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PASC 244

DE FALLA

NIGHTS IN THE GARDENS OF SPAIN

EXCERPTS FROM 'THE THREE CORNERED HAT' & 'LA VIDA BREVE'

PRISTINE
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DE FALLA Nights in the Gardens of Spain

- 1. En el Generalife (9:44)
- 2. Danza lejana (4:39)
- 3. En los jardines de la Sierra de Córdoba (8:51)

DE FALLA Three Dances from 'The Three Cornered Hat'

- The Neighbours (3:07)
- The Miller's Dance - Final Dance (9:01)

DE FALLA 'La Vida Breve'

- Interlude and Dance (7:01)

Robert Casadesus, piano

The Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of New York

conductor Dimitri Mitropoulos

Recorded 2nd November 1956 and 3rd June 1957, Columbia 30th Street Studio, New York

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PRISTINE
AUDIO
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DE FALLA

NIGHTS IN THE GARDENS OF SPAIN

THE THREE CORNERED HAT
LA VIDA BREVE
(ORCHESTRAL EXCERPTS)

ROBERT CASADESUS
PIANO

PHILHARMONIC-SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK
CONDUCTED BY
DIMITRI MITROPOULOS

COLUMBIA RECORDINGS, 1956-7



DE FALLA

NIGHTS IN THE GARDENS OF SPAIN

EXCERPTS FROM 'THE THREE CORNERED HAT' & 'LA VIDA BREVE'



Nights in the Gardens of Spain (Noches en los Jardines de España) is a piece of music by the Andalusian composer Manuel de Falla (1876-1946). Falla began this work as a set of nocturnes for solo piano in 1909 but on the suggestion of the pianist Ricardo Viñes turned the nocturnes into a piece for piano with orchestra. Falla completed it in 1915 and dedicated it to Ricardo Viñes. The first performance was given on April 9, 1916, at the Teatro Real in Madrid with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid conducted by Enrique Fernández Arbós. The piano part was played by José Cubiles.

The work depicts three gardens:

1. *En el Generalife* (In the Generalife): The first gardens are in the Generalife, the jasmine-scented gardens surrounding the summer palace of the king's harem at the Alhambra.
2. *Danza lejana* (Distant Dance): The second garden is an unidentified distant one in which there is an exotic dance.
3. *En los jardines de la Sierra de Córdoba* (In the Gardens of the Sierra de Córdoba): The third gardens are in the Sierra de Córdoba in Spain and feature lively gypsy dancing and singing for the feast of Corpus Christi.

Falla referred to *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* as "symphonic impressions." The piano part is elaborate, brilliant, and eloquent but rarely dominant. The orchestral writing is lush. It is Falla's most "impressionistic" score.

The Three-Cornered Hat (El sombrero de tres picos) is a ballet composed by Manuel de Falla, commissioned in its development by Sergei Diaghilev and performed in its completed form in 1919. During World War I Manuel de Falla wrote a pantomime ballet in two scenes and called it *The Governor and the Miller's Wife* (El corregidor y la molinera). The work was scored for a small chamber orchestra and was performed in 1917. Sergei Diaghilev, of the Ballets Russes, saw the premiere of *El corregidor y la molinera* and commissioned de Falla to rewrite the ballet. The outcome was a two-act ballet scored for large orchestra called *The Three-Cornered Hat* (El sombrero de tres picos). *The Three-Cornered Hat* was first performed in London at the Alhambra Theatre on 22 July 1919. Diaghilev asked de Falla to conduct the premiere but de Falla felt he was not experienced enough to conduct a work so complex. After the first rehearsal de Falla handed the baton over to Ernest Ansermet. Sets and costumes were done by Pablo Picasso and choreography by Léonide Massine.

La vida breve (Life is Short, also: The Brief Life) is an opera in two acts and four scenes by Manuel de Falla to an original Spanish libretto by Carlos Fernández-Shaw. The first performance was given at the Casino Municipal in Nice on April 1, 1913. The complete opera, only an hour in length, is seldom performed today, but its dances are, especially the famous *Interlude and Dance*, played often at orchestral concerts of Spanish music. Also, the *Danse Espagnole*, part of the wedding celebrations, is well-known among the violin-playing world as a violin showpiece arranged by Fritz Kreisler. The opera is unusual for having as much purely instrumental as vocal music. Its opening scene effectively portrays a typical morning in the village, with a male chorus of anvil workers plying their trade in the local forge.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM