

BARBARA SOLIS
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Ottawa, Ontario

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"Master"

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to briefly outline to you my reasons for making application into the Master's Program at the University of Ottawa and as well to request financial assistance in order to accomplish this.

I have for many years, been interested in the study of The Ancient Music of Andalusia and its influence on Spanish music. Through the Master's Program and the assistance of the faculty at the University of Ottawa I feel that I would greatly contribute to those studying classical Spanish music and ethnomusicology.

I believe the study of Ancient Andalusian Music to be unique in that it encompasses its beginnings, its evolution, its decadence and its revival through the works of the great Andalusian composer, Manuel de Falla in the last century. Although there are a number of writings on cante jondo and flamenco, there are none so far that present a complete study of the subject.

Since the death of the eminent pianist and interpreter of Spanish music, Douglas Voice, who was also my piano professor at the University of Ottawa, my interest in the subject of Ancient Andalusian music has deepened and has now been carried into public performances. These generally take the form of a theme around which music is carefully chosen, program notes, piano and chamber ensemble work which includes dance. The originality of such a presentation has had a profound effect on the interpretation of Spanish music most particularly with respect to its sound. Specific characteristics that have revealed themselves through the study of Ancient Andalusian music are not widely known or studied as part of the interpretive aspect of Spanish music.

The significance of the originality of such a performance presentation is that it has cultivated a richer and better understanding of Spanish music and dance. It has also promoted an appreciation of the many cultural influences that were fused to the Ancient Music of Andalusia which in turn have had a considerable impact on the perception of the music of Spain.

It is my hope that through the Master's Program I may be able to present a document which would include the research already accomplished on Ancient Andalusian Music and the various cultural influences that were fused to this music. For the purposes of reflecting specific characteristics of both Ancient Andalusian Music and other cultural influences. I should also like to present a lecture recital and a chamber ensemble program which would include arranged works of Spanish music by myself.

I am requesting financial assistance in order to pursue the above mentioned Master's Program. My present situation does not allow a substantial income with which to meet tuition costs. Therefore any monies that may be available would enable me to pursue these studies as outlined in the enclosed application.

Please find enclosed the following pertinent to my application:

CD – *The Exotic Music of Spain*
Two extracts from *The Music of Mystical Andalusia*
One letter of support

Thank you for your interest in my application.

Very sincerely yours,

BARBARA SOLIS
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