

ENRIQUE GRANADOS

(1982)

David C F Wright

Enrique Granados Campina was born in Lleida, Spain, on 27 July 1867, the son of Calixto Granados, a Spanish army captain, and Enriqueta Campiña.

As a young man, he studied the piano in Barcelona, where his teachers included Francisco Jurnet and Joan Baptista Pujol. In 1887, he went to Paris to study. He was unable to become a student at the Paris Conservatoire, but he was able to take private lessons with a conservatoire professor, Charles-Wilfrid de Bériot, whose mother, the soprano Maria Malibran, was of Spanish ancestry but not to be confused with the other Bériot who wrote many violin concertos. Bériot



insisted on extreme refinement in tone production, which strongly influenced Granados's own teaching of pedal technique. He also fostered Granados's abilities in improvisation. Just as important were his studies with Felip Pedrell. He returned to Barcelona in 1889. His first successes were at the end of the 1890s, with the zarzuela *Maria del Carmen*, which attracted the attention of King Alfonso XIII.

In 1911, Granados premiered his suite for piano *Goyescas*, which became his most famous work. It is a set of six pieces based on paintings of Francisco Goya. Such was the success of this work that he was encouraged to expand it. He wrote an opera based on the subject in 1914, but the outbreak of World War I forced the European premiere to be cancelled. It was performed for the first time in New York City on 28 January 1916, and was very well received. Shortly afterwards, he was invited to perform a piano recital for President Woodrow Wilson. Prior to leaving New York, Granados also made live-recorded player piano music rolls for the New-York-based Aeolian Company's "Duo-Art" system, all of which survive today and can be heard – his very last recordings.

His piano music is arguably the best piano music by any Spanish composer. The *allegro de concerto* is a masterpiece as are the *Goyescas* pieces. The chamber works may not work as well

[*PDF of Allegro de concert*](#)

The delay of his return home was incurred by accepting the recital invitation caused him to miss his boat back to Spain. Instead, he took a ship to England, where he boarded the passenger ferry *SS Sussex* for Dieppe, France. On the way across the English Channel, the *Sussex* was torpedoed by a German U-boat, as part of the German World War I policy of unrestricted submarine warfare. In a failed attempt to save his wife Amparo, whom he saw flailing about in the water some distance away, Granados jumped out of his lifeboat and drowned. This was 24 March 1916. He had a morbid fear of water for his entire life, and he was returning from his first-ever series of ocean voyages. The ship broke in two parts and only one sank (along with 80 passengers). Ironically, the part of the ship that contained his cabin did not sink and was towed to port, with most of the passengers on board. Granados and his wife left six children: Eduard (a musician), Solita, Enrique (a swimming champion), Víctor, Natàlia, and Francisco.

The personal papers of Enrique Granados are preserved in, among other institutions, the National Library of Catalonia.

His music can be divided into basically three styles or periods:

A romantic style including such pieces as *Escenas Románticas* and *Escenas Poéticas*.

A more typically nationalist, Spanish style including such pieces as *Danzas Españolas* (Spanish Dances), *6 Piezas sobre cantos populares españoles* (Six Pieces based on popular Spanish songs).

The Goya (Goyesca) period, which includes the piano suite *Goyescas*, the opera *Goyescas*, various *Tonadillas* for voice and piano, and other works.

Granados was an important influence on at least two other important Spanish composers and musicians, Manuel de Falla and Pablo Casals. He was also the teacher of composer Rosa García Ascot.

His music was decidedly Spanish but, thankfully, show no signs of flamenco with those noisy shoes and ghastly castanets.

List of compositions by Enrique Granados

Original works

Operas and theatrical works

Miel de la Alcarria, incidental music in 3 acts, Op. 54 (1895)

Ovillejos o La Gallina ciega, Sainete lírico in 2 acts (1897–98; incomplete)

María del Carmen, opera in 3 acts (1898; incomplete)

Blancaflor, incidental music in 1 act (1899)

Petrarca, opera in 1 act (1899; incomplete)

Picarol, drama líric in 1 act (1901)

Follet, opera in 3 acts (1903)

Gaziel, drama líric in 1 act (1906)

Liliana, poema escénica in 1 act (1911)

La Cieguecita de Betania, chamber opera in 1 act (1914)

Goyescas, opera in 1 act (1915)

Torrijos, incidental music

Orchestral

Marcha de los Vencidos (1899)

Suite sobre Cantos gallegos (1899)

Dante, 2 Pieces for Orchestra, Op. 21 (1908)

Elisenda, 4 Pieces (1912)

Danza de los Ojos verdes

Danza gitana

“Intermezzo” from opera *Goyescas*

“Navidad” from *La Cieguecita de Betania*

La nit del mort (Poema desolación)

Suite árabe u oriental

Chamber

Canto, cello (1888)

Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 49 (1895)

Piano Trio, Op. 50 (1895)

Melodía, violin and piano (1903)
Serenata, 2 violins and piano (1914; incomplete)
Madrigal, cello and piano (1915)
Escena religiosa, violin, organ, piano and timpani
Intermedios, Misa de Boda de Dionisio Conde
Pequeña Romanza, string quartet
Romanza, violin and piano
Violin Sonata
3 Preludios, violin and piano
Trio, 2 violins and viola
Trova, cello and piano

Piano

Dans le Bois (1888)
En la Aldea, 10 Pieces for Piano 4-hands (1888)
París, Album with 37 Pieces (1888)
Arabesca (1890)
Canción moresca (1890)
12 Danzas españolas (1890)
Mazurka alla polacca (1890)
Serenata Amparo (1890)
Serenata española (1890)
La Sirena, Vals Mignone (1890)
Los Soldados de cartón (1890)
Balada (1895)
8 Valses poéticos (1895)
Jota de Miel de la Alcarria (1897)
Exquise...!, Vals tzigane (1900)
Rapsodía aragonesa (1901)
Allegro de Concierto, Op. 46 (1904)
Escenas románticas, 6 Pieces (1904)
Goyescas, 6 Pieces (1911)
Bocetos: Colección de Obras fáciles, 4 Pieces (1912; incomplete)
Escenas poéticas, 7 Pieces (1912)
2 Impromptus (1912)
Libro de Horas, 3 Pieces (1913; incomplete)
A la Cubana, 2 Pieces, Op. 36 (1914)
El Pelele (Escena goyesca) (1914)
Valse de Concert, Op. 35 (1914)
Danza lenta y Sardana, 2 Dances, Op. 37 (1915)
Marche militaire, Op. 38 (1915)
A la Antigua
A la Pradera, Op. 35
Allegro appassionato
Andalucía
Andantino espressivo
Aparición, 15 Pieces
Barcarola, Op. 45
La Berceuse
Canción arabe
Canto del Pescador
Capricho español, Op. 39
Carezza, Op. 38

Cartas de Amor, 4 Valses íntimos, Op. 44 (incomplete)
Cheherazada, Fantasia for Piano, Op. 34 (1912; incomplete)
Clotilde, Mazurka
Crepúsculo
Cuentos de la Juventud, 10 Pieces, Op. 1
Danza característica
Dolora en La menor
Elvira, Mazurka
Escenas infantiles, 5 Pieces, Op. 38 (bis)
7 Estudios
6 Estudios expresivos en Forma de Piezas fáciles
La Góndola
L'Himne dels Morts
Impromptu, Op. 39 (1914)
Intermezzo from opera Goyescas
Jácara, Danza para cantar y bailar, Op. 14
Jeunesse, Melodía
Marcha real
2 Marchas militares, piano 4-hands
Mazurka alla polacca, Op. 2
Mazurka in A minor, Op. 20
Melodía
Melodía para el Abanico de Laura González
Melodía para el Abanico de Lola González
Minuetto
Moresque y Canción arabe
Oriental, Canción variada, Intermedio y Final
Paisaje, Op. 35
Países soñados (incomplete)
Parranda-Murcia (incomplete)
Pastoral
6 Piezas sobre Cantos populares españoles
Preludio in D major, Op. 30
Reverie-Improvisation
Serenata goyesca
10 Valses sentimentales

Voice and piano

La Boibra (1902)
Canco d'amor (1902)
L'Ocell profeta (1911)
Elegía eterna (1914)
12 Tonadillas en estilo antiguo (1914)
Canciones amatorias, 7 Songs (1914/15)
Canción del Postillón (1916)
Balada (incomplete)
Canción (incomplete)
Canco de Gener
Canconeta Dorm Nineta, Op. 51
Cantar I
Canto gitano
El Cavaller s'en va a la guerra
Día y noche Diego ronda

Mignon
Por una Mirada, un Mundo
El Rey y'l juglar (incomplete)
Serenata
Si al Retiro me llevas (Tonadilla)
Yo no tengo quien me lllore

Choral

Salve Regina (1896)
Cant de les Estrelles (1911)
L'Herba de Amor (1914)

Arrangements and transcriptions

Isaac Albéniz: "Triana" from Iberia, arr. 2 pianos
J. S. Bach: Chorale, arr. chamber orchestra
Bach: Fugue in C-sharp minor, arr. orchestra (1900)
Frédéric Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2, re-orchestration of 1st movement (1900)
Muzio Clementi: 4 Sonatinas, Op.36, arr. string trio (1891)
Francisco Courcelle: Sonata, arr. piano
Domenico Scarlatti: 26 Sonatas, arr. piano
Franz Schubert: Momento musical
Jota aragonesa, arr. piano and orchestra (1904)

Pedagogical works

Breves Consideraciones sobre el Ligado
Dificultades especiales del Piano
Ejercicios de Terceras
Método, teórico-práctico, para el Uso de los Pedales del Piano
Ornamentos
El Piano
Reglas para el Uso de los Pedales del Piano (1913)

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