

***El Pescador* (The Fisherman) – Canción Andaluza**

Editor's Notes

This small jewel of a piece, scored for voice and piano accompaniment, was a free gift to subscribers of the musical gazette *El Orfeo Andaluz*, published with the Sept. 19th, 1842 issue of the journal. The music was written by Hilarión Eslava to lyrics by the Spanish poet and playwright Tomás Rodríguez-Rubí y Díaz (1817-1890). The song may have also been titled *El Copo*. Publication of the song would have happened at the height of Eslava's popularity in Sevilla.



Portrait of Tomás Rodríguez Rubí, by
Luis López Piquer (1802-1865)

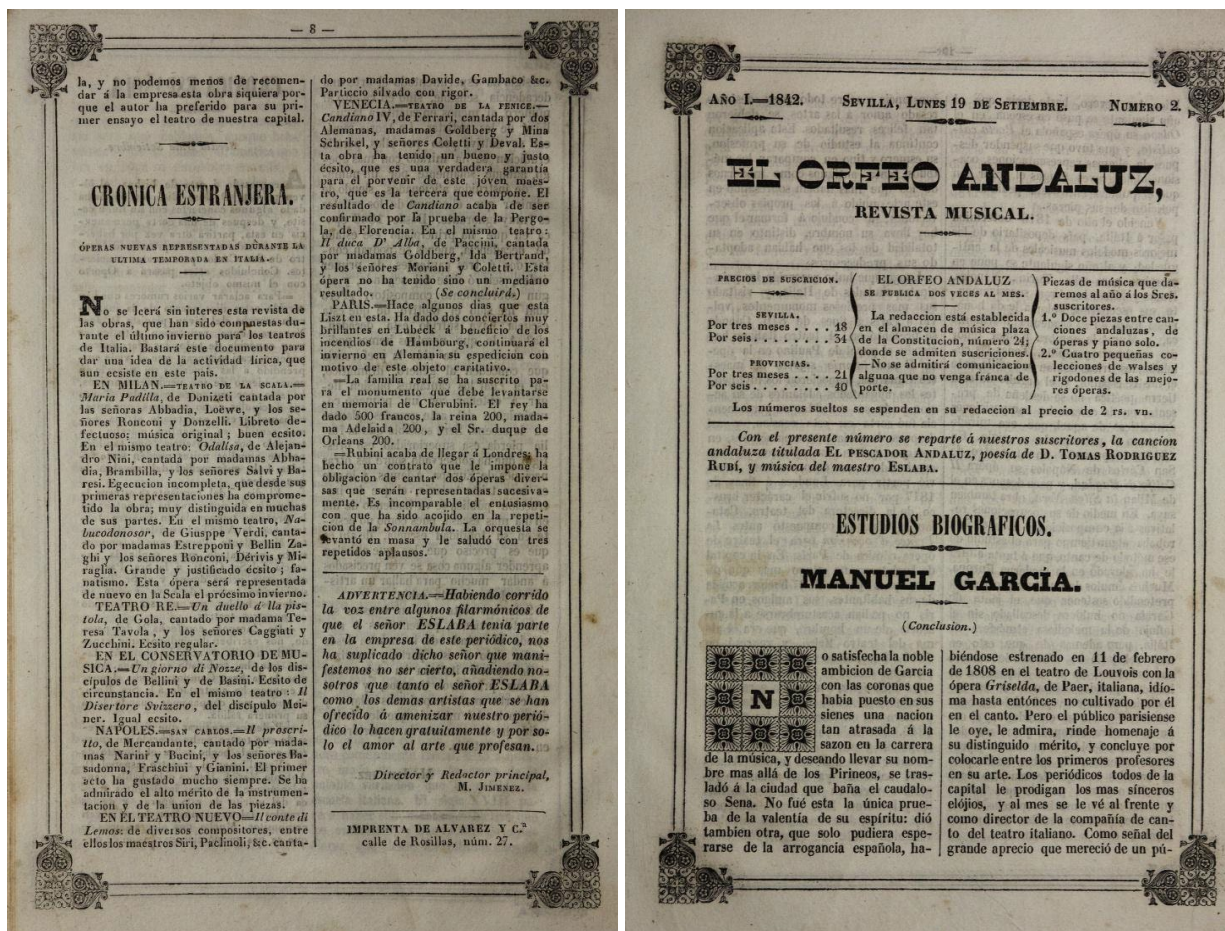
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The character of the piece is very similar to another Andalusian song score by Eslava, *¡Ay, Salero!*

The lyrics of *El Pescador* are written imitating Andalusian spoken 'jargon', difficult to translate into Spanish, let alone English. The theme of the song is the hard life of a fisherman ("pescador"), fishing and struggling to sell his catch, but trying despite all to keep a happy outlook.

In his highly flattering biography of Eslava (*Diccionario técnico, histórico y biográfico de la música*, Imprenta de B. Eslava, Madrid [1868]), his friend José Parada y Barreto quotes this very composition as evidence of (Navarrese) Eslava being "almost Andalusian", "his name being attached to the art of Andalucía" and his music "forever sounding to the ears of Andalusians as the symbol of the

characteristic music of the people”, “showing in some of his lighter compositions the true style of that land.”



(R) *El Orfeo Andaluz* announcement of *El Pescador*, Sept. 19th, 1842 issue

(L) The last page on the previous issue of *El Orfeo Andaluz* (Sept. 6th) with a clarification requested by the maestro Eslava (Eslaba) stating that he has no financial interest in the journal and that his musical contribution is a gift.

(Univ. of Connecticut Digital Collection)

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