

Editor's Notes for *Dulce Virgen del hombre consuelo, Coplas a la Santísima Virgen*

This score came to us from the Centro de Documentación Musical de Andalucía (CDMA) in Granada, Spain. We are especially grateful to its Director, D. Reynaldo Fernández Manzano, for his help in obtaining this music and for his support and the support of CDMA of our project.

The score consists of a manuscript set of *particellas* for TB voices and small orchestra which, based on the handwriting, are obviously copies by someone other than Eslava. These materials contain numerous errors, which I have endeavored to thoughtfully correct. This is especially true in measures 3-4, 18-20, and 22-23, wherein the various instrumental parts clashed in a way Eslava could not have intended. Also, no dynamic notations were provided, so all included in this edition are simply my suggestions, and subject to alternative interpretations.

The cover lists the title as "Coplas a la Stma. (*Santísima*) Virgen por H. Eslava" and shows an old pocket-size devotional card (*estampa*) of Our Lady of Araceli, patron saint of Lucena (Córdoba, Spain), which may have been affixed to the original, indicating perhaps the geographical source of the copy. The materials are part of CDMA's Manuel Villalba collection. Manuel Villalba González (1911-2001) was a well-known tenor in his native Sevilla, particularly among the religious *hermandades* or brotherhoods of the city. For more information about Manuel Villalba, see

<http://www.centrodedocumentacionmusicaldeandalucia.es/opencms/biblioteca/legados/tenor-manuel-villalba.html> (in Spanish).

This work does not appear to have been specifically named in any of Eslava's biographers' inventories, but then it is also obviously a minor work (both musically and in its scale), which I am guessing could date back from the last few years of the composer's time in Sevilla (1832-1844), based on its simplicity and its apparent connection with this Andalusian city.

Although the musical score does not mention an author for the lyrics, our research shows that the words are a slight modification of a poem, a "Hymn to Our Lady of El Rosario – Quoting the Ave Maria" written by D. Juan José Bueno y Le-Roux (1821-1881), a lawyer, writer, editor, bibliophile, and literary figure from Sevilla (<http://dbe.rae.es/biografias/57919/juan-jose-bueno-y-le-roux>, in Spanish). The complete hymn was published in a religious periodical, "Sevilla Mariana" (1881), dedicated to "... making the glories of Spain and especially of Andalucía and this city known for its ancient and proverbial devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin",

though it is likely that this hymn was already well known in Sevilla. In the original lyrics by Bueno, the title and the last line of the *coro*, "del Rosario la Santa Oración", make it clear that the hymn is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, but in the musical rendition, the dedication is more generic and replaces the same line with "que alcancemos por tu dulce amor". Perhaps this was done so the *Coplas* could be sung on any occasion celebrating the Virgin Mary. Also, the music contains only two of the four stanzas in the original poem. As the poem paraphrases the traditional Hail Mary prayer, I felt it would be appropriate in this rendition of the *Coplas* to expand it to include the complete text by Bueno.



Juan José Bueno (image credit Real Academia de la Historia, Madrid)

COMPLETE LYRICS AND TRANSLATION

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| <p>CORO: Dulce Virgen del hombre consuelo, y del Verbo encarnado mansión, dadnos, Madre, la dicha del cielo, que alcancemos por tu dulce amor,</p> <p>1. Dios te salve, María, postrado, te saluda el Arcángel Gabriel: Dios te salve, María, decimos, Tú, venero perenne del bien. Llena eres de gracia, María, vencedora del fiero Luzbel. Concebida sin culpa Tú sola, desde el punto primero del ser.</p> <p>2. El Señor es contigo en el trono, ante el cual es tinieblas el sol. A tus plantas la luna se humilla, las estrellas tu aureola son. Tú, bendita entre todos los seres, Virgen Madre, de Vírgenes flor. Sobre ti los raudales de gracia, el Eterno gozoso vertió.</p> <p>3. De tu vientre bendito es el fruto, Redentor de los hombres, Jesús: Que bramando el infierno de ira, destrozó su poder en la Cruz. Santa Madre de Dios, por nosotros sin cesar al Señor ruega Tú. Y después de morir, tus plegarias, nos alcancen gozar de su luz.</p> <p>4. ¡Gloria al Padre, Criador de los orbes! ¡Gloria al Hijo, feliz Salvador! ¡Gloria, gloria, al Espíritu Santo! Llene el mundo el ferviente clamor. Era así en el principio, es ahora y será, eternamente, la voz, por los siglos de siglos tronando dirá: ¡Gloria por siempre al Señor!</p> | <p>CHORUS: Sweet Virgin, man's consolation, and of the Word incarnate home, grant us, Mother, the bliss of heaven, reached through your sweet love,</p> <p>1. Hail Mary, kneeling, the Archangel Gabriel greets you: Hail Mary, we say, You everlasting fountain of goodness. You are full of grace, Mary, conqueror of the fierce Lucifer. Conceived without guilt You alone, since before You came into being.</p> <p>2. The Lord is with You on the throne, before whom the sun is darkness. At your feet the moon is humbled, the stars are your halo. You, blessed among all beings, Virgin Mother, of Virgins a blossom. On You the abundance of grace, the Eternal One joyfully poured.</p> <p>3. From your blessed womb is the fruit, Redeemer of men, Jesus: Who, hell with wrath roaring, his power on the Cross did shatter. Holy Mother of God, for us unceasingly pray to the Lord. And after death, may your prayers allow us to enjoy His light.</p> <p>4. Glory to the Father, Creator of the planets! Glory to the Son, glad Savior! Glory, glory to the Holy Spirit! Let the world be filled with fervent clamor. It was so in the beginning, it is so now and will be, eternally, the voice, forever and ever thundering, shall say: Glory forever to the Lord!</p> |
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