

Violeta Parra

Gracias a la Vida

*arranged for guitar by
Emmanuel Sowicz*

Preface

Violeta Parra (1917-1967) was a Chilean composer, singer-songwriter, folklorist, ethnomusicologist, visual artist, and a pioneer of the *Nueva Canción Chilena* (The Chilean New Song). *Gracias a la Vida* (Thanks to Life) was composed in 1966 in La Paz, Bolivia, and is one of Parra's most emblematic songs. It was recorded and released on *Las Últimas Composiciones*, Parra's last album before committing suicide. One of the most covered Latin American songs in history, it was inducted to the Latin Grammy Hall of Fame in 2013.

This arrangement was prepared to be performed as an encore for a concerto performance in January 2018 with the Chilean National Youth Orchestra under maestro Maximiano Valdés at Teatro del Lago in Frutillar, Chile, and was completed two days before its performance. It departs from the livelier rhythmic character of the original to explore the song's more lyrical quality. Special attention should be given to bringing out the melody throughout, especially in those passages in which the accompaniment occupies a similar register.

A video of this arrangement filmed by Open Strings Berlin is available: <https://youtu.be/IKdQkGGSy64>. Violeta Parra's original recording can be heard here: https://youtu.be/UkIyMxDIo_k. Mercedes Sosa's emblematic rendition is also available: <https://youtu.be/WyOJ-A5iv5I>.

All harmonics are notated as diamond note-heads at sounding pitch.
Accidentals apply for the full duration of each measure.
Some courtesy accidentals have been supplied for the sake of clarity.
Technical slurs have been notated with dotted lines.

Emmanuel Sowicz

Emmanuel Sowicz (1992) is a British and Chilean guitarist who combines his passion for the guitar's traditional repertoire with a keen interest in new music and the art of transcription. In 2014 he won First Prize at the II SMBA International Guitar Competition in Buenos Aires, and in 2017 he was awarded First Prize and the Audience Award at the XLIV Dr. Luis Sigall International Music Competition in Viña del Mar – Latin America's most prestigious classical music competition. In 2018 he became a EuroStrings Artist after winning First Prize by a unanimous decision at the London International Guitar Competition.

Emmanuel has performed at Abbey Road Studios, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Kings Place in London, as well as for Arvo Pärt and Sting at the Arvo Pärt Centre in Estonia. In January 2018, he gave a televised concert for the 50th Semanas Musicales de Frutillar festival as soloist with the National Youth Symphony Orchestra of Chile under maestro Maximiano Valdés, for which he was described as “the next star of the guitar” (Radio Beethoven FM). He has also performed as part of the Philharmonia Orchestra at Southbank Centre for the UK premiere of Franco Donatoni's Refrains II and at Barbican Hall alongside the BBC Symphony Orchestra & BBC Symphony Chorus for the UK premiere of Osvaldo Golijov's Oceana, a cantata inspired in the poetry of the Chilean Nobel Prize laureate Pablo Neruda.

Born in London to British and Chilean parents, Emmanuel graduated from the University of Chile in 2014 under Ernesto Quezada. He later received a scholarship to study with Michael Lewin, Stephen Goss, Fabio Zanon, and David Russell at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he completed his Master of Arts and Advanced Diploma with Distinction, the DipRAM award for an outstanding final recital, and the Dove Prize for his outstanding studentship. He also studied a Postgraduate course with Marco Tamayo at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg.

Emmanuel Sowicz is a Savarez Artist and performs on a 2001 Matthias Dammann guitar kindly loaned to him by David Russell.

www.emmanuelchowicz.com

Gracias a la Vida

arr. Emmanuel Sowicz

Violeta Parra
Chile 1917-1967

Andantino $\text{♩} = 54-66$

Duration: ca. 2'20

(Intro.) *reflective*

sim.

⑥ = D

p l.v.

5

mf cantabile CV

V (Theme) (p)

10

CIII₅

14

C I

XIX
⑥
r.h.

18

CV

(dolce) cresc.

22

(poco meno) dim.

26

p molto cresc.

30 *port.* *(mp)*
f *espress.* *molto vib.* *(mp)*

34 *(mp)* *CIII₅*

38 *(poco meno)*

42 *cresc.*

46 *(poco meno)* *dim.*

50 *poco rall.*

53 *rall. molto* *a tempo poco a poco* *mp*

57 *dim.* *rall.* *(quasi niente)*