



# Inspiring Artistry Repertoire Project

*A Piano Magazine subscriber-exclusive digital resource*

**Luis Sanchez presents:**

**Mis Amigos: No. 8, Casandra, by Carlos Guastavino**

## **Process and Practice**

**Fully Present:** tips for maintaining focus and engagement over time

- If this piece was the soundtrack to a scene in a movie, what would that scene be about?
- Look for pictures from Argentina and create a slideshow to which this piece can provide the soundtrack.

**Break it Up:** useful practice segments; how to connect them and plug them back into the whole

- The piece is mostly cast in four-measure phrases. Focus on each individual phrase and look for similarities and differences.
- Plan out the dynamic scheme of the piece from PP to F.
- Identify ends of phrases where a subtle ritenuto or where rubato would be appropriate.

**Layers and outlines:** tips for focusing on how the parts makeup the whole

- Identify places where the composer uses the Phrygian mode and places where he does not.
- Locate the climax of the piece.

**Achieving flow:** ideas for finding and maintaining tempo, managing modifications artistically

- Use the metronome to prevent a tendency to slow down the rhythmic ostinato.
- Away from the piano, walk while singing the melody or while the teacher plays the piece to embody the flow of the piece.

**Make it mine:** tips for developing and refining a personal, internal sense of the piece

- Exaggerate the melodic shape of the right hand and explore different ways to phrase it.
- Highlight with the use of rubato harmonic changes in melodically similar places for added variety and interest.

**Deep knowing:** tips for securing memory

- Memorize the LH alone in tricky places.
- Analyze the differences between different phrases.

**Final stages:** tips for ensuring performance readiness, maintaining freshness and spontaneity, and reinforcing an expressive personal connection

- Encourage student recordings for self-evaluation and growth.