**SANTA BARBARA SUITE** was commissioned by the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra to celebrate the 30th anniversary of music director Heiichiro Ohyama’s tenure with the orchestra. Its instrumentation is modeled after Dvorak’s *Serenade in D minor, Op. 44* – 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 3 horns, violoncello and contrabass.

When I started writing the piece it quickly became clear that, in addition to paying tribute to Maestro Ohyama, the piece would also be about Santa Barbara. There are many beautiful and interesting things about this city, too many to touch on in just one piece of music. So I decided to focus on personal experiences and impressions that I had during many visits here.

**SANTA BARBARA SUITE** is in four movements and approximately 20 minutes in length. The first movement, *Fanfare for Heiichiro/State Street*, starts in a celebratory mood. The horns present the *Fanfare*, dedicated to SBCO’s music director, which weaves itself through the movement (and also reappears in the fourth movement, *La Super Rica*). After the *Fanfare*’s first appearance the movement segues into the *State Street* segment, a funky musical setting reminiscing on pre-concert evening walks I took from the Lobero Theatre down State Street, all the way to the ocean and back. The hustle and bustle of the street’s urban section is replaced by calmer surroundings once we’re past the freeway underpass. The movement comes to a halt as the ocean is reached, then literally turns around and ends again encompassed by busy city life.

*Tea at the Biltmore* refers to a tradition that my wife, SBCO principal bassoonist Judith Farmer, and I have followed ever since we first visited Santa Barbara. We met a friend of a friend for tea there, were taken by the surroundings and go back whenever we can. The movement is written from the point of view of a fly on the wall around tea time, observing a variety of characters and listening in on their conversations.

*Moon Over Santa Barbara* is about the city’s Spanish history as it expresses itself through architecture. The moon quietly illuminates the numerous mission style public buildings and residences.

*La Super Rica* is based on our upbeat experiences at this fun Santa Barbara eatery. While the cuisine is of course Mexican, I have always sensed – rightly or wrongly – a more general Latin American atmosphere there. This is musically reflected by the use of Salsa-like elements in this movement.

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