

MY TRUE INITIATION TO THE MUSIC OF THE MASTERS

Francisco Guzman, FRC

Through the Rosicrucian Order I discovered the world of great music. As a child of about eight years of age growing up in Havana, Cuba, in a very musical culture surrounded by the popular sounds of the times, I was fortunate enough that my parents would occasionally play a recording of Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto. During those occasions the power and beauty of the music with the symphony orchestra seemed to be a world elsewhere, so different from the popular music culture that prevailed. Still the music made an important impression. At about the age of twelve, we moved to the great City of New York, the very city where H. Spencer Lewis had the mystical experience that inspired him to cofound the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC. It is a thriving Rosicrucian center of activity, even to this day.

It began around the age of fifteen for me when the first time the word "Rosicrucian" was mentioned at home. A family member, Jorge, would stop by every so often. On one occasion, he was engaged in conversation with a guest. During the course of the conversation, he would speak of the Rosicrucians in a historical perspective. He was much older and had been a member of the Lodge in Havana. Even though I was not participating in the conversation, the mention of the word Rosicrucian created a profound interest and a personal inquiry followed. Soon my most precious possession would be a little booklet entitled *Mastery Of Life*. At the time, one had to be the age of twenty-one for membership, but could enter a plea for membership at the age of eighteen with a guardian or parental approval.

My father had been a successful business owner and executive. There was some hesitation for me to approach him about this. What would he say? What if he denies my request? As I sat down with him and handed the application for

membership he unexpectedly said to my surprise: "Now this will be good for you." He signed the membership application and handed it back. It was an exhilarating and amazing moment. Finally, my dream was coming true. I could now reach out to the venerable Order with the admission plea.

In a little over two weeks, my membership credentials with initial instructions had arrived. The simple and requested accouterments for study were in place. There was another brochure received with the initial credentials that was titled *Rosicrucian Supply Bureau*. It contained a complete listing of books, supplies, and musical recordings for sale through the Rosicrucian Order. Of particular attention and interest was a recording entitled *Temple Music*. This was a compilation of music by such artists as Charles Gounod, Jules Massenet, Samuel Barber, Victor Herbert, Maurice Ravel, George Frideric Handel, plus the *Rosicrucian Chant*, and *Secreto Eterno*. The music was meant to assist with the esoteric studies and moments of reflection and meditation.

Playing this music softly in the background during the periods of study and meditation was quite transformative. Within days there was an energy, an inspiration, which was to take a life of its own. Evenings, or anytime for that matter, would become a rendezvous, a meeting of the minds, so to speak. Eagerly and ensconced by the beauty of this music, a journey through the spheres of the music of the masters was initiated, one which continues to this day and for which there is the utmost of gratitude to the Rosicrucian movement which made it happen.