

## Editor's Notes for *Todo el poder en tu mano*

In Spain, *cofradías* or *hermandades* are fraternal religious organizations established in the Roman Catholic tradition under the auspices of Catholic Canon Law, with worship, penitence, and charity as their foundational pillars. They are usually centered around the name and veneration of Christ, the Holy Virgin Mother of God, Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, the Blessed Sacrament, or a specific saint. This tradition is especially strong in Andalucía (southern Spain) and in particular its largest city, Sevilla. The *Hermandad de Nuestro Padre Jesús del Gran Poder y María Santísima del Mayor Dolor y Traspaso*, which commissioned this work, is one of Sevilla's most famous *hermandades*, with its origins dating back to the 15th century.

This lively piece is one of several discussed in a Spanish article by Rafael Bermúdez Medina entitled "Las coplas de Hilarión Eslava". Commissioned by the *Hermandad del Gran Poder* in 1859, it is described as being fully orchestrated, including drums, brass instruments, woodwinds and strings, in addition to the three-part vocal elements. The article provides the full Spanish lyrics and observes that only some of the instrumental parts have survived the years, though it adds that there appears to also exist in the archives of the *Hermandad* a more recent version with an organ reduction<sup>1</sup>. We have requested copies of the original scores from the *Hermandad* but have received no response.

Meanwhile, we were able to obtain a copy of the piece in the voice (STB) and organ version from the collection of tenor Manuel Villalba (with the kind permission of his heir) at the Centro de Documentación Musical de Andalucía (CDMA) in Granada. The manuscript scores consist of original vocal parts (which appear to be written in Eslava's hand), along with a keyboard reduction written in a different hand at a later time, which also includes the vocal parts. The scanned materials were reasonably legible and sufficient to transcribe the piece into a usable score with only fairly minimal editorial revisions.

SPANISH LYRICS	APPROXIMATE ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Todo el poder en tu mano tu Padre quiso poner. Señor, en tu Gran Poder, salvad al linaje humano.	All power in your hand your Father willed to place. Lord, in your Great Power, save the human race.
En cielo y tierra, Señor, tu Gran Poder y tu luz dan a todos gracias mas, al infierno, terror.	In heaven and earth, O Lord your Great Power and your light bestow graces on all but only terror in hell.

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<sup>1</sup> This late work by Eslava was followed in 1872 by another commission from the *Hermandad*, which has already been re-edited and published on this site. Both works are referenced in the aforementioned article by Rafael Bermúdez Medina as well as in other sources, including *La Semana Santa de Sevilla en el siglo XIX*, by Rafael Jiménez Sampedro, Abec Editores [2013] and in *Hilarión Eslava en Sevilla*, by José Enrique Ayarra Jarne, published by the Diputación de Sevilla [1979]. In that biography, the author indicates that both compositions were commissioned by a Fr. José Gabriel de Góngora, the *Hermandad's* Mayordomo (in this context, the person responsible for the administration and operation of the *hermandad*), as part of an effort initiated in 1855 to renew and expand the *Hermandad's* musical repertoire. In his description, Ayarra noted that to his knowledge, these works were (in 1979) unavailable or incomplete.

Llevando esa cruz crecida  
tu poder obró de suerte  
que a la muerte distes muerte  
y a los mortales la vida.

Bearing that worthiest cross  
your power worked so that  
to death you brought death  
and to mortals, life.