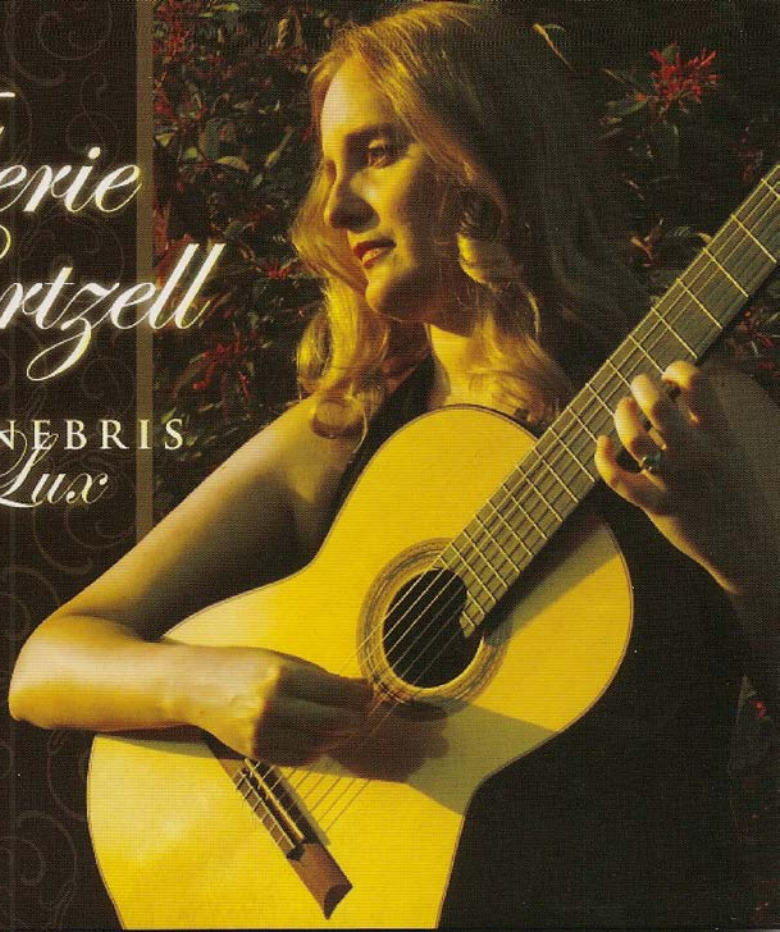


Valerie Hartzell

EX TENEBRIS
Lux





A Note from EX TENEBRIS Composer
OLGA AMELKINA-VERA | February 2011

EX TENEBRIS was commissioned in the spring of 2010 by my longtime friend and colleague Valerie Hartzell. I welcomed the challenge of writing a substantial piece for solo guitar, and wanted to use the instrument's many expressive possibilities. The concept for this piece came from the Latin proverb *Ex tenebris lux*, or *Out of darkness comes light*. I have always loved this phrase, and thought it a perfect idea to inspire a new work. The composition reflects a psychological progression from darker to lighter moods. To me, darker emotions have always seemed more complex and nuanced than utter joy (which is a simple and wholesome feeling); perhaps because of a degree of self-consciousness that often creeps in when one is sad. That is why the first part of the composition has shades of mood, from tragic pathos to elegiac sorrow, and uses more complex harmonies and a greater variety of instrumental techniques than the second half, which is the expression of quietly building excitement culminating in joyfully raucous strums of the finale.

A Note from DRIFT Composer
ANDY MITCHELL | February 2011

DRIFT grew from a melody I had originally conceived for an operatic production of *King Lear* that never happened. Several years later, I was playing through old musical ideas I'd had and this melody captured my mood. The haunting, thoughtful, and flowing character of *Drift* reminded me of how we move through life and all its experiences like the passenger of a small boat, navigating the river's waters, yet always drifting forward to our destination.

*I dedicate this CD to my first
classical guitar teacher,
Brigitte Cazebonne.*



*THIS RECORDING would not have
been possible without the financial support
of Debbie and Chris Donofrio, Cheryl Reese,
Robert and Sharon Nejako, and Rena Bond.
I am most grateful to Frank and Leanne Koonce for
production assistance, Jennifer Grassman for the CD
art and graphic design, my husband, Robert Nejako,
and my friends and students for their support.*

Produced by Valerie Hartzell & Richard Hartzell
Recording Engineer & Producer: Todd Hulslander
Strings: Savarez Alliance Cantiga 510 AR
Guitar by Gregory Byers
Art Direction & Design: Jennifer Grassman
Cover Photograph: Robert Nejako
Wolf Photograph: KB

Please visit my website:
www.ValerieHartzell.com

Valerie Hartzell

EX
TENEBRIS
LUX

out of darkness ... into light

FRANCISCO TÁRREGA (1852–1909)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 1. Maria (Gavotta) | 1:31 |
| 2. Marieta (Mazurka) | 2:20 |
| 3. Adelita | 1:24 |
| 4. Rosita (Polka) | 1:41 |
| 5. Recuerdos de la Alhambra | 5:02 |

MANUEL PONCE (1882–1948)

Sonata III

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| 6. I. Allegro Moderato | 8:09 |
| 7. II. Chanson | 3:25 |
| 8. III Allegro non troppo | 6:09 |

AGUSTÍN BARRIOS MANGORÉ (1885–1944)

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| 9. Julia Florida | 5:00 |
|------------------|------|

JOHN ANTHONY LENNON (b. 1950)

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 10. Another's Fandango | 9:00 |
|------------------------|------|

ANDY MITCHELL (b. 1973)

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 11. Drift | 4:48 |
|-----------|------|

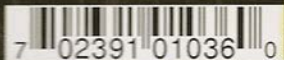
OLGA AMELKINA-VERA (b. 1976)

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| 12. Ex Tenebris | 8:00 |
|-----------------|------|



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