



Blanco composed over 160 works, which have been premiered by seminal Cuban musicians and ensembles from Irakere, Merceditas Valdes, Tata Güines, Paquito D'Rivera to Leo Brouwer and the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra. In 1942 he drew up the blueprint for the first sampling keyboard comprising a one-octave keyboard with each key coupled to a separate wire recorder. A similar instrument, the Mellotron, was built using magnetic tape 20 years later and popularized by King Crimson, the Moody Blues and Yes.

Throughout the 20th century, the small island of Cuba nurtured a disproportionate number of highly influential modern artists. The work of painter Wilfredo Lam, writer Alejo Carpentier, composer Amadeo Roldan and percussionist Chano Pozo (who along with Dizzy Gillespie and George Russell) developed new works that helped define the international avant-garde. No one epitomizes Cuban musical innovation better than Juan Blanco, who melded Afro-Cuban roots with electronic instruments, improvisation, and experimental composition. Though Blanco toured extensively, was in residence Pompidou Center in Paris, and given the keys to the city of Bourges, his music has not been widely available, until now.

Juan Blanco (1919-2008): Cuba's Electroacoustic Pioneer

1. Cirkus Toccata - 12:47
Tata Güines, congas
Guillermo Barreto, timbales
2. Música para Danza - 5:28
3. Ella - 15:40
4. Loops - 9:28
5. Espacios V - 11:41
Neil Leonard, soprano and tenor saxophone
6. Galaxia M-50 - 9:02

— 64:25 —

Produced by Neil Leonard and Philip Blackburn
© Juan Blanco (SGAE). All Rights Reserved, 2013.
innova® Recordings is the label of the
American Composers Forum.
www.innova.mu



JUAN BLANCO

NUESTRO TIEMPO / OUR TIME

innova 248

juan BLANCO nuestro tiempo **OUR TIME**

