

Editor's Notes for *Donostiako hiru damatxo (Three little damsels from Donostia)*

Not all of Hilarión Eslava's work was religious in nature, and he would occasionally indulge in small projects to preserve traditional folk music that, clearly, he loved¹. This piece, transcribed from an undated, unsigned handwritten manuscript attributed to him, would be a good example of that.

“Donostiako hiru domatxo” (*Three little damsels from Donostia*²) is a popular Basque folksong. Its author (tune only, tune and lyrics?) has been hypothesized as Ignacio de Larramendi (1786-1855)³. The original lyrics are in erdialdeko euskalkia, Basque Central (or Gipuzkoan) dialect, but other versions –including also different regional verses, exist⁴. The original score used here only contained the first, best known stanza. The other stanzas I have added have been compiled from a variety of online sources.

Although we cannot be entirely certain that this was Eslava's arrangement, the manuscript has been catalogued by Eresbil (The Basque Music Archive and the manuscript source) as likely by Eslava. From what I can tell, the handwriting and certain stylistic elements are indeed similar to Eslava's.

My editorial changes include:

1. Addition of a separate vocal staff (the original manuscript only had the piano staves);
2. There appear to be numerous spelling errors in the original score lyrics – these were corrected to match the lyrics available in modern Euskera (Basque language);
3. Addition of Verses 2-8 (only the first verse was provided in the source manuscript);
4. Addition of minimal dynamics (besides a *fermata* and single *p* notation in the piano secondo part, there were none provided) – these are merely suggestions and should be freely interpreted;
5. Notational clarification with regard to the repeats.

¹ Further evidence of this are the wonderful arrangements Eslava wrote of Andalusian songs, namely *¡Ay, salero!* and *La canción del pescador*.

² *Donostia* is the Basque name of a major city in Euskadi, the Basque Autonomous Community of northern Spain, and the capital of the province of Gipuzkoa. It is better known by its Spanish name, San Sebastián. A number of versions of the song can be found online in the form of modern scores (by other than Eslava), including for piano and *a cappella* choir, and in performance, on Youtube.

³ A Basque priest from Azkoitia, Gipuzkoa. The melody might have been a 'new' tune to an older folksong. See Kaltzakorta, J. in ““Donostiako hiru damatxo” kantaren gainean”, *Euskalingua 2002*, Vol. 1, pp. 80-85. Online at <http://mendebalde.eus/euskalinguak/Euskalingua%201/Donostiako%20hiru%20damatxo%20kantaren%20gainean.pdf>. (In Euskera)

⁴ *Ibid.*

A set of Basque lyrics and an *approximate* English translation⁵ are provided below:

<p>Donostiako hiru damatxo Erreterian dendari. (repeat) Josten ere badakite, baina ardoa edaten hobeki. Eta kriskitin, kraskitin, arrosa krabelin, ardoa edaten hobeki.</p>	<p><i>Three little damsels from Donostia seamstresses in Erretereria.⁶ (repeat) They know how to sew too, but drink wine even better. With the kriskitin, kraskitin, pink carnation, drink wine even better.</i></p>
<p>Donostiako Gaztelupeko sagardoaren gozoa, (repeat) hantxen edaten ari nintzala hautsi zitzaidan basoa. Eta kriskitin, kraskitin, arrosa krabelin, basoa kristalezkoa.</p>	<p><i>Castle of Donostia, the sweet cider (repeat) that I was drinking there a forest was broken for me. With the kriskitin, kraskitin, pink carnation, a forest of glass.</i></p>
<p>Donostiako hiru damatxo hirurak gona gorriak, (repeat) sartutzen dira tabernara ta irtetzen dira hordiak eta kriskitin, kraskitin, arrosa krabelin irtetzen dira hordiak.</p>	<p><i>Three little damsels from Donostia all three in red skirts, (repeat) they enter the tavern and the hours go by with the kriskitin, kraskitin, pink carnation, the hours go by.</i></p>
<p>Donostiako hiru damatxok egin omen dute apustu, (repeat) zeinek ardo gehiago edanda, zein gutxiago mozkortu. Eta kriskitin, kraskitin, arrosa krabelin, zein gutxiago mozkortu.</p>	<p><i>Three little damsels from Donostia seem to be betting (repeat) who drank more wine, who is less drunk. With the kriskitin, kraskitin, pink carnation, who is less drunk.</i></p>
<p>Donostiako hiru damatxo Erreteriko kalean (repeat) egunez oso triste ibili baina dantzatu gauean eta kriskitin, kraskitin, arrosa krabelin baina dantzatu gauean.</p>	<p><i>Three little damsels from Donostia on a street in Erretereria, (repeat) walk very sad during the day but dance the night away with the kriskitin, kraskitin, pink carnation, but dance the night away.</i></p>

⁵ Better translation suggestions welcome! Please contact me at <https://hilarioneslava.org/contact-us/>

⁶ Erretereria is a Gipuzkoan town near Donostia. Known in Spanish as Rentería.

<p>Donostiako neskatxatxoak kalera nahi dutenean: (repeat) –Ama piperrrik ez dago eta banoa salto batean. Eta kriskitin, kraskitin, arrosa krabelin, banoa salto batean.</p>	<p><i>When the girls from Donostia want to go out: (repeat) –Mom, there's no pepper I'm skipping out. With the kriskitin, kraskitin, pink carnation, I'm skipping out.</i></p>
<p>Donostiako neskatxatxoak mandatuen aitzakian (repeat) lagunarekin egoten dira kalean jolaskerian eta kriskitin, kraskitin, arrosa krabelin, pozez algara haundian.</p>	<p><i>The girls from Donostia under the pretext of errands (repeat) stay with a friend on the street playing with the kriskitin, kraskitin, pink carnation, with great joyous laughter.</i></p>
<p>Arrosatxoak bost hosto ditu, krabelintxoak hamabi, (repeat) Mari Josepa nahi duen horrek eska biotza amari. Eta kriskitin, kraskitin, arrosa krabelin, eska biotza amari.</p>	<p><i>The rose has five leaves, twelve carnations, (repeat) That's what Mari Josepa wants to ask your mother for your heart. With the kriskitin, kraskitin, pink carnation, to ask your mother for your heart.</i></p>