JÁCARA

¡Hala, valientes!

Oigan la jácara nueva, donde uno solo es quien campa, y al mundo que se le atreve vence con una palabra

¡Hala, valientes!

Oigan que estando rendido, le prueba con amenazas. ¡Y a los rigores del tiempo, desafía y hace cara!

¡Hala, valientes!

Señor, el que por diciembre se nos viene con la Pascua, y es con tantas navidades, hombre que no pena jamas!

Hala valientes!

Yo soy un valiente jaque, conocido por mi espada, tanto que el Andelucía, si la desnudo no anda!

¡Hala, valientes!

ROMANCE

Entre aquellas crudas sombras de aquel postrado edifcio le era dando pecho al nino.

A la escasa luz dudosa de un encendido pañito bello a granio del sol mismo.

Sobre el jasmín y la rosa del tierno infante su hilo aljófar es a razimos.

Que milagro es ese cielo? ¡Válgame Dios, que prodigio! Absortos están los siglos..

Acabóse pastores del cielo e1 rigor. Sus batallas se han vuelto batallas de amor.

Y en esta sierra se publican las paces de cielo y tierra. Y que del rigor sus batallas se han vuelto batallas de amor.

Id a buscarle pastores.

BALLAD

Yea, valiant ones!

Listen to the new ballad Where one alone excels, And the world that dares challenge him He conquers with a single word.

Yea, valiant ones!

Listen, for even when exhausted, He tests [the world] with threats. And the rigors of time He challenges and confronts!

Yea, valiant ones!

Lord, he's the one who in December Comes to us at Christmastide And as with so many Christmases A man who never feels sorrow.

Yea, valiant ones!

I am a brave and boastful man, Known for my sword, So much so that all Andalucia Makes no move when I unsheath it!

Yea, valiant ones!

ROMANCE

In those cold shadows Of that ruined building She was nursing her child.

In the dim, uncertain light Of a burning wick He is as beautiful as the sun itself.

Above the jasmine and the rose The thread of the tender child Is like a string of pearls.

Heavens, what miracle is this? God, what a wonder! The centuries are entranced.

Ye shepherds, the rigor of heaven has ended. Its battles have become battles of love.

In these hills is proclaimed The peace of heaven and earth. And from its rigor Its battles have become battles of love.

Go and seek him ye shepherds.

No tema y bajad al llano. Que ya Dios es tan humano que está llorando de amore.

Que se han hecho los rigores, con que esta seña, temor.

GITANILLA

De Belén viene Zarguero, aquel trepador gitano, sacabuche de las fiestas, y guarda ropa del barrio.

Diciendo viene prodigios nunca vistos ni pensados milagros de una parida, y misterios de su parto.

Finalmente aquella niña que aun no tiene catorce años, dice que ha parido esta noche un bellisimo muchacho.

Blanco y rubio es el chico, con unos ojos rasgados, que los corazones rasgan flechas de amor disparando.

A la linda parida del portalillo, todos hagamos fiesta. ¡Trepa Pulido! ¡Bulle Pintada! ¡Toca el pandero! ¡Toca, trepa Mendoza! ¡Baila, baile la Zarguero!

REFRAIN: Anden los cascabeles. Parda repica. Danos una limosna. ¡Jacara linda!

Y en el hielo de un pesebre está desnudo y helado; que parece palomito, entre las pajas temblando.

¡Milagro de Dios es este! Gitanos a verla vamos, que dice que es una gloria, la que está en quellas campo.

El viejo dice que tiene un pollino de tres años. Quizas se lo hurtaremos. Toca y baila maldonado.

REFRAIN

Fear not, and fall to the ground, For God is now so human That He is weeping of love.

For [God's] rigor has become, With this event, true devotion.

GYPSY SONG

Zarguero comes from Bethlehem, Ambitious gypsy that he is, Trombonist for the fiestas, And keeper of the district's clothing.

He comes speaking of amazing things, Never seen nor imagined, Miracles of a mother And a mysterious birth.

In the end, that girl Who is not yet fourteen, He says has delivered this night A most beautiful boy.

The child is white and blond, With wide luminous eyes That pierce all hearts Shooting arrows of love.

For the beautiful mother in the tiny manger, Let us all celebrate. Jump, Pulido! Move, Pintada! Play the tambourine! Play and jump, Mendoza! Dance! Dance the dance, Zarguero!

REFRAIN: Let the bells ring. You, the brown girl, ring out. Give us alms. Such a pretty song!

In the icyness of a manger He is naked and cold; He appears like a little dove Shivering in the straw.

This is a miracle of God! Gypsies, let's go and see her. For he says it's quite a glory That which is in those fields.

The old man claims he has A three year old donkey. Maybe we'll steal it. Play and dance you wretched one.

REFRAIN

Translation by John Biggs & Alejandro Planchart

ABOUT THE TEXT:

This is basically a folk text, with certain words such as "granio" (Romance verse 2), "tema" (verse 7) and "seña" (final verse) not easily found in modern Spanish. The manuscript was discovered in the Puebla (Mexico) Cathedral library during the 1950's by Dr. Alice Catalyne of UCLA, and transcribed by her at that time. These three pieces were selected by her from a large collection of villancicos and romances written by Padilla around 1658, so they had no composit title. The cover title of the three pieces is my own.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

(Source: Groves Dictionary, paperback edition, 1995)

Padilla was born in Málaga, Spain, around 1590, and died in Puebla, Mexico, in April of 1664. He began his career in Andalusia, [curiously mentioned in the final stanza of the Jácara] receiving his early training in the choir of Málaga Cathedral under Francisco Vásquez. In 1616, having become a priest, he became chapel conductor at Cádiz Cathedral. Sometime after this appointment in Cádiz, he sailed to the New World, and became a singer and assistant conductor at the Cathedral in Puebla, Mexico, becoming its chief conductor in 1629; a post he held until his death in 1664. He was a prolific composer, and much of his secular music is marked by the use of intense rhythms and syncopations, as is certainly the case with this present publication.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE:

NOTE: The original score had no tempo or articulation markings. These were added by the editor, and may be ignored if the director desires to do so.

Bass instruments: Since bassoons, shawms, and flutes were all produced in the composer's town of Puebla, and since we know that bassoon was a popular bassline instrument at that time, I recommend its inclusion. The director will have to decide which instrument to favor. If you have all three, then just let the players follow my instructions concerning altrnations as shown in the score and parts. (They all read from the same part.) The most important instruction to observe is the ommission of Cb in the Jácara from m. 2 to m. 17. The composer did not intend to have that part sound down an octave, as it muddies up textures and voicings.

Melody instruments: The melodic range is limited, so you have many choices. If you use recorders, I recommend using them in pairs, doubling at the octave, ie: ten/sop or alt/sopranino. As for others, my first choice would be oboe, then flute or trumpet. Not clarinet or strings. NOTE: Although there is no melody instrument indicated in the original score of the Jacara, we've included one in the part to double the solo lines if preferred.

Keyboard instrument: In many pieces from this area and period there is no keyboard part specified. The assumption is that they didn't use one.

Percussion instruments: I highly recommend including hand held percussion such as the tambourine, tabor, and finger cymbals. SUGGESTION: Use choir members who can play intuitively and spontaniously. They should know the music well enough not to be glued to the score. If they're not relaxed and having fun, much is lost.

Vocal solos: There were no specifications in the manuscript as to the gender of the soloists. All such specifications are my own, with an eye for variety, change of color, drama,, and the involvement of as many capable singers as possible.

This piece was recorded by The John Biggs Consort on a CD entitled CALIFORNIA MISSION MUSIC and is available from consortpress.com To: Dr. Alice Catalyne

Música Para la Navidad (Music for Christmas)

FORM: A-B-A-C-A-D-A-E-A







2: Romance*









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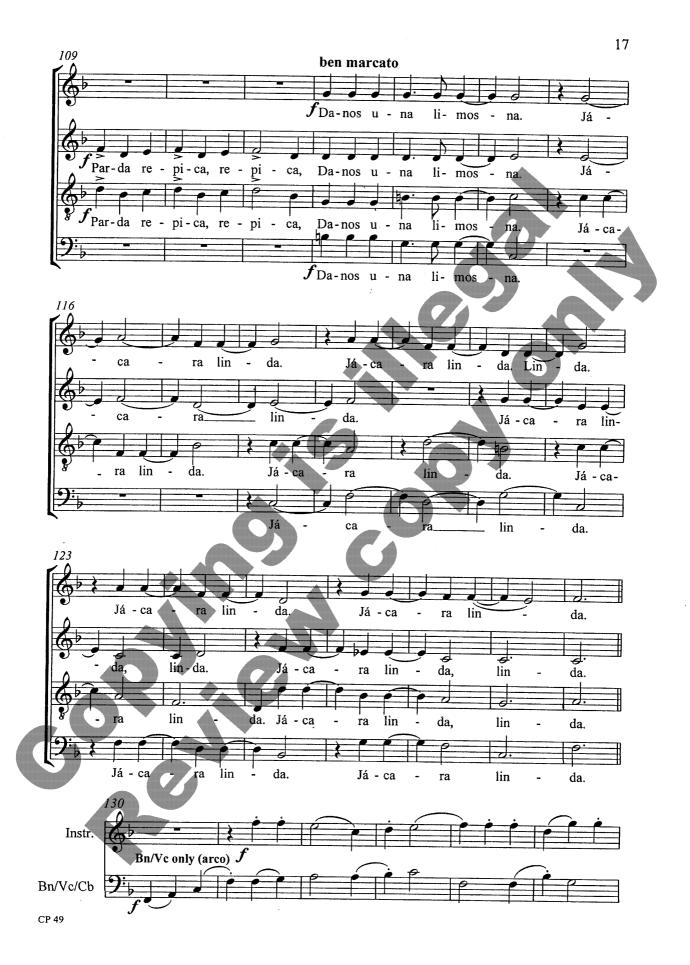


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