

Dinos Constantinides

THE SINGING CUCARACHA

for reader, soprano, flute and string quintet

LRC193

CP



Connors Publications

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#269

Duration: *circa* 20'00"+

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

The Singing Cucaracha

LRC193

Text:

Adaptation of a Spanish folk tale by Judy Constantinides.

Editor's suggestion:

This piece can be performed with large stick puppets representing the main characters displayed at appropriate times during the story.

INSTRUMENTATION

Reader	2 Violins
Soprano	Viola
Flute	Cello
	String Bass

(optional: string orchestra instead of string quintet)

Accidentals are valid for the entire measure, in the indicated octave only.

Many additional accidentals have been added for clarity.

The Singing Cucaracha (2000) is the second in a series of projected musical stories for children, involving a small ensemble, reader and solo instruments. The first one, *The Dancing Turtle*, was published in 1999 (CP#242). The story of *The Singing Cucaracha* is derived from several versions (Persian, Mexican, Spanish, Puerto Rican) of a familiar folk tale about a cockroach (cucaracha), or ant, who after receiving several offers of marriage from various animals, accepts the proposal of a mouse.

The music of Dinos Constantinides has been performed throughout the world. He is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards, including first prize in the Brooklyn College International Chamber Opera Competition, the First Midwest Chamber Opera Conference, and the Delius Composition Contest. He also received the American New Music Consortium Distinguished Service Award, the Glen Award of l'Ensemble of New York, several Meet the Composer grants, numerous ASCAP Standard Awards, and he was honored with a Distinguished Teacher White House Commission on Presidential Scholars.

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503 Tahoe Street * Natchitoches, LA 71457-5718 * USA

ALMEI@aol.com * <http://hostnet.pair.com/conners/>

or Dinos Constantinides * 947 Daventry Drive * Baton Rouge, LA 70808 * 225-766-3487

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THE SINGING CUCARACHA

Adaptation from a Spanish folk tale
by Judy Constantinides

Once upon a time there lived a beautiful little cucaracha named Rosita, with big black eyes and curly eyelashes. Rosita loved to sing, but she was very lonely and she wanted someone to sing *with* her. One day, Rosita was sweeping her floor in her yellow housedress with the green roses on it and as she swept she sang a little song:

*I am an opera singer
Who's looking for a mate
He must be kind and charming
And have a voice that's great.
Only another singer
Will ever win my heart
We'll sing duets together
And never shall we part!*

All of a sudden, she spied a golden coin half-hidden under a table. She picked it up with delight and she said to herself: "Now what shall I do with this coin? If I buy bread, I shall just eat it. If I buy flowers, they will soon die. I know! I shall buy some powder and lipstick to make myself more beautiful than ever, and I will sit on my balcony, and we shall see what we shall see!"

So Rosita scurried to the store and bought some powder and lipstick to make herself more beautiful than ever. Then she put on her best pink dress with the red roses on it, and sat on her balcony to see what she would see. And as she sat she sang her little song:

*I am an opera singer
Who's looking for a mate
He must be kind and charming
And have a voice that's great.
Only another singer
Will ever win my heart
We'll sing duets together
And never shall we part!*

Strutting along down the street came the town tailor, Senor Gallito, the rooster, nattily dressed in his red vest and plumed yellow hat. "Buenas Dias, Senorita Rosita," he said, waving his tail feathers in the air. "You are looking more beautiful than ever. Would you be my muchacha and come away and marry me?"

"Oh Senor Gallito," said Rosita, "if I married you, how would you sing with me in the evening?"

"Oh, I would sing with you a love song like this," said Senor Gallito, and he crowed a few notes:

*Oh my little cucaracha
Come and be my own muchacha!!*

Senorita Rosita covered her ears daintily and shook her head. "Oh, no, Senor Gallito, I cannot marry you--your voice is too harsh for my little ears!"

Senor Gallito's tail feathers drooped, and he went off down the street, but Rosita continued to sit on her balcony to see what she would see.

Along came Senor Gato, the cat, who was the tax collector of the town, wringing his paws and complaining to himself about all the work he had to do. Senor Gato looked up, saw Rosita on her balcony and his complaints died on his lips. "Oh Senorita Rosita," he meowed mournfully. "How beautiful you look today. I don't suppose you would be my muchacha and come away and marry me?"

"Oh Senor Gato," said Rosita, "if I married you, how would you sing with me in the evening?"

"Oh, I would sing with you a love song like this," said Senor Gato, and he meowed a few notes in his complaining sort of way:

*Oh my little cucaracha
Come and be my own muchacha!!*

Rosita wiped the tears from her eyes and looked down through her long eyelashes at Senor Gato. "Oh no," she said gently, "I cannot be your muchacha and go away with you--your song is much too sad for me." Senor Gato's whiskers quivered, and he went off wringing his paws down the street, and Rosita continued to sit on her balcony to see what she would see.

Now came Senor Sapo, the frog, who was ugly and fat and was the Mayor of the town. He saw Rosita, cleared his throat importantly and spoke: "Buenas Dias, Senorita Rosita. You are looking quite exceptional today. May I ask whether you would be my muchacha and come away and marry me?"

"Oh, Senor Sapo, if I married you how would you sing with me in the evening?" asked Rosita.

"Well, I would sing with you like this," said Senor Sapo, and he sang a few bass notes in a loud and pompous sort of way:

*Oh my little cucaracha
Come and be my own muchacha!!*

Rosita shook her head. "No, Senor Sapo, you are not meant for me. I cannot be your muchacha and go away and marry you--your voice is much too loud for me!"

Senor Sapo bowed stiffly and hopped with dignity off down the street, and Rosita continued to sit on her balcony to see what she would see.

Then along came Senor Perez, the mouse, who was the music teacher in the town and a very fine fellow indeed. He spotted Rosita on her balcony and sang out to her: "Buenas Dias, Senorita Rosita! You are looking more than beautiful today! I was wondering if you would like to be my muchacha and come away and marry me, so we can live happily ever after!"

"If I marry you how would you sing with me in the evening?" asked Rosita with a tiny blush.

"Oh, I would sing with you a love song like this," said Senor Perez, and he pulled out of his pocket his favorite flute and played a few notes sweetly and gaily on it.

"Oh my!" said Rosita in delight. "We could make *such* beautiful music together! Yes, I will be your muchacha and go away and marry you!"

And so Rosita put on her white dress with the white roses on it, and once more powdered her face and put on lipstick, and she and Senor Perez were married in style. Senor Gallito, Senor Gato and Senor Sapo came to the wedding (but they were *not* invited to sing!). At the wedding feast Senora Rosita sang a new song that went like this:

*I am an opera singer
Who found the perfect mate
He is so kind and charming
And plays the flute just great.
Only a fine flute player
Would ever win my heart
We'll play and sing together
And never shall we part!*

And Senor Perez played his flute to accompany her in perfect harmony.

Every day after that, Rosita would powder her face and put her lipstick on and Senor Perez would think her more beautiful than the day before, and every day they would make beautiful music together--oh, you may be sure that they *did* live happily ever after!

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for reader, soprano, flute
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LRC193

Soprano

CP



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