C:3

La cumparsita

Arranged by Edward Huws Jones

G. M. RODRÍGUEZ



Gerardo Matos Rodríguez (1897–1948) was born in Montevideo, Uruguay. His family wanted him to be an architect but he soon abandoned these studies to become a musician and composer. The tango *La cumparsita* (1917) is probably the best-known tango melody. As players we can enjoy the contrast between spiky staccato quavers (e.g. b. 3) and legato chromatic phrases (e.g. b. 4). Tango should not be played too fast: although it is usually notated in 2/4, tango dancers will generally feel it in 4/8, with four distinct beats in the bar. The title refers to a group of students, friends at the university in Montevideo, taking part in a carnival procession. EHJ

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