

# SANTA ROSALIA

## Chamber Cantata for Vocal Quartet, Woodwind Quintet and Harpsichord

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**Saint Rosalia**, patroness of Palermo, Sicily, lived in the 12th Century. She came from a noble family descended from Charlemagne. According to tradition, at the age of fourteen she went to live as an anchoress in a cave on Mt. Coschina, near Bivona, and later in a grotto on Mt. Pellegrino, three miles from Palermo. Here she passed the remainder of her life and died around A.D. 1160. (September 4 is the feast of her death.) During the great plague of 1624, her remains were discovered and brought in solemn procession to Palermo. The abatement of the plague soon after was attributed to Rosalia's miraculous aid. Her caves have been transformed into sanctuaries and her body is enshrined in a splendid chapel in the cathedral of Palermo. She is still invoked, in Catholic countries, against earthquake, pestilence and plague.

**Fernando Botero**, one of the most popular artists of the 20th Century, was born in 1932 in Medellin, Colombia. He has painting studios in Paris, Florence, New York and Medellin and divides his year among them. He painted SANTA ROSALIA in 1972 and it was acquired that year by the Palmer Museum of Art.

Portions of the text to the cantata were derived from interviews with Fernando Botero.

The cantata was written with the assistance of grants from the College of Arts and Architecture and Philip Philip Mitchell Award recipient Suzanne Scurfield Hess.

The poet and composer extend their deep appreciation to Professor Robert Lima for his expertise and artistry in translating the original text in English into Spanish for the performance at the Museo Botero in Bogotá, Colombia.

The poet and composer dedicate this cantata to all those living with AIDS.

**COMPOSER NOTE:** It is paramount that the text be fully understood. The singers are asked to take special care with diction. Dynamics in the wind parts are generally marked below those of the singers but should be even softer if the words are being obscured. Performance style should be colloquial, lyrical, folklike, and even popular.