

ANA DE LA CUESTA (Gerlach) Ana Lourdes de la Cuesta Sandubete was born in Havana, Cuba, where she lived until January 1998. She studied music at Cuba's leading conservatories and pedagogical institutes, as well as privately with the renowned Cuban flutist, Professor Luis Bayard. She performed classical music in the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra, the National Center of Concert Music (a series of solo concerts), and various small groups.

She performed international, popular and Cuban traditional music (with piano or guitar accompaniment) in the Orchestra of the Musical Theater of Havana and in various small groups, including two she helped form: the Juglar Trio (Renaissance minstrel music) and the Doña Irene Orchestra (playing *danzones*, Cuban national dance music). During all of her performing years in Cuba she was also a full-time professor of flute and music theory. In the U.S. Ana met her future husband, Fred Gerlach, in the Milwaukee Choristers, a community choir that has frequently included her as a soloist in their concerts.

As part of the adjustment to life in her adopted country, Ana studied music history and literature at UWM, taking a B.A. in 2001 and an M.M. in 2005. She wrote her master's thesis on "The Cuban *Son*" (a musical genre). She trained herself in MIDI instrumentation, using a workstation and digital audio software, and then issued her first commercial CD, "Cuban Heart" - a collection of Cuban traditional music with herself as both performer and orchestrator. She continues to perform and teach flute on a free-lance basis, while serving as a full-time instructor of Spanish at the University of Wisconsin–Washington County.