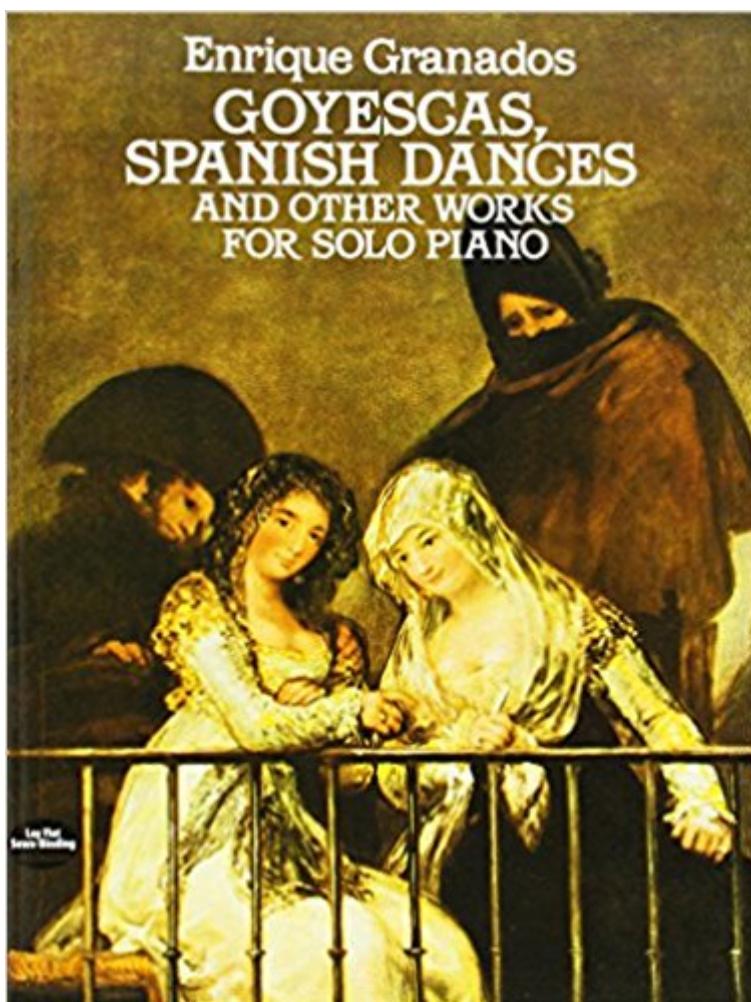


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Goyescas, Spanish Dances And Other Works For Solo Piano (Dover Music For Piano)



Synopsis

This remarkable book brings together in one sturdy, yet inexpensive volume four of the most memorable and frequently played sets of works for the piano by Enrique Granados (1867–1916), one of Spain's greatest modern composers. They are reprinted here from early editions. The piano suite *Goyescas*, first performed in Barcelona in 1911, would bring Granados his greatest, most enduring success. In each of its six pieces, the composer employs wild, insistent melody and highly individual rhythm, harmony, and coloring to create dramatic impressions of paintings by Goya, to whose work Granados was deeply drawn. The exquisite *Spanish Dances*, a suite of early works, were much admired by the leading composers of the day, among them Massenet, Saint-Saëns, and Grieg, not only for their distinctive musical qualities, but also for the new direction in Spanish music which they heralded. They remain today perhaps the most performed of Granados's work. Less well known in America are the beautiful *Escenas poéticas* and *Escenas románticas*, two suites which reflect Granados's interest in the music of Grieg, Schumann, and Liszt, yet are filled with the great Spanish composer's original modulations and characteristic melodic writing. Together, the four suites offer performing artists, teachers, students, and music lovers a rich treasury of the finest and most enduring of Granados's compositions for the piano.

Book Information

Series: Dover Music for Piano

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (October 1, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 048625481X

ISBN-13: 978-0486254814

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.4 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #562,972 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Dance #1061 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Opera #1143 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Opera > Songbooks

Customer Reviews

I bought this book for the Goyescas suite which I was learning for school/a masterclass. I do like Dover's off-white paper, definitely easy on the eyes. I do wish it was just a bit thicker but it's great quality when you consider how inexpensive the book is. The Dover lay flat binding has been especially nice. I carried it in a backpack and really beat the heck out of it this last semester and it has held up extremely well. The collection of pieces is also fantastic. There are the Goyescas which are of course a fairly challenging suite. Then the Spanish Dances are quite a bit more accessible and just absolutely brilliant pieces. The escenas romanticas are beautiful and moderately challenging, with #6 Epilogo, a very simple and yet breathtakingly sweet piece. And finally the escenas poeticas are really quite simple pieces, but are incredibly beautiful. I played Eva y Walter for a wedding last month and people just loved it. This collection is well worth your money!

I was very pleased with the purchase of the Granados works in this printing. Nicely printed and a pleasure to play. Benjamin Keaton

Enrique Granados was a wonderful composer of Romantic Era Spanish music. Born in 1867 in Spain, he studied music early in life and went to Paris, not at the famous Conservatory, but in private lessons with Beriot, who was a professor there and whose mother was a Spanish singer. For a while, Granados had to play piano at restaurants to keep body and soul together. But he began to have success and became a well-known and eventually a composer with global fame. In fact, he died at 48 when he was travelling back from New York and the premier of his opera "Goyescas" that was written using music from the famous piano suite of the same name. It was 1916 and World War I was raging. He was killed on the S. S. Sussex, a Channel ferry, when it was hit and badly damaged by a torpedo from a German U-boat in the English Channel. These two volumes from Dover are quite nice. They bring a nice large format reprint of earlier editions to us in a durable binding and their very nice lay flat sewn-binding. This means it is meant to be used by players. You can set it on your music rack and play from it. And they are inexpensive enough that you can afford to replace them if you wear them out. I did not know anything about Granados until I heard his Spanish Dance No. 5 played by Rubinstein on his recording "Music of Spain" and I fell in love. In listening to his music more and more over the years I, and millions of other people, are beguiled by its beauty, easy charm, and musical sophistication. To play his music requires skill, musical sensitivity, and a feel for Spanish sensibilities. If I were to give you a bit of advice, and you don't have to take it, but when you play Granados or national dance music of any time, don't get

caught up on the 20th century fixation of a fixed beat (be it straight or “swung”). Music of this and earlier eras had a sense of the measure the ebbed and flowed. The pulse never broke or became jagged. Instead it ebbed and flowed. The measures pushed into each other or stretched from each other and beats within each measure were not strict at all. They just could not break the overall pulse. They had to be in service to the musical phrasing, idea, and heart. The first volume I purchased was the collection with the twelve “Spanish Dances”, of course. While No. 5 is wonderful, the rest are also terrific and charming. But the major work in the collection, as I have come to realize, is Granados’ “Goyescas”. The suite he made after being inspired by paintings of the famous Spanish Painter Goya. These works have made Granados an established and permanent composer. The works are so popular he fashioned them into an opera of the same name, and as I noted, it was on his return to Europe after the opera’s premier in New York at the Met, that the ferry was attacked by the German U-boat in WWI and Granados died far too early. This Dover volume also has the collection of six “Romantic Scenes” and the three “Poetical Scenes”. All worth having and playing, of course. Then a friend introduced me to Grandos’ “Allegro de Concierto” So, I bought the other Dover volume of Granados’ piano music. The “Allegro de Concierto” is a virtuosic work and quite demanding, but not beyond the realm of the possible for the talented amateur. It is not virtuosic on the level of the most difficult Chopin or the Liszt’s “Transcendental Etudes”. And it is beautiful. The volume also contains two works associated with the composer that were not included in the earlier volume: “El Pelele” and a piano version of the famous “Intermezzo” from the opera “Goyescas”. The book also contains the famous “Capricho espanol” and “A la cubana”. And you will enjoy having the collections “Two Spanish Dances Op 37”, “Two Impromptus”, his “Marche militaire”, the “Moreque y Cancion arabe” and “Eight Poetic Waltzes”. The volume closes with “Six Pieces on Spanish Folk Songs”. While the two volumes do contain the composer’s major works for piano, they are not

comprehensive. Wikipedia lists other works for piano that are not included here. You can probably find them if you want to play everything he wrote for solo piano. And there is the collection he did for piano four hands. If you are interested in Granados, and why wouldn't you be, get these volumes for your collection and enjoy! Reviewed by Craig Matteson, Saline, MI

This superb collection brings together some of Enrique Granados' most wonderful solo piano music. "Goyescas" is a sprawling suite of six pieces inspired by impressions of Goya's paintings. Its wild, sprawling textures are redolent of Rachmaninoff or Debussy, but with flamboyant and passionate Spanish temperament, wild and soaring melodies. They are deeply moving, enormously challenging to play, and richly rewarding for performer and listener alike. Also in the collection are some of his early, delicate "Spanish Dances" as well as the "Escenas Poeticas" and "Escenas Romanticas." These are more reminiscent of the character pieces of Schumann or Grieg, but imbued with Granados' unique harmonic flavors and temperament. Wonderful music, in a definitive edition, reprinted by Dover "for a song," this volume is a treasure for lovers of great piano music. [music.mike@media.mit.edu](mailto:mike@media.mit.edu)

What wonderful music this is! The Spanish Dances and Goyescas are the best-known of Granados's music. Dover scores typically have chosen clear and accurate publications, now out of copyright, and such is the case here.

The songs are all gorgeous and fun to play but it's more for intermediate piano players though.

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