

## GRUPO ALTURAS

**Traslation:** *Dina Rodríguez N.*

ALTURAS was born in Lima in 1978. Since then, they have worked seriously and professionally letting the world know Peru through its traditional music from the Andes, the Coast and the Amazon, as well as the most representative melodies which belong to Latin America, giving special emphasis to Afro-Peruvian rhythms and very proudly showing on stage more than 50 different acoustic musical instruments.

Besides having performed all along Peru, they have given numerous concerts and have participated in various festivals held in very prestigious venues in Germany, Austria, Spain, France, England, Italy, Portugal, Poland, Switzerland, The former USSR, Israel, Morocco, Colombia, and have taken part in most of these countries officially representing Peru.

Innumerable comments from the media, critics, and several recordings produced are the special testimony ALTURAS counts on to proudly show the intensive and hard work they have done doing research on music and culture, searching authentic material, composing, arranging and performing to let others know the traditional Peruvian music, as well as on the elaboration of the so varied programmes they present, each one of them filled with lots of quality and professionalism. Because of this, ALTURAS is at present considered to be the most representative Peruvian musical group overseas.

## PROGRAMS

### CONCERTS

A real wide repertoire of songs, rhythms and musical variety which belong to the rich Peruvian cultural background is what ALTURAS presents in their concerts. Traditional music, from the Andes of Peru, its coast or the Amazon, with special emphasis in Afro-Peruvian music, all these complemented with the best and most traditional music from Latin America, and other pieces of music composed by ALTURAS making use of their excellent and highly-developed quality in their vocal arrangements as well as in the interpretation of traditional musical instruments which in whole provide the audience with magnificent and pleasant sounds.

It is ALTURAS's main goal to get the audience to enjoy and really appreciate the special talent each member shows playing different musical instruments and they really manage to get everyone to enjoy a rich programme, both in format and content and besides, ALTURAS has experienced the important value their followers give to the increasing interest the group has always shown to present their songs together with useful explanations which help everyone to draw in their minds the context and origin of each song and consequently a better and closer idea of Peru and the Latin American countries.

### TAKISUN

“Let's sing” -in Quechua (ancient language in the Andes) above- was the programme where Alturas and the French Choir “Ensemble Vocal de Castanet – Tolosan” recall three different periods which took place through the development of the Peruvian Culture: The Incas' time, the time of miscegenation, and the current culture. Songs such as “Hanac Pachap”, “El Condor Pasa”, “Voy a vivir”, create a nice mixture together with texts written by Eduardo Galeano, Pablo Neruda, Nicolas Guillen, Nicomedes Santa Cruz, Cesar Vallejo; all of them with a clear message to convey: Culture is the people's memory, people without memories will never be able to achieve their own freedom.

### MISA CRIOLLA

Composed by Ariel Ramirez in 1963 for a group of folkloric musical instruments, soloists, mixed choirs, piano and clavichord, which based on traditional folk rhythms from Argentina and Bolivia was composed to make it become a great popular liturgical expression, which is now very well-known all around the world. ALTURAS, highly experienced in the authentic style of the MISA CRIOLLA and making use of a fresh interpretation, have managed to reach a very special version, which they have sung in innumerable occasions at very important European venues together with Choirs of well-recognized international prestige. In July 2004, ALTURAS had the enormous privilege to present it together with the tenor JOSE CARRERAS and the Coral Salvé de Laredo at the Emilia Romagna International Festival (Italy). ALTURAS has participated in the Workshop and Concert of

the MISA CRIOLLA at the XVI EUROPA CANTAT Mainz 2006 (Germany) together with a huge choir formed by singers of different nationalities.

### **Version for orchestra**

Arrangement made by Luis Craff for soloists, choir and orchestra based on the original version by Ariel Ramirez, which ALTURAS presented as a debut of this version in the world by the end of 2005 on a tour around the south of Germany and L'Alsace (France) together with the orchestra Milan Camerata and the choir Studio Vocale Karlsruhe.

### **NAVIDAD NUESTRA**

Ariel Ramirez, inspired in a range of Folk Rhythms from Argentina and Bolivia, composed the music for the lyrics written by the poet Felix Luna, who explain the different stages which represent Christmas.

This real masterpiece, composed for folk musical instruments, soloists, mixed choir, piano, clavichord and accordion, is authentically performed by ALTURAS in different occasions with important choirs and has also been recorded on CD with the Ensemble Vocal de Castanet Tolosan, with whom ALTURAS has performed in Peru as well.

These concerts may be complemented with individual participations and/or together with the choir and ALTURAS.

### **PIRWALLA**

In the programme called "PIRWALLA", especially oriented to schools, where teachers, students and ALTURAS share and take part in various activities for some days, they all together develop DIDACTIC CONCERTS, INFORMAL PERFORMANCES and/or WORKSHOPS where different aspects of the history and cultural background of Peru are dealt, and then the whole group rehearses for an open concert to show the work done.

Note: The Didactic Concerts and Informal Performances may also be oriented to university students and general audience.

### **OTROS PROGRAMAS**

- ❖ Concert *"Latinoamerica y sus canciones de siempre"*
- ❖ Concert *"Navidad latinoamericana"*
- ❖ *Repertorio Coral Latinoamericano*