

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Workshop on Spanish Music

In August of 1996 I attended a most interesting and informative workshop on Spanish Music. This workshop was presented by Ms. Barbara Solis.

Ms. Solis began by giving a brief outline of ancient Spanish music, noting its similarity to ancient Egyptian music, through its plaintive quality and short motifs. This led into a discussion of Arabic influences on Spanish music beginning with Basic (Strophic) form and then on to Zéjel form, from which the European ballad form grew.

The Workshop continued into the Elements of Ancient Arabic Music and their characteristics, as found in Melody, Rhythm and Harmony.

There followed a discourse on two of Spain's major composers, Isaac Albeniz and Enrique Granados. Ms. Solis pointed out several qualities of their music which clearly show an Arabic influence.

The workshop concluded with an enchanting performance of Granados Dance #5. Ms. Solis created a vibrant mood with her playing, leaving us eager for more; a fine ending to a fine workshop.

Sincerely yours,

Coral Edgcombe
Music Teacher