

THE MUSIC OF “LA ZAMBRA DEL ZORRO”

Osamu Uehara, as the Choreographer, has identified and chosen some familiar and unfamiliar music and songs for his ballet, *La Zambra del Zorro*. What follows is a selection, with descriptions, from his list of composers and their works. As this goes to press, more music is being added.

At right: Choreographer & Librettist, “Uehara & Sullivan”



Sebastián Iradier – “La Paloma”

“La Paloma”, “The Dove” in English, is a popular Spanish song that has been produced and reinterpreted in diverse cultures, settings, arrangements, and recordings over the last 140 years. Written by the Spanish Basque composer Sebastián Iradier (later Yradier) around 1860 after a visit to Cuba. In 1879, it was registered at the copyright office in Madrid as a “Canción Americana con acompañamiento de Piano”. Iradier was to die in obscurity within few years, never to learn how popular his song would become outside of Spain, particularly in Mexico, and soon around the world. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Paloma

Joaquín Rodrigo - “Concierto de Aranjuez”

Concierto de Aranjuez, written for classical guitar in 1939 in Paris, established Rodrigo, a pianist, as one of the most significant Spanish composers of the 20th century. Inspired by the *jardines* (gardens) at the Royal Palace of Aranjuez, built in the 16th century, and rebuilt in the 18th, it is meant to transport the listener to another time and place by evoking the sounds of nature. According to Victoria Kamhi de Rodrigo, the familiar second movement was her husband’s response to both their happy honeymoon and the devastating miscarriage of their first pregnancy. Jazz musician Miles Davis reinterpreted this movement on his album “Sketches of Spain” (1960) stating: “The melody is so strong that the softer you play it, the stronger it gets, and the stronger you play it, the weaker it gets.” Rodrigo, at first not pleased, eventually accepted that such pop versions helped to make his original work better known. On December 30, 1991, Rodrigo was raised to Spanish nobility by King Carlos I, with the title of *Marqués de los Jardines de Aranjuez*. Born in 1901, Rodrigo died in 1999.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concierto_de_Aranjuez

Ernesto Lecuona y Casado – , Selection from “*Suite Andaluía*” including “*Malagueña*”

Lecuona (August 7, 1896 - November 29, 1963) was a composer and pianist born in “Cuba, Kingdom of Spain” on August 6th or 7th, 1895 or 1896. He traveled to Spain in 1924 on a concert tour with violinist Marta de la Torre. This was followed by other piano recitals and popularity that brought him to concert halls in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Lima, Paris, Nice, Barcelona, Madrid, London, and New York. He was a prolific composer of songs and music for stage and film, the film “Carnival in Costa Rica”, which includes “*Malagueña*”. In 1960 he left Castro’s new régime for Tampa, Florida, and died on November 29, 1963. A great deal of Lecuona’s music was introduced to American audiences by fellow Cuban Desi Arnaz, the spouse of Lucille Ball. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernesto_Lecuona

Pablo de Sarasate - “*Carmen Fantasy*” and other works

Pablo Martín Melitón de Sarasate y Navascués (March 10, 1844 - September 20, 1908) was born in Pamplona, capital of the autonomous country of Navarre, near northern Spain. A was a famous violin virtuoso. Perhaps the best known of his works is *Zigeunerweisen* (1878), a work for violin and orchestra. Another piece, the *Carmen Fantasy* (1883), also for violin and orchestra, makes use of themes from Georges Bizet’s opera *Carmen*. Probably his most performed encores are his four books of *Spanish Dances*, *Opp. 21, 22, 23, 26*, brief pieces designed to please the listener’s ear and show off the performer’s talent. Édouard Lalo’s *Symphonie espagnole* was dedicated to Sarasate; and Camille Saint-Saëns’ *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* was written expressly for Sarasate and dedicated to him. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pablo_de_Sarasate

Jesús González Rubio – “*Jarabe Tapatío*”

Jarabe Tapatío, often called the Mexican hat dance, is the national dance of Mexico. Originated as a courtship dance in Guadalajara, Jalisco, during the 19th century, its elements can be traced back to the Spanish *zambra* and *jarabe gitano* during the times of the viceroyalty. Female dancers traditionally wear a *china poblana*; males dress as *charros*. They step flirtatiously around the brim of the hat. The standard music of the *jarabe tapatío* was composed by Jesús González Rubio in the 19th century. A more common instrumental arrangement dates from the 1920s. Sometimes it is confused with *La Raspa*, another Mexican dance. Nowadays, its music is commonly performed by mariachi or string ensembles.



https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jarabe_Tapatío

Above: Dancing *Jarabe Tapatío* in Guadalajara, Mexico

Macedonio Alcalá – “*Dios Nunca Muere*”

"Dios Nunca Muere" (English: God Never Dies) is a Mexican waltz written by composer and violinist Macedonio Alcalá in 1868. Is the *de facto* anthem of the state of Oaxaca. "Dios Nunca Muere" has been sung by famous singers like Pedro Infante and Javier Solís.

There are two versions of the creation of this waltz. The first says that it was composed when Macedonio Alcalá and his wife went through a precarious economic situation and also the composer was at risk of dying, then his friend Roberto Maqueo, seeing their plight, left him without him noticing 12 pesos in silver. The other version says that some Indigenous people from a nearby village visited him to ask for a waltz for the patron of his people, and paid 12 pesos in silver. It is said that when Alcalá received the money, sat on his bed and drew on a wall the first bars of the waltz, which later transcribed on paper; He called this waltz *Dios Nunca Muere* in gratitude that he had received help when he needed. *

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dios_Nunca_Muere

Narciso Serradell Sevilla – “*La Golondrina*”

"La golondrina" (English: "The Swallow") is a song written in 1862 by Mexican physician Narciso Serradell Sevilla (1843–1910), who at the time was exiled to France due to the French intervention in Mexico. *

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_golondrina

Daniel Alomía Robles – “*El Cóndor Pasa*”

"El Cóndor Pasa" ("The Condor Passes") is from the zarzuela, *El Cóndor Pasa*, by Peruvian composer Daniel Alomía Robles, written in 1913, based on traditional Andean music, specifically folk music from Peru.

It is the best-known Peruvian tune in the English-speaking world, especially because of a 1970 cover by Simon & Garfunkel version with English lyrics by Paul Simon, on their "Bridge over Troubled Water" album. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_C%C3%B3ndor_Pasa_\(song\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_C%C3%B3ndor_Pasa_(song))

OTHER COMPOSERS include: Giuseppe Domenico Scarlatti & Ridolfo Luigi Boccherin, Antonio Soler, Isaac Albéniz.

OTHER WORKS include: *Espana Cañi*, *Granada*, *El Relicario*, *La Virgen de la Macareña*, *Cielito Lindo*.

NOTE: Music, choreography, casting & story of "*La Zambra del Zorro*" are open to possible changes, if/as needed, including on the days of the performances.

* LYRICS to "*Dios Nunca Muere*" and "*La Golondrina*" follow on the next two pages.

THE SONG OF IGNACIO

Dios nunca muere

Muere el sol en los montes
Con la luz que agoniza
Pues la vida en su prisa
Nos conduce a morir

Pero no importa saber
Que voy a tener el mismo final
Porque me queda el consuelo
Que Dios nunca morirá

Voy a dejar las cosas que amé
La tierra ideal que me vio nacer
Sé que después habré de gozar
La dicha y la paz
Que en Dios hallaré

~ ~ ~

Sé que la vida empieza
En donde se piensa
Que la realidad termina

Sé que Dios nunca muere
Y que se conmueve
Del que busca su beatitud

Sé que una nueva luz
Habrá de alcanzar nuestra soledad
Y que todo aquel que llega a morir
Empieza a vivir una eternidad

Muere el sol en los montes
Con la luz que agoniza
Pues la vida en su prisa
Nos conduce a morir

* * *

Submitted by Valeriu RautValeriu Raut on 2016-06-02. Last edited by Valeriu RautValeriu Raut on 2016-11-11. Submitter's comments:

"Dios nunca muere" es un vals mexicano escrito por el compositor y violinista Oaxaqueño Macedonio Alcalá en 1868. Es el Himno de facto del Estado Mexicano de Oaxaca.

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dios_nunca_muere

TRANSLATION

God never dies

The sun dies amidst the hills
with its light fading.
For life in its haste
leads us to death.

But it matters not
that I shall have the same end,
for I am consoled with the fact
that God never dies.

I shall leave the things that I loved
the wonderful land of my birth.
I know that later I shall bask
in joy and in peace
that I shall find in God.

~ ~ ~

I know that life begins
where one thinks
that reality ends.

I know that God never dies
and that he is moved
by those in search of His bliss.

I know that a new light
will reach our loneliness
and all those who have begun to die
shall begin to live for eternity.

The sun dies amidst the hills
with its light fading.
For life in its haste
leads us to death.

* * *

<https://lyricstranslate.com>

THE SONG OF THE SWALLOWS

Las Golondrinas

A donde irá
veloz y fatigada
la golondrina
que de aquí se va
por si en el viento
se hallara extraviada
buscando abrigo
y no lo encontrara.

Junto a mi lecho
le pondré su nido
en donde pueda
la estación pasar
también yo estoy
en la región perdido
O Cielo Santo!
y sin poder volar.

Deje también
mi patria idolatrada
esa mansión
que me miró nacer
mi vida es hoy
errante y angustida
y ya no puedo
a mi mansión volver.

Ave querida
amada peregrina
mi corazón
al tuyo acercare
voy recordando
tierna golondrina
recordare
mi patria y llorare.

* * *

*Submitted by new1new1 on 2012-03-08
Last edited by Miley_LovatoMiley_Lovato
on 2017-10-05*

TRANSLATION

The Swallow

Where can it go
rushed and fatigued
the swallow
passing by
tossed by the wind
looking so lost
with nowhere to hide.

By my bed
I'll put your nest
until the season passes.
I too, O heaven!
am lost in this place
unable to fly.

Leave, too
my beloved homeland,
that home
that saw my birth.
My life today
is wandering, anguished.
I cannot
return home.

Dearest bird
beloved pilgrim,
my heart
nigh to yours;
remember
tender swallow,
remember
my homeland and cry.

* * *

*<https://lyricstranslate.com/en/la-golondrina-swallow.html>
<https://youtu.be/obvphH26smsf>*