

Minha terra teve palmeiras — a pandemic madrigal...

Brazil is going through a difficult moment. Federal government has been pushing forward its death plan, profiting from the pandemics. Although, abroad, most preoccupation is directed towards the devastation of forest (which is a fact), the destruction of the Amazon and of the Pantanal is part of today's government plan to kill indians, either directly or by stealing their lands.

I decided to write a piece prompted by this little known part of the pandemics.

The Tupi (the largest indian nation when the Portuguese arrived in the 16th century) word for the country was *Pindorama*, that means “land of the palm trees”. Also the best known Brazilian poetry of the Romantic Period, by Gonçalves Dias, starts with “*Minha terra tem palmeiras...*” (“my homeland has palm-trees”). I changed the verb to the past: “*teve palmeiras...*”, “it had palm-trees”.

The Bororo are probably the most musical indians in the country. However, I do not think it is fair to borrow from their music. I did not take up from their percussion or flute music. This would seem to me a kind of usurpation. I used part of the incantation poetical formulas of their reenactment of a cyclical cosmogony, the proclamation of the names that follows a funeral ceremony: “*Mèri ecôdo tábo / Guiarigòdúré*” — “the sun has hidden itself/ I miss it”. To which the community answers calling “*aroè*” — “the spirit”.

Finally, it is a baroque piece, with its instance of a descending chromatic tetrachord.



All the text is phonetically transcribed, so to be pronounced correctly.

The incantation formulas, presented inside brackets, are to be repeated, in a singing voice, fastly, but not always in a similarly rhythmical way: change the durations of the syllables. You may breath briefly between repetitions, if needed. Thus, when two voices present simultaneously the same text, they are not supposed to repeat at the same speed. Changes in phonetic, mostly between a vowel and a nasal form of it, are marked with an arrow.

minha terra teve palmeiras

madrigal

Mauricio Dottori (2020)

Sofferto

Musical score for madrigal "minha terra teve palmeiras" by Mauricio Dottori (2020). The score is in 4/4 time and features five vocal parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, and Bass. The tempo is marked "Sofferto".

Lyrics:
Soprano: pi ã do
Alto: pi ã
Tenor: hΛ hΛ pĩ hΛ
Baritone: hΛ hΛ pi ã [me'ri...]
Basso: hΛ hΛ hΛ y
Soprano (3): ra ã
Alto: [ε'kodɔ...] [aro'e...]
Tenor: do ra ã
Basso: ...] hΛ hΛ hΛ
Basso: i [ε'kodɔ...] ['tabo...

Performance Instructions:
- *ppp* (pianissimo) for Soprano and Alto in the first measure.
- *p* (piano) for Soprano in the second measure.
- *ppp* (pianissimo) for Soprano in the third measure.
- *f* (forte) for Alto in the third measure.
- *f* (forte) for Tenor in the first measure.
- *pp* (pianissimo) for Tenor in the second measure.
- *f* (forte) for Tenor in the third measure.
- *f* (forte) for Baritone in the first measure.
- *pp* (pianissimo) for Baritone in the second measure.
- *f* (forte) for Bass in the first measure.
- *f* (forte) for Bass in the second measure.
- *pp* (pianissimo) for Bass in the third measure.
- *pp* (pianissimo) for Soprano in the fourth measure.
- *mp* (mezzo-piano) for Alto in the fourth measure.
- *p* (piano) for Tenor in the fourth measure.
- *pp* (pianissimo) for Tenor in the fifth measure.
- *f* (forte) for Bass in the fourth measure.

Other markings:
- "portato alla fine" above Soprano and Alto staves.
- "hΛ" (low sound with strong diaphragm stroke) under Tenor and Bass staves.
- "3" above Soprano staff in the fourth measure.

5

S *mf* \triangleright *pp*
[aro'e...] ma

A *pp* \triangleright *mp* *portato alla fine* *f* *pp*
...] y \dashrightarrow i hΛ [aro'e...]

T *mp* \triangleleft *mf* *f*
paw mej hΛ

B *pp* *beseechingly (flehtlich)* *mp* \triangleright *pp* *portato alla fine*
'mi - ja 'te - he tev paw-mej - ras

B *mf* \triangleright *pp*
...] [aro'e...]

7

S *ppp* *more and more nasal*
[aro'e...]

A *f ppp* *more and more nasal*
hΛ [gigarigodu're...]

T *f ppp* *more and more nasal*
hΛ [gigarigodu're...]

B *f ppp* *more and more nasal*
hΛ [gigarigodu're...]

B *f ppp*
hΛ [gigarigodu're...]