

# Francisco Curt Lange on his 75th Birthday



DECEMBER 12, 1903, WAS THE BIRTHDATE of the founder of Americanismo Musical and the present-day Nestor of Latin American musicology. His prowess is celebrated in all the great international music lexicons—*Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 5th edition (1954) V, 47–48, *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, VIII (1960), 183–184, *Riemann Musiklexikon*, Personenteil L–Z (1961), 21, *Ergänzungsband Personenteil L–Z* (1975), 12, and in every other music encyclopedia with any pretension to completeness.

His bibliography of published works to only 1955 occupies four columns in *The National Union Catalog Pre-1956 Imprints*, Volume 314 (1974), 657–658. The selective lists from 1929 to 1957 and from 1964 to 1970 published in *Riemann* total 17 and 9 nutritious titles. Between 1935 and 1956 he edited six stout tomes of the *Boletín Latino-Americano de Música* (including five musical supplements). Between 1941 and 1954 his Editorial Cooperativa Interamericana de Compositores published 66 works by contemporary Latin American composers.

His honors include every distinction known to a Western Hemispheric musical scholar. No musicologist working with Inter-American materials begins to equal his long and intense record of productivity and wide range of geographic interests. His devotion to archival research, his selfless zeal for Baroque composers such as Lôbo de Mesquita, Coelho Netto, and Gomes da Rocha who but for his rescuing would still be mere shadows on the wall, and his persistent enthusiasm for all that is most lastingly beautiful and beneficial in Inter-American music, set him apart from all other musicologists who have trod his pathways.

Since 1940 he has headed the Instituto Interamericano de Musicología at Montevideo—where he took up residence in 1930. In 1961–1963 he was Cultural Attaché in the Uruguayan Embassy at Bonn. Just at the period of life when other lesser scholars' energies flag, he has continued in the 1970s to reap ever greener laurels, to travel ever more extensively in Europe and the Western Hemisphere, and to publish ever more exciting discoveries.

A future issue of *Inter-American Music Review* will include a classified bibliography of his total published oeuvre. All hail to this unique pillar of 20th-century Inter-American musicology! In grateful tribute, this number of IAMR is dedicated to him on his 75th birthday.