



An Exercise in Freedom
Alicia Steiner

The value of art lies in its power to stimulate different ways of thinking and bring out levels of awareness. In these times of unrest and uncertainty I allowed myself to see, listen to and feel the **BERLINER LATIN TOUR**, to experience our fellow countryman and musician, Eduardo Marturet, leading one of the most virtuosic symphony orchestras in Germany, the **Berliner Symphoniker**. The magic of technology allowed me to enter that virtual world, without leaving my house, as a treat for my senses.

These moments of pleasure reminded me that the world is desperately searching for another order; the planet is torn between war and peace. That is why I believe that art education could be a solution for our balancing act, for those exercises in freedom that we human beings are constantly essaying.

Colors, brush strokes, words, metaphors, clays, marbles, musical notes, bronzes and movements are like the alphabet used by artists to build the stages they use to take men to other infinite, latitudes where emotions seek to elevate minds to harmonious connections, in quantum leaps towards still waters and new dawns.

During the century before last, Venezuelans of the stature of our liberator Simón Bolívar and the great general, Don Francisco de Miranda, traveled the world seeing and experiencing extraordinary events on other stages, where they were witnesses to the declaration of the rights of man, to new systems of government, with men who were daring and versed in the events of our times. They designed the tour for the freedom of American, using the weapons of war to turn us into societies that could rise to the heights of those other worlds, formerly so distant, yet now so close given our connection to the network of all networks.

Now, at the dawn of the third millennium, Eduardo Marturet, another of Venezuela's valuable assets, carries the name of Venezuela on high, using music as a means to sow eternal principles for coexistence and peace. The virtuosity of this fellow Venezuelan has forged him close ties with the musical world of the Old Continent, most especially in Germany where he is has an active international career.

Thus he recently headed the Latin American tour, conducting one of Germany's best-known orchestras, the Berliner Symphoniker, whose first stop was Caracas. In our capital city, where the tour began, he was able to show the German musicians the loving and disciplined work that Maestro José Antonio Abreu - alternative Nobel Prize - has achieved with the Venezuelan Children's and Young People's Orchestras,

demonstrating that the same passion and love for music that is found in Germany is also present in other areas of the world.

Marturet says that what this experience means for Latin Americans is awareness that we are brimming with talent, as well as loftiness and grandeur, proof that there are no limits when we want to do things right, always united. I truly felt amazingly good, oh so proud, yet sad at the same time when I see that we still have so much talent going to waste.

Together on an incomparable tour, with an exquisite program, they carried the musical message that awakens the inner fire in men throughout Latin America. All the pieces held a special meaning. As happened to the audience, I, too, was struck by the theme of Edward Elgar's "Nimrod Variation," a work inspired by a Beethoven sonata. It was chosen especially by Marturet as a universal offering, so that here in this world we will always have the freedom to choose our friends. This message is eternal and infinite; all of us understood what that marvelous music was telling us.

I am still reliving this musical edition of the tour where the **passion**, the **expressiveness** and the **creativity** were obvious in the spirituality of a concert that left us a touch of the contemporary. A German orchestra, conducted by a Latin American, made the audience identify with this historical moment that is so important, where peace, friendship and love, are the undying messages.

The sum of the two cultures produced an auspicious result. Freedom always has an infinite range of expressions; we could say that friendship, peace and love may be one of the many projections of freedom.

LONG LIVE FREEDOM.

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