

Editor's Notes for "Cuarteto en el primer acto de la ópera El Solitario"

Here is another fragment from Hilarión Eslava's first opera, *Il Solitario*. Arranged by José Rodríguez, a disciple of Eslava's, it is a piano reduction that does not include any lyrics. Therefore, it can only provide a rough idea of the original music, but even so it provides valuable insights into the drama and complexity of the opera. The score came to us from the Biblioteca de Catalunya in Barcelona. The original was printed at the Calcografía de Taberner in Sevilla.

"Il Solitario" is a rather historically inaccurate drama about the final romance and death of Charles the Bold (who has disguised himself as the mysterious "Solitario", and goes about doing good deeds in penance for his many past sins). There is a brief summary of the plot and background information included with my editor's notes for the overture, which are available at <https://hilarioneslava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Sinfonia-de-la-%C3%93pera-Editors-Notes.pdf> Based on its Spanish libretto (the opera was actually written and performed in Italian), we believe that this quartet took place in Act I, Scene 11, where there is a rather lengthy discourse between four characters: El Solitario (Charles the Bold), Elodia (Solitario's love interest), Ecberto (a former comrade-in-arms of Charles the Bold), and Anselmo (a priest).

Given that we only have the Spanish libretto and the piano reduction, we really have no way to insert the Italian lyrics into this piece, nor would it be prudent to try, if we did have them. We will continue our search for more music from this opera, as well as Eslava's other two operas, in the hopes that one day we may be able to reassemble these lost masterpieces.

While the source material for this piece did include quite a few dynamic and tempo notations, it seemed to me that much more was needed to keep it interesting, especially given the lack of lyrics. I therefore invisibly added many such touches based on my own judgment. I did honor the dynamic indications provided, and those have been made visible in this transcription.