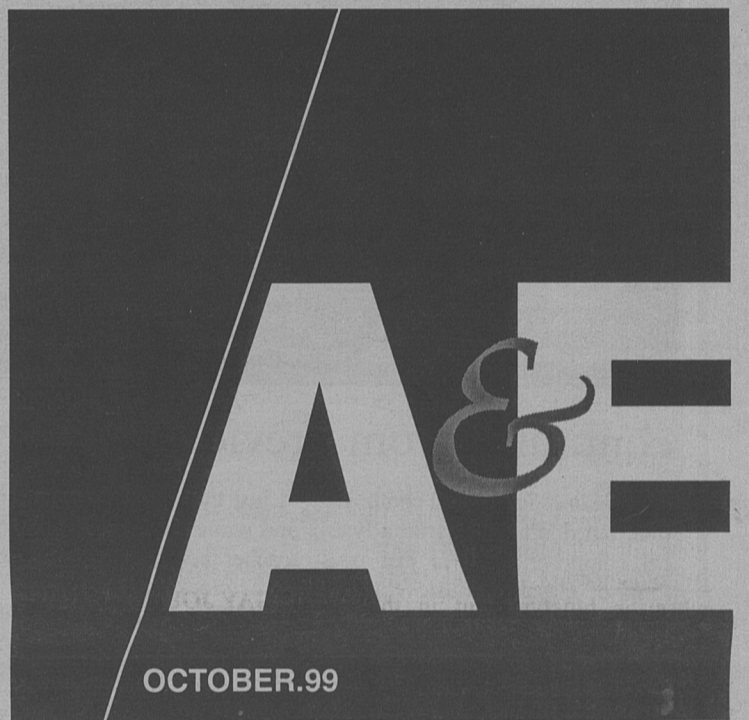


Jorge Martín



composing himself

BY CHRIS TEBBETTS

Don't call Jorge Martín a Cuban-born gay Vermont classical composer. Do ask him about his background, his heritage, and what he loves about music. Don't expect Jorge to talk himself into any corners. Do expect him to surprise you.

"I think one of the reasons I resist this idea of essentialism," he says, "is that it negates the power of the imagination. When you say, 'I can't imagine being anything beyond my little square,' I think that's really poor. I want to imagine things outside of my little square...I want to be broad, to exercise my imagination and draw people into it."

His latest composition, *Romance*, was commissioned by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra for their annual Made in Vermont tour, with performances around the state this September and October. *Romance* is 12 minutes long, and written for a 'Mozart-sized' (approximately 30 piece) orchestra, making a tour to smaller spaces more feasible. It is also geared to a broad audience. "There's always this fear that when you commission a piece of modern music, it's going to be difficult and ugly," says Martín. "So I was told it had to be accessible. So I wrote an accessible piece."

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