

2 3/4 min.

## ANCIENT LEGENDS OF ANDALUCIA

### INTRODUCTORY NOTES

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to this evening's performance of Spanish music.

~~Our magical evening will take us to Andalusia and our program will feature mostly the music of the great Andalusian composer, Manuel de Falla. In the second half of the program you will hear our presentation of his exciting gypsy tale *El amor brujo*.~~

own not and evening will include usually gypsies more  
~~In place of the usual program notes I thought it might be appropriate to the situation to share with you some of the ancient legends of Andalusia. These were known as Tales of the Fisherman. The tales were generally told by the fishermen who took part in the ancient, annual ritual of catching the great bluefin tuna off the coast of Cadiz.~~

also part of the ritual itself one another  
There was a lot of superstition that surrounded the peculiar ritual. To dispel their fears, the fishermen who had to stand guard and signal the mysterious arrival of the enormous torpedo shaped fish told one another stories. They would yell at the top of their voices, across the waters from their position among the rocks that marked the Pillars of Hercules through which the great fish had to swim. The storytelling not only helped them to keep up their courage but also it was a way of making sure no one had disappeared.

From their position among the rocks near the Pillars of Hercules through which the big fish had to swim, they would yell out their stories across the waters. Not only did the storytelling keep up their courage it was a way of making sure that no one had disappeared!

1.25 min

6 minutes

## ANDALUZA (Piezas cuatros)

One of the ancient legends of Andalusia is based on the supposition that situated on the edge of Atlantis, there was once a mythic land that later came to be known as Andalusia.

Torn apart by great geological disruptions as a result of internal turmoil, Atlantis was destroyed and sank beneath the waves. During the chaos that followed, the mythic land was split off from the sinking continent.

Drifting along, through an atmosphere of violence and death, the mythic land finally came to rest at its current location off the coast of southern Spain.

Unsurpassed for her beauty, Andalusia was nevertheless destined to be scarred forever by the same two elements that accompanied her on her long journey to Spain.

In the piece you are going to hear, harsh dissonances and a storm filled passage that thunders over the keys evoke the destruction of Atlantis while a desolate song of anguish cries out <sup>in</sup> the deep pain and grief ~~the mythic land~~ ~~feels~~ over its loss and separation.

Andalusia feels <sup>over the loss & separation</sup> in her soul.

1:05

7 min.

## THE MERMAIDS OF ALMERIA

Now if you don't believe the legend I just told you about how Andalusia came to be here is another legend that you might want to test if you are ever in that part of the world.

In the mythic land of Andalusia, there was once a grim city called Almeria. It was called grim because of its desolate landscape and because hardly any rain ever fell there. But it was also a very rich city because of the vast amount of silver that could be found in its silver mines.

To the east of Almeria, bare volcanic rocks descend to the sea. The high cliffs enclose a beach of pure white sand. At the end of the beach there is a treacherous reef. The pounding, foaming surf hides the menacing rocks that wait for those who venture too far.

Legend says that on a night when the moon is full and the stars shine as bright as the silver in the mines, the waters around the reef calm and strange sea creatures can be seen. These are the Mermaids of Almeria. As they frolic upon the reef they are transformed into beautiful maidens with long, flowing hair.

Carrying their small harps and flutes, the maidens come to the beach of pure white sand, where they sing and dance. It is said that their music is so enchanting that anyone who hears it falls under a spell. Compelled to follow its sound, the victims are lured back to the same reef to their death upon which the beautiful maidens had frolicked.

3.45 min

Music 8 min.

## THE WEEPING FOUNTAIN OF GRANATA

In the mythic land of Andalucia, there was once an ancient city called Granata. Granata was exceedingly beautiful. Its streets were paved with hand painted tiles and everywhere, throughout the city, there were fountains.

Each home had an exquisite little garden called a *Carmen*. Each little garden was a riot of vines, geraniums, night blooming jasmine and fragrant fruit trees. And each little garden also had a fountain.

Many cultures passed through Granata including the Arabs. The Eastern Potentates did not destroy what they had found. Rather they added to the beauty of Granata with the building of a magnificent structure called the Castle of Pearls. Adjoining the Castle were beautiful gardens. Legend says that the gardens contained no less than 50 fountains and 1001 water jets that traced graceful patterns into the night sky.

Then one awful day, tragedy struck Granata. The city had been betrayed. A secret pass through the high mountains of the Sierra Nevada had been revealed to the invaders by the King's son. This act of treachery was so terrible that legend says on that day all the fountains of Granata overflowed from their tears.

The new rulers did not much care for Granata. Even though they made promises they did not keep them. Finally one day the people were gathered together and told that many of them would have to leave their beloved city and never return. Legend says that on that day, all the cisterns, wells and fountains of Granata dried up – except one.

Situated in the gardens next to the Castle there was one little fountain that refused to stop weeping. No matter what the new invaders tried, the fountain would not stop crying. At last the new ruler got so frustrated he commanded that the little fountain be removed to a desolate place outside the city.

Today outside the city of Granada, there is a park. And in the park, under the shade of an old oak tree, there is a fountain. No one knows where the fountain came from nor does anyone know its water source. Legend says that for as long as time immemorial the fountain has been in that place and has never ceased to weep.

1:20

6 minutes

### *LA VIDA BREVE*

*La vida breve* was Falla's first major work. Its originality lies in the poetic atmosphere of the work and the authentic, Andalusian setting.

The story centers around a beautiful gypsy girl from Granada named Salud and Paco, her lover, who has deserted her, even though he had promised to love her eternally.

Salud has learned that Paco has found a new love and that he intends to marry her. She decides to confront him about his infidelity.

Heart broken and miserable, Salud goes to the wedding feast and in front of the new bride and all the wedding guests, she reproaches Paco for his betrayal. And then, she falls dead, at his feet.

The dance you are going to hear evokes a hot Andalusian night with all its perfumed languor while the poetic atmosphere sets up the background for the tragic events that are to unfold.

1:35 min

## SPANISH MYSTICISM

The uniqueness of El amor brujo is its duality. On one level it is concerned with gypsy life and its customs. On another level it deeply informs us mystically.

The work is based on an authentic Andalucian legend originally known as The Fisherman's Tale. The legend tells us about a gypsy couple whose love is constantly thwarted by the ghost of a former, jealous, disreputable lover.

The manifestation of Spanish mysticism in the work is represented between the overwhelming force of the ghost power and the resolute mind and spirit of the gypsy woman. It is not romantically appealing. Rather, it portrays the harshness of a hostile landscape that has, with inexplicable mysteriousness, embedded itself into the texture of Andalucian culture.

The music is original. Its strange, primitive quality is frequently flavoured with oriental derivations. Falla's subtle scoring is evoked in the mystery, mysticism, exotic elements, an ancient fire dance and a ravishing Cadiz tango in 7/8 time.

of the work as well as through