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THE GFA CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SERIES, No. 49

**Caracola**  
from *Canciones para niños*  
by Jonathan Kulp

**J**onathan Kulp (b. 1970) is Assistant Professor of music history and theory at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette School of Music. He began his musical studies at age eight, taking up the classical guitar in high school and going on to earn a degree in guitar performance from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. At UTC he studied guitar under Mario Abril and composition under Peter Temko. Kulp also holds a Master's degree in music theory and a Ph. D. in musicology from the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied with



Jonathan Kulp

the eminent Latin-American scholar Dr. Gerard Béhague. Dr. Kulp is a contributor to the *New Grove Dictionary of Music* and the German music encyclopedia *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, and his dissertation was a study of the art songs of Argentine composer Carlos Guastavino (1912-2000).

Kulp has written a number of works for guitar solo and guitar in chamber settings, foremost among which are his works for voice and guitar, which include three song cycles. In *Three Poems of James Joyce* (1991) for medium voice and guitar, Kulp's earliest compositions, he set to music poetry from Joyce's collection *Pomes Penyeach* (1927). After hearing the Joyce songs in 1993, guitarist Adam Holzman praised them and encouraged Kulp to write more music for the guitar. Kulp's next works were three songs on Spanish texts by Federico García Lorca. These ultimately became part of *Canciones para niños* (1994-2000), a cycle of nine songs for high voice and guitar. Kulp submitted piano arrangements of three songs from this cycle to G. Schirmer's 1995 Young American's Art Song Competition, and at age 24 became the youngest of eight winners chosen in the competition (nearly three hundred composers entered the contest). His winning song "Canción tonta" (Silly Song) was subsequently published in *The Art Song Collection*, the first volume of "G. Schirmer's New American Voices Series." Kulp's most recent cycle for voice and guitar is *Five Poems of Emily Dickinson* (2002), written on a commission from tenor/guitarist Matthew Hinsley of Austin, Texas, who also recorded four of Kulp's *Canciones para niños* on his CD entitled *Passions Move* (2002).

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Kulp's works for solo guitar include *Danza Dominicana* (1996), *Danza Cubana* (1997), and *Danza Cubana no. 2* (1999), all of which were written for guitarist Steve Kostelnik, who recorded two of the pieces on his Naxos Laureate Series CD. Other solo guitar works are two Etudes (1996) and the *Elegy and Fugue on a Nepali Melody* (1996).

In 1999 Kulp was commissioned by La Follia Austin Baroque Ensemble to write the chamber work

"Caracola"

Me han traído una caracola.  
Dentro le canta  
un mar de mapa.  
Mi corazón  
se llena de agua,  
con pececillos  
de sombra y plata.  
Me han traído una caracola.

*rosetree follies* (e.e. cummings) to be performed as part of the ensemble's Millenium celebration concert. The piece is scored for tenor and alto voices, baroque flute, baroque tenor recorder, and guitar. *rosetree follies* was premiered in April 2000, and a recording appears on La Follia's self-released CD entitled *A Millenium Concert*.

To hear recordings of Jonathan Kulp's music, including the song "Caracola" published here, visit his MP3 site at [www.mp3.com/jonathan\\_kulp](http://www.mp3.com/jonathan_kulp).

"Seashell"

*They have brought me a seashell.  
Inside, a sea-map  
sings.  
My heart  
fills with water,  
with little dark and  
silver fishies.  
They have brought me a seashell.*

—Federico García Lorca (from *Canciones para niños*, 1922) (English Translation by Jonathan Kulp)



# Caracola

Words: Federico García Lorca

Jonathan Kulp (1996)

♩ = 160

mp

swiftly flowing

f

mf

6

11

mf

15

19

mf

Me han tra - í - do u - na

ca - ra - co - - - la.

Den - tro le can - - ta un mar de

ma - pa. le can - - - ta un

mar Mi co - ra -

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24

zón se lle - na de a - gua, con

28

pe - ce - ci - llos de som - bra y pla - ta.

32

37

Me han tra - í - do u - na ca - ra -

41

co - la.

pp

rit. art. harm. 8va

pp