

Senior Citizens Music Appreciation Program

Date: May 17, 2026

Time: 10:30-noon

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Viva Espana!

I. Announcements

A. Blawenburg Band 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Concert Series

June 13:	Old Barracks Museum, Trenton NJ	2:00 pm
July 4:	Washington Crossing State Park (NJ)	7:30 pm
July 8:	23 South Warren Street, Trenton NJ	6:00 pm
July 30:	Morven Museum and Garden, Princeton NJ	6:00 pm

Details on these performances are available at <https://blawenburgband.org>

II. Iberia's Musical Heritage

- A. Today's program is not a comprehensive approach to all Iberian music—rather, it focuses on Spain, leaving the music of Portugal for another day. The word “Iberia” originated with the Greeks and Romans, who applied the term to the southwestern peninsula of Europe in the ancient world. The word “Iberia” emerged from references to the river Ebro, a major river in the peninsula.
- B. Spain was a major world power beginning in the late 15th century and continuing until the late 19th century. Much of Spain's wealth was extracted from its colonial possessions in Asia, Africa and the Americas, and while this permitted the Spanish court to become one of the most ostentatious and powerful in Europe, Spain was very late entering the Industrial Revolution. This impeded the development of an emerging middle class, and with it an economy that stimulated the development of art music as a central part of daily life and culture (as happened in Germany, Britain, France and Austria, for example)
- C. Thus, Spanish music was highly influenced by Italian models, notably in vocal music, and this led to the gradual creation of the Zarzuela, or Spanish operetta. Beginning in the mid-late 18th century and continuing through most of the 20th century, the Zarzuela emerged as the dominant form of Spanish staged vocal music.
- D. The origins of what might be termed “Modern” Spanish music can be dated to the late 19th century, with compositions drawing heavily on folk music and the rhythms of regional dances. By the early 20th century, a distinctly Spanish school of piano compositions and playing developed that is characterized by the works of Albeniz, De Falla, Granados, Mompou and Turina.
- E. A number of Spanish musicians and composers traveled to Paris in the early 20th century, where they were influenced by the works of Debussy, Ravel and other French composers. However, composers such as De Falla never abandoned their Spanish roots. While soaking in the sounds and ideas of French composers, poets and writers, they composed

highly original works that are considered masterpieces of Spanish musical art. Two of those works are De Falla's composition for piano and orchestra, *Noches en Los Jardines De Espana* (3 movements, all pertaining to specific locations in Southern Spain) and *El Sombrero de Tres Picos*, a ballet commissioned by Sergei Diaghilev with set designs by Pablo Picasso.

- F. The guitar, whether it is a classical style guitar or one used in flamenco, is central to Spanish music—not only because of its ubiquitous presence in folk music, but because many of the greatest composers and performers of guitar music were Spanish. We'll address the legacy of Spanish guitar music in a separate program in 2026-27.

III. Today's Music

- A. Vicente Martin y Soler, Overture and Aria from *La Madrilena o el Tutor Burlado*
- B. Geronimo Gimenez, *El Baile de Luis Alonso-Intermedio*
- C. *Spanish Folk Songs* Arranged by Federico Garcia Lorca
- D. Pablo de Sarasate, *Fantasy on Carmen*
- E. Enrique Granados, Selected *Danzas Espanolas*
- F. *Zarzuela* Arias sung by Placido Domingo, tenor and Ana Maria Martinez, soprano
- G. Enrique Granados, *Goyescas-Intermedio*
- H. Isaac Albeniz, *Aragon from Suite Espanola* (2 versions—4 hand piano and then orchestral arrangement by Raphael Fruhbeck de Burgos)
- I. Manuel de Falla, *Noches en Los Jardines de Espana, Danza Lejana*
- J. Manuel de Falla, *El Sombrero de Tres Picos, Part II*

IV. You Tube Films

- A. Antologia de la Zarzuela, Parte 1 de 2
<https://youtu.be/p6dfOUg9zEc?si=w2eggLk4v9tag2RS>
- B. Spanish Folk Songs by Garcia Lorca
<https://youtu.be/jfVKbViwu8?si=xqwQV619emNSJcZr>
- C. Sarasate, *Carmen Fantasy* https://youtu.be/LgGxunzbxmA?si=0uwevcy_4zh8H1pb
- D. Alicia de Larrocha plays Albeniz (2 selections from *Iberia*)
https://youtu.be/eU2McvXB-g0?si=o9Cz1aAxaEPG_ro7
- E. Manuel De Falla, *El Amor Brujo* <https://youtu.be/e-FOVF4cbBY?si=bot-WePN7FE1yzdf>

VI. Musical Sources

- D. *Arias de Zarzuela Barroca Naïve* E8885
- E. *Preludes and Choruses from Zarzuelas* Naxos 8.555957
- F. *Pilar Lorengar, 3 CD Set* Audite 21.420
- G. *Pablo Sarasate Music for Violin and Orchestra 2* Naxos 8.572216
- H. *Alicia de Larrocha, Granados Spanish Dances, Works for Piano* RCA 09026-68184-2
- I. *Amor, Vida de Mi Vida, Zarzuelas with Placido Domingo and Ana Maria Martinez* Unitel Classics DVD 2072478
- J. *Argenta, Zarzuela and Spanish Orchestral Music* Medici Arts MM034-2

- K. *Albeniz, Four-Hand Piano Music Naxos 8.574347*
- L. *Albeniz, Suite Espanola London 448 601-2*
- M. *Manuel de Falla, Nights in the Gardens of Spain Euroarts DVD 2061 108*
- N. *Picasso and Dance Kultur DVD D2285*

VII. Sources

- A. Music of Spain: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Spain
- B. Zarzuela: A Brief History <https://www.zarzuela.net/ref/history.htm>
- C. Spanish Piano Music Project <https://spanishpianomusic.org>
- D. Manuel de Falla: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_de_Falla