

## **Editor's Notes for the "Terceto del Primer Acto" and "Final de Primer Acto" from "La Tregua de Ptolemaide", arranged for piano**

Hilarión Eslava wrote three operas in the early 1840's. "La Tregua di Ptolemaide" (premiered 1842), based on a novel by French author Sophie Cottin on the theme of the second Crusade (1189–1192), was his second.

The first piece is a trio from the first act. Its middle "Andantino" section is especially beautiful.

The second piece is the finale to the first act of the same opera. It moves right along with a definite military flair that keeps building throughout the piece.

Although Eslava's operas were enthusiastically received by the public at the time, opposition of the church authorities and the economic difficulties faced by theatres and opera companies cut the composer's operatic career short. Very little is left of these operas today, however, we continue to stumble across fragments here and there at various libraries and historical archives. They were of course fully orchestrated, but it appears that later in his life he or perhaps his students or relatives endeavored to capture some of the themes via piano reductions. These are two such pieces. There would have been lyrics, and perhaps someday I'll find them. For now, this must suffice.