

Joaquín Rodrigo: The Man and His Music –

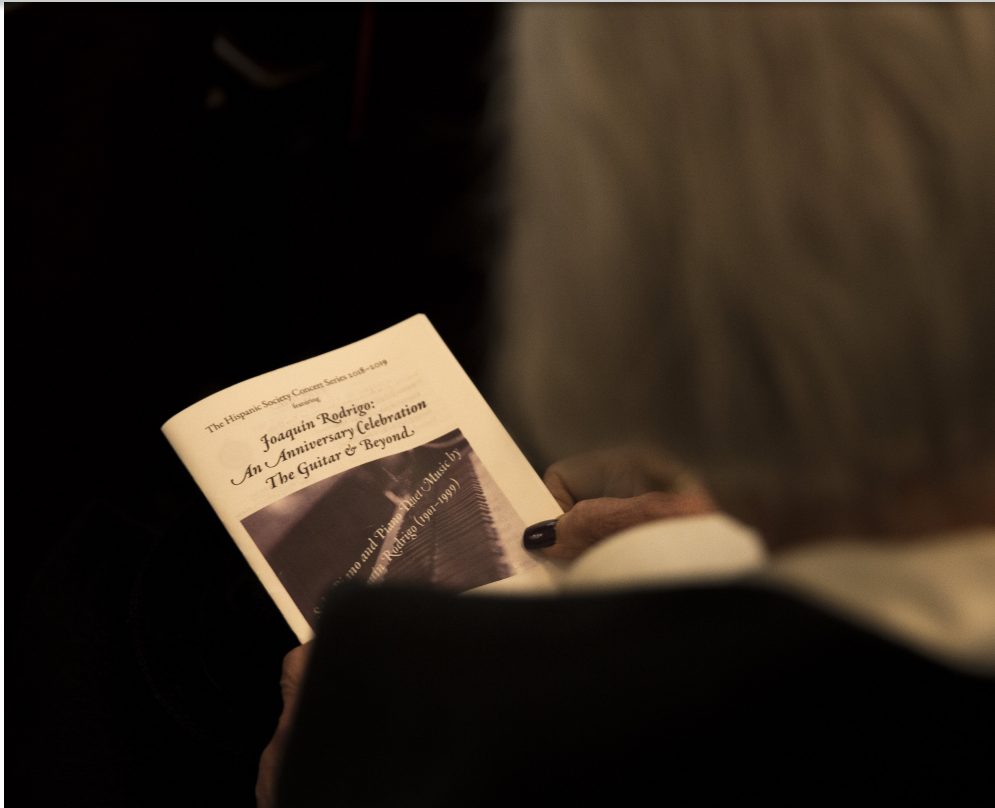
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Learn More about Joaquín Rodrigo's Life and Work with Ediciones Joaquín Rodrigo and EAMDC

JOAQUÍN RODRIGO

Honoring His Legacy, Twenty Years Later

It has been twenty years since the death of Joaquín Rodrigo (1901-1999). Celebrated musicologists, performers and members of the Rodrigo family came together in New York in April 2019 as part of a city-wide festival titled "Joaquín Rodrigo: An Anniversary Celebration -The Guitar and Beyond" marking the twentieth anniversary of **Joaquín Rodrigo's** passing. On **April 4**, the Hispanic Society of America presented a concert of Joaquín Rodrigo's works for solo and 4-hand piano including ***Sonatina para dos muñecas***, ***A l'ombre de Torre Bermeja***, ***Danza de la amapola***, ***Serenata Española***, ***Cuatro estampas andaluzas***, ***Juglares***, and ***Cuatro piezas para piano***. The performance, which took place at the American Academy of Arts and Letters, was preceeded by remarks from the performers: pianists Isabel Pérez Dobarro and Douglas Riva, and the composer's daughter Cecilia Rodrigo-Kamhi, Marquise of the Gardens of Aranjuez and President of the **Fundación Victoria y Joaquín Rodrigo**.



Then, on **April 9**, the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at New York University hosted a round-table with scholars, musicians, and Ms. Cecilia Rodrigo-Kamhi as well as a performance of Rodrigo's songs for voice and guitar by mezzo-soprano, Anna Tonna and guitarist, Federico Díaz. The panel discussed the tremendous role that Rodrigo's compositions had in shaping the identity of 20th-century Spanish music and explored some of his powerful, yet lesser-performed works. An additional panel discussion on the works of Joaquín Rodrigo took place at Harvard University's Instituto Cervantes on **April 11**. The panelists were identical to those who spoke at NYU on April 9, including Walter A. Clark, Antoni Pizà, Douglas Riva, and Javier Suárez-Pajares, moderated by the festival director, Isabel Pérez Dobarro. Mezzo-soprano Anna Tonna again performed with guitarist Hermelindo Ruiz.

On the occasion of celebrating the 20th anniversary of Joaquín Rodrigo's death in 2019, the Victoria and Joaquín Rodrigo Foundation has created a dossier which contains extensive information related to the composer and the present day role of his music worldwide. It includes suggestions for potential commemorative projects, and a detailed description of the work carried out by the Victoria and Joaquín Rodrigo Foundation for the promotion of the composer and his wife, as well as for the protection and projection of his music. Learn more by clicking [here](#).

Beyond Aranjuez: Joaquín Rodrigo's Music for Orchestra

Joaquín Rodrigo is probably best known for his ravishing concerto for guitar and orchestra, *Concierto de Aranjuez*. However, it is only one of Rodrigo's many exquisite works for orchestra. Another masterpiece is *A la búsqueda del más allá*, a symphonic tone poem written in 1976 after Rodrigo toured the headquarters of the US space agency NASA in Texas. When he was subsequently commissioned by the Houston Symphony Orchestra for the US bicentennial, he decided to write a piece about the human exploration of space. The work begins and ends with a long roll on suspended cymbals; it emerges from nowhere and disappears, comments Rodrigo, 'as if lost somewhere in space – in the other world'.

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A la busca del más allá

The London Symphony Orchestra; Enrique Bátiz, conductor

The energetic ***Concierto Pastoral*** for flute and orchestra (1978) is another testament to Rodrigo's brilliance. This delightful concerto was written for the celebrated flautist James Galway, to whom the work is dedicated. Joaquín Rodrigo uses a small orchestra with deft coloring to support his soloist and there is a definite feeling of freedom and joy in the outdoors about the work.



Concierto Pastoral

Jennifer Stinton, flute, and the English Chamber Orchestra; Stewart Bedford, conductor

Finally, ***Retablo de Navidad*** for soloists, choir, and orchestra (1952) is a collection of Christmas songs including the haunting "Duermete, niño," the jaunty "Arie y Donaire," the tender "Pastorcito Santo", and others. This work is a unique and appealing choice for holiday programs.



Retablo de Navidad

Raquel Lojendio (soprano), David Rubiero (baritone) with the Chorus and Orchestra of the Comunidad de Madrid conducted by Jose Ramon Encinar.

Other orchestral masterpieces by Joaquín Rodrigo include *Concierto in modo galante* for cello and orchestra, *Concierto andaluz* for four guitars and orchestra, and *Concierto de estío* for violin and orchestra. Numerous **songs** by Rodrigo have been written for voice and orchestra, including the beloved showpiece, *Cuatro madrigals amatorios*.

For more information about the music of Joaquín Rodrigo, visit eamdc.com or joaquin-rodrigo.com.

NOTABLE COLLECTIONS FOR VOICE AND PIANO



***Álbum para canto y guitarra* (2018)**

Released in honor of the twentieth anniversary of Joaquín Rodrigo's death, this collection of songs includes *Cuatro madrigales amatorios*, songs from *Retablo de Navidad*, *Cuatro canciones sefardíes*, selections from *Con Antonio Machado*, and others, arranged for voice and guitar by Marco Socías.

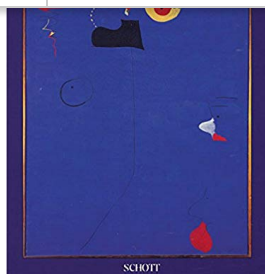
***Joaquín Rodrigo: 35 Songs for Voice and Piano* (1996)**

This classic collection includes some of Joaquín Rodrigo's best-loved songs including the "Cántico de la esposa", written for his beloved wife, Victoria Kamhi, *Twelve Spanish Songs*, *Three Villancicos* and more.

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Álbum Centenario (piano)

A wonderful introduction to some Rodrigo's works for solo piano, this collection includes *Pastoral*, *Preludio al Gallo mañanero*, *Cuatro piezas para piano*, *Cuatro estampas andaluzas*, and others.

The Rodrigo Collection



The Rodrigo Collection (piano)

This fine collection of piano works includes *Maria of the Kings*, *Dance of the Poppy*, *El negrito pepo*, and others.

RODRIGO'S OPERA EL HIJO FINGIDO

Joaquín Rodrigo's *El hijo fingido* is a comedia lírica (zarzuela) in a prologue and two acts, around 80 minutes in duration. Based on the play by Lope de Vega, the libretto was written by Rodrigo's wife, Victoria Kamhi, and Jesús M. de Arozamena. The cast includes around a dozen singers and actors, chorus, and orchestra. Additional details about the work may be found [here](#).

For those wishing to explore the work, Ediciones Joaquín Rodrigo has released a **piano reduction** of the full opera as well as a collection *Seis arias de El hijo fingido*.



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FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



It is never too early to introduce children to great music, and to create opportunities for families to visit the concert hall together!

Joaquín Rodrigo, *El niño que soñó la música*, tells the gripping story of a young blind boy who dreamed of being a musician and went on to become a great composer. His life was as exciting as a novel. His journey through life is an example of overcoming hardships.

This work narrates in the first person the story of a child who rose above his physical handicap of blindness to triumph in life and become one of Spain's most universal composers. The narration is accompanied by the orchestra, which plays numerous fragments of Joaquín Rodrigo's pieces.

For additional information about this work, click [here](#).

Visit eamdc.com or joaquin-rodrigo.com for more information on **Joaquín Rodrigo**.

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