

Program Notes for "To the shadow, light" by Guillo Espel ©2013

From Guillo Espel:

In the continuous dance of composers and their compositions, we grow up creating music. Often, we keep some ideas that, with some luck, find the perfect time to become reality. This happened with "To the shadow, light" much the same way as its title suggests. Some years ago I played with a nascent melody, left unfinished and hidden away for later. I remembered the melody when Jeff Sass generously invited me to write a piece for him. Jeff suggested a style of work whose texture and fluidity inspired me to shine new light on those initial melodic squiggles. The result is this piece for which I now have a special affection.

"To the shadow, light" has a single overarching theme, and an important development in the middle which invites us to look at the theme in a different way. As its name implies, the composition tries to reflect the beauty in our living spaces that happen in life. The journey through the work provides hope and wellness for all who listen to create a better and happier world.

From Jeff Sass:

At the Zeltsman Marimba Festival (<http://www.zmf.us>) in 2009, William Moersch introduced me to the piece, "zamba para escuchar tu silencio" by Guillo Espel (<http://www.guilloespel.com.ar>). I had the privilege of hearing both Angel Frette and Jenny Klukken perform it at the Marimba 2010 International Festival and Conference and Faith Lutheran Church respectively. In 2012, I featured Jenny's performance and Guillo's quartet on my marimba blog (<http://www.jeffsass.com>). I was honored to return to the Zeltsman Marimba Festival in 2014 and perform the world premiere.

I was so taken by the wonderful themes in this composition; I contacted Guillo to see if I could commission him to write a new marimba solo. He enthusiastically agreed, and for the past two years, Jenny and myself have been working with him on "To the shadow, light". I have enjoyed pushing my marimba musicality to new heights with this work and am thrilled that it is a part of the growing marimba repertoire to be enjoyed by audiences in Argentina, the United States and around the world.