

# **An Analysis of Amy Dunker's *Cumbia! Cumbia!***

**By**

**Amy Dunker**

[www.amydunker.com](http://www.amydunker.com)

**Instrumentation:** Standard String Orchestra (with optional Improvisation section – written solos also provided for all instruments)

**Duration:** ca. 4 Minutes

**Grade:** 3

**Harmonic Language:** Tonal (G Major)

**Meter:** 4/4

**Texture:** Melody and Accompaniment

**Chords for Improvisation:** I - V

**Composition Date:** 2007

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## **Composer Bio:**

Composer-trumpeter-educator Amy Dunker's music resists easy categorization. From avant-garde improvisation to minimalistic sound sculptures to neo-romantic echoings, Amy delves deeply into the nature of human experience. Her works have been performed throughout the United States, Czech-Republic, Italy, the Ukraine, France, Thailand, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Great Britain, and Puerto Rico. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills and trumpet. Amy received her bachelor's degree (music education) from Morningside College, a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of South Dakota, a master's degree in composition from Butler University and a doctorate in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City - Conservatory of Music. Major influences in her musical education include Stanley DeRusha, Chen Yi, James Mobberley and Michael Schelle. Amy's works have been recorded on the ERM Media, NextAGem, Centerpoint and Whatsit labels. Her music is published by Alliance Publications, Inc.

## **Other String Orchestra Works by Amy Dunker:**

### **Strings Around the World Series:**

African Serenade (Grade 3 ½)	AP – 4122
Bossa Nova Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4114
Brazil! (Grade 3)	AP – 4109
Cumbia! Cumbia! (Grade 3)	AP – 4106
Gvovi (Grade 2)	AP – 4110
Golden Ring Dance (Grade 2)	AP – 4116
Raga India (Grade 4)	AP – 4108
Reggae Jamaica (Grade 3)	AP – 4124
Rondo on a Puerto Rican Folk Song (Grade 1)	AP – 4121
South Africa Sings (Grade 3)	AP – 4115
Tango Loca (Grade 4)	AP – 4118
Tanz! (Grade 3)	AP – 4118
The Mambo Kings (Grade 3)	AP – 4119
Tribute to the Mariachi (Grade 3)	AP – 4117

### **Strings Today Series**

As Darkness Falls (Grade 4)	AP - 4111
Homage to W. A. Mozart (Grade 4)	AP – 4112
Rain Sketch (Grade 3)	AP – 4123

## **Colombia:**

Colombia, officially the Republic of Colombia (Spanish: República de Colombia, is a country located in the northwestern region of South America. Colombia is bordered to the east by Venezuela and Brazil; to the south by Ecuador and Peru; to the North by the Atlantic Ocean, through the Caribbean Sea; to the north-west by Panama; and to the west by the Pacific Ocean. The word "Colombia" comes from the name of Christopher Columbus (Cristóbal Colón in Spanish, Cristoforo Colombo in Italian). It was conceived by the revolutionary Francisco de Miranda as a reference to the New World, especially to all American territories and colonies under Spanish and Portuguese rule.

With approximately 43.6 million people in 2006, Colombia is the third-most populous country in Latin America, after Brazil and Mexico. The country has a diverse population that reflects its colorful history and the peoples that have populated here from ancient times to the present. The historic amalgam of the different main groups forms the basis of Colombia's current demographics which include indigenous peoples, as well as people of European and African descent. Many of the indigenous peoples were absorbed into the mestizo population, but the remaining 700,000 currently represent over eighty-five distinct cultures. Today more than fifty different indigenous ethnic groups exist in Colombia. Most of them speak languages belonging to the Chibchan and Cariban linguistic families. Some of the largest indigenous groups are the Arhuacos, the Muisca, the Kuna people, the Witoto, the Páez, the Tucano, the Wayuu and the Guahibo.

The culture of Colombia lies at the crossroads of Latin America characterized for having one of the most multicultural societies; a complex mixing of European, African, Latin American, Caribbean and Native American cultures. The mixture a variety of the different ethnic traditions developed unique hybrids of musical, dancing and rites expressions being Cumbia and Vallenato.<sup>1</sup>

### **Cumbia:**

Cumbia is originally a Colombian folk dance and dance music and is Colombia's representative national dance and music along with vallenato. Modern cumbia includes instrumental mixing; guitars, accordions, bass guitar, modern flutes and modern deep-toned drums and other percussions. The basic rhythm structure is 4/4. Cumbia is the result of the intersection of two cultures that settled in the region of what is now northern Colombia at different times; the Amerindians and African slaves. Cumbia began as a courtship dance practiced among the slave population that was later mixed with the European instruments and influence.<sup>2</sup> In its original form, cumbia was played with tambor drums and large gaita flutes. In the 1920's Colombian dance bands in Barranquilla and other coastal cities began playing cumbia while adding horns, brass and other instruments to the traditional drum and flutes.<sup>3</sup>

The danced courtship ritual was rhythmically performed with music played by groups of men and women couples; women playfully waving with their long skirts and holding a candle, while the men danced behind the women, with one hand on his back and the other one holding his hat, putting it on and off and waving it. Men also carried a red type of handkerchief which they either wrapped around their necks, waved in circles in the air or handheld together with women.

Today traditional cumbia is preserved and considered representative of the Colombian identity, but especially in the Northern Caribbean coast. It is also associated to Barranquilla's Carnival and the Vallenato Legend Festival.<sup>4</sup>

### **Performance Notes:**

*Cumbia! Cumbia!* is written in the traditional Colombian cumbia format. All of the parts traditionally played by various rhythm section instruments are divided up between the various string parts creating the rhythmic drive and flavor of the piece.

At rehearsal letter E, you may choose to either perform the passage as written and continue with the piece as written or you may repeat the passage a third, fourth, etc., time for optional solo work. The solos may be improvised using the given chord progression or you may choose to use the written solos provided. Each of the two written solos is provided in treble, alto and bass clef for easy selection of players and voicing.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia> (accessed 02/07/08).

<sup>2</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumbia> (accessed 02/07/08).

<sup>3</sup> <http://latinmusic.about.com/od/genres/p/PRO02BASIC.htm> (accessed 02/11/08).

<sup>4</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumbia> (accessed 02/07/08).

**Form:**

Introduction	ms. 1 – 10	
A	ms. 11 – 39	Themes 1 and 2
B	ms. 40 – 55	Theme 3 (Opt. Repeats for Solos)
<i>(Repeat B Section)</i>		
B'	ms. 56 – 67	Theme 3
A'	ms. 68 – 96	Theme 1 and 2

**Theme 1 (Violin I, ms. 11 – 14):**

A

*f*

This block shows the first four measures of Theme 1 for Violin I. It begins with a box containing the letter 'A'. The music is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The first measure starts with a dotted quarter note on G4, followed by an eighth rest and an eighth note on A4. The second measure contains a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on D5, all beamed together. The third measure has a quarter note on E5, a quarter note on D5, and a quarter note on C5, also beamed. The fourth measure consists of a quarter note on B4 and a quarter note on A4. A forte dynamic marking 'f' is placed below the first measure.

Vln. I

13

This block shows the continuation of Theme 1 for Violin I, specifically measures 13 and 14. The music is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 13 begins with a quarter note on G4, followed by a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on C5, all beamed together. Measure 14 contains a quarter note on D5, a quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on B4, also beamed together. The number '13' is written above the first measure.

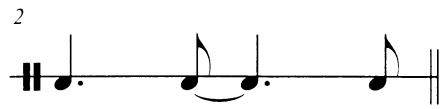


## Cumbia! Cumbia! Rhythms

1.)



2.)



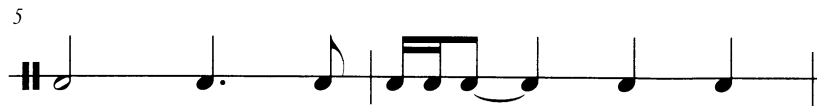
3.)



4.)



5.)



6.)



7.)



### **Recommended Recordings:**

Greatest Cumbia Classics of Colombia, Vol. 1

[http://www.amazon.com/Greatest-Classics-Colombia-Various-Artists/dp/B00002NDBR/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?ie=UTF8&s=music&qid=1202831048&sr=1-3](http://www.amazon.com/Greatest-Classics-Colombia-Various-Artists/dp/B00002NDBR/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&s=music&qid=1202831048&sr=1-3)

The Rough Guide to Cumbia

[http://www.amazon.com/Rough-Guide-Cumbia-Various-Artists/dp/B00004SCES/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?ie=UTF8&s=music&qid=1202831048&sr=1-4](http://www.amazon.com/Rough-Guide-Cumbia-Various-Artists/dp/B00004SCES/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&s=music&qid=1202831048&sr=1-4)

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