

***La Velada de San Juan en Sevilla*, by José Pinilla, based on a theme by Eslava**

As we continue our research on Hilarión Eslava, we have found remnants or adaptations of his compositions preserved by people who actually knew him. Such is the case for this fun bolero/caprice for piano, based on the third and last of Eslava's operas, *Pietro il Crudele* (Pedro el Cruel).

Best known for his work as an educator, José Pinilla y Pascual (Autol, La Rioja, Spain, 1837 - Madrid, 1902) was also an accomplished pianist and composer. He received his musical education at the Royal Conservatory in Madrid, where he studied harmony and composition under Hilarión Eslava and received piano and composition awards. Pinilla was appointed professor of solfège at the Conservatory in 1863, and in 1865 founded a correspondence school of counterpoint, fugue, composition, and instrumentation. His *Teoría completa del solfeo*, an innovative method of solfège built on, and complementing the earlier work by Eslava, was widely published and was still in use at the Conservatory and around Spain well into the 20th century. Among his two dozen compositions are three piano pieces written in honor of his *maestro* and friend Hilarión Eslava:

1. This present work
2. *Fantasia brillante sobre motivos de la ópera Las Treguas de Tolemaida* (see <https://musescore.com/user/29381772/scores/18533929>), and
3. *Nocturno sobre una Romanza de la ópera Il Solitario* (see <https://musescore.com/user/29381772/scores/18017284>)

The *Velada* comes to us from the archives of the Biblioteca Nacional de Catalunya in Barcelona. The original sheet music was printed at the shop of Eslava's nephew, Bonifacio Eslava in Madrid ca. 1860.

The cover page reads: "Homage to the Maestro Eslava. The eve of Saint John's in Sevilla; Andalusian Characteristic Caprice on a chorus from the opera Pedro el Cruel by Eslava (written) for piano by J. Pinilla."

Sources (in Spanish): Biographical entries on José Pinilla at the Real Conservatorio de Historia, at <http://dbe.rah.es/biografias/67570/jose-pinilla-y-pascual>, and Biblioteca Virtual de La Rioja, at http://bibliotecavirtual.larioja.org/bvrioja/es/consulta_aut/registro.cmd?id=3320. For digital samples of his works, see Biblioteca Nacional de España, at <http://datos.bne.es/persona/XX1531191.html>.