the Orinoco River, describes events of pre-colonial Venezuelan history leading up to the country's independence in 1821. The *Suite Avileña*, a compilation of scenes alluding to the coastal mountain of El Ávila, borrows from popular songs and Christmas carols, and features the *cuatro* (a four-stringed version of the European classical guitar) and *maracas*, two of the most typical Venezuelan folk instruments. ---naxos.com

Conductor Jan Wagner gets stunning performances of this little-known music from the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra. His attention to rhythmic as well as dynamic detail in the two tone poems, and sensitive handling of the suite guarantee these luxuriant scores never become overromanticized. Calling for extensive percussion sections with Latin-American exotica, these brilliantly orchestrated pieces have the potential for some awesome sonics. The recordings are accordingly impressive, projecting a broad but sunken soundstage in a moderately reverberant acoustic the overall orchestral timbre is very pleasing with no digital glare." ---Bob McQuiston, chandos.net

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)

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