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The following material is not only an excellent introduction to the playing of Barrios, it uses his original fingerings which are unique. The progressive studies and works here present Barrios as played by Barrios. As such, it is the ideal companion to the d'OZ editions of the recordings of Agustin Barrios by Chris Erwich, who assisted in the production of *El Libro de Oro*.

The art and success of Barrios was as much dependent on his relationship with his teachers and patrons as his own God given talent. Through them, he learned diplomacy, grace and the ability to communicate not only with his music, but with his words and demeanor. The relationship between a teacher of the Spanish guitar and student is a special one, and the reader should keep in mind that this method was never intended to be one of self study. Many of the lessons in this series were hand copied from the originals in the final home of Barrios, on the very table that would later serve to hold his body during the brief funeral held in his home after he passed from this earth August 7, 1944. His body was not carried to the cemetery of the Illustrious in San Salvador El Salvador by coach or carriage but on the shoulders of his students. One of them, Dr. Roberto Bracamonte, writing on behalf of them said the following:

«Maestro Mangoré has died.

After a few days of illness and when everybody was wishfully expecting his healing, as sweetly as a melody of those which only from his noble and great heart could sprout, Maestro Mangoré has given the mortal step towards the regions that shall be for him eternal joy, pulling apart his spirit of a genius, of a great one, of an artist, of a master, of a humble one, of the matter that oppressed and compelled him to live among us accomplishing his sacred mission, which used to be to relieve the sorrow of anyone who came to him.

Mangoré, as an artist, used to be a crying and feeling heart; as a composer a genius; as a master, a patient and true apostle; as a man, unique and one of those who God sends only once in centuries for them to guide their fellows with their light along the rough path of life; as a friend, for his spirit equals faithfulness turned into a person, and for his subordinates a loving father. There will be no one like him and his loss will never be repaired. When undertaking the eternal journey to the place of perfection that corresponds to select spirits, our master and friend leaves us drowning in the deepest sorrow; but we know he has not abandoned us and he still lives among us; his image of peace, nobility and sweetness will always be beating in our hearts. God, by receiving him into his bosom, has felt an immense joy, and choirs of angels have played celestial marches of triumph.»

A person who follows in the way of Barrios is known as a «Mangoreano». As it was explained to me by fellow Mangoreano Edgardo Quintanilla, «*You are a Mangoreano now. You have responsibilities!*». In bringing this method, once thought lost, and even claimed by some authorities to not exist at all to a greater audience, I hope to have fulfilled my responsibilities. And you, now a Mangoreano, have yours.

«Che anga Oi Mangorendi»

-Frederick Sheppard

Green Bay, Wisconsin, February 16, 2019

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Agustin Barrios in the guise of Cacique Nitsuga Mangore,
the messenger of the Guaraní race