

## Editor's Notes for ¡Ay Salero!

Not all of Hilarión Eslava's work was religious in nature, and he would occasionally indulge in small projects to preserve and promote traditional folk music that, clearly, he loved. This piece would be a good example of that.

This song was part of a musical subgenre popular in Spain in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that centered around Andalusian songs sung in Andalusian jargon. We don't know whether this was a traditional folksong or an original work of Eslava to original lyrics, like another similar composition of his called "El Pescador" or "El copo" (CPE-129), with text by Spanish poet and playwright Tomás Rodríguez-Rubí y Díaz (1817-1890). We do know from an article published in 1843 in the Sevilla press, while Hilarión was still Master of the Chapel at the Cathedral, that he had started a collection of lighthearted Spanish pieces, some of which he would occasionally sing to his friends accompanied by a guitar.

The lyrics of ¡Ay Salero!, impossible to translate line by line, describe a young man's pining and admiration for his paramour, whom he describes humorously as driving him to perdition and being "like no other" on Andalusian soil. "Salero" (from the Spanish word for salt or saltshaker) denotes in this context the gift of exceptional grace and likeability.

The original used in this transcription came to us from the archives of the Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid (Inv. 44) in the form of a printed score of unknown origin (<https://rcsмм.eu/sites/default/files/2023-03/00000443700-1.pdf>). In the score, Eslava has provided both piano and guitar accompaniment, which can be played alone or together (with the vocalist).