
What's Next?

Season Finale: *Chateau Ravel* ~ Friday and Sunday, May 28 and 30, 2 pm. Join Alan and Sandy Rawson at their Chimacum home this coming Memorial Day weekend for an afternoon immersed in works by one of the world's most celebrated composers of the early twentieth century, Maurice Ravel.

Highlighting the program will be arrangements of orchestral and solo piano compositions along with original compositions for violin and piano from throughout Ravel's long and fruitful career, including his violin *Sonata posthume* of 1897, an extremely rare and unusual arrangement of *Jeux d'Eau* by Castelnuovo Tedesco in collaboration with Joseph Szigeti, selections from *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, and more.

Concluding the program will be one of the greatest original showpieces for violin and piano of all time, Ravel's gypsy fantasy of complete abandon, *Tzigane*.

Sandy's gourmet artistry this time goes French for a *réception par excellence*. Come and enjoy this exquisite music in a setting of comfort and intimacy as it was truly intended! Seating is by advanced paid reservation, \$22.

Reservations: contact Alan or Sandy Rawson, email rawsonduo@gmail.com or call 379-3449. Notice of event details, dates and times when scheduled will be sent via email or ground mail upon request. Be sure to be on the Rawsons' mailing list. For more information, visit their **new web site: www.rawsonduo.com**



Web Sites related to today's program

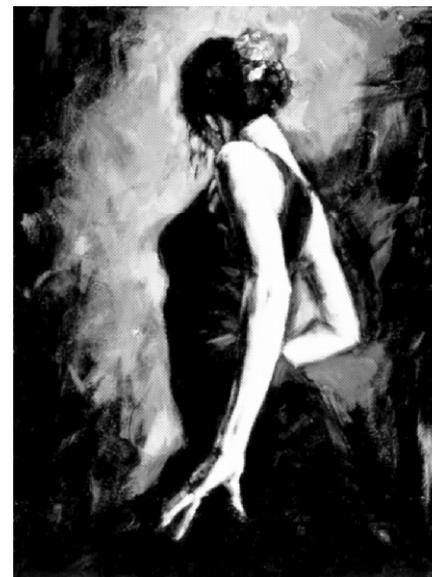
www.classicalnotes.net/classics/falla.html ~ in depth article about Falla's El Amor Brujo

www.joaquin-rodrigo.com ~ Joaquin Rodrigo web site in Spanish and English

www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts_example.php?sitepal ~ this fascinating demonstration site will pronounce entered text, up to a medium sized paragraph, in a number of languages and world regional accents.

Cover: *Flamenco* (2002) by Fabian Perez (b. 1967)
www.fabianperez.com

Rawson Duo Concert Series, 2009-10



Rhapsodia Español

Music of Nin, Falla, and Rodrigo

At the home of Alan and Sandy Rawson
10318 Rhody Drive, Chimacum WA
Friday and Sunday, April 23 and 25, 2 pm

The Rawson Duo

Specializing in Romantic and early twentieth-century works, the **Rawson Duo** has given numerous recitals on college campuses and community performing arts series across the United States and Canada. The Rawsons now reside in Chimacum where they perform throughout the year in the intimate setting of their home located on 7.5 acres, bringing to life rarely heard works celebrated with warm hospitality.

Violinist **Alan Rawson** first pursued his music interests in his junior year in high school as a self-taught folk guitarist, recorder player, and madrigal singer. Classical Violin studies were begun at Cañada Junior College in Redwood City California, since their program did not include Country and Western fiddling. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees from San Francisco State University and completed his doctorate degree at the University of Colorado in Boulder in violin performance studying with Oswald Lehnert while developing a passionate interest in Rocky Mountain cycling and cross country skiing. He has served on the music faculties of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota and the University of Idaho in Moscow, and has recently retired from Minnesota State University Moorhead where he directed the University Orchestra and taught upper strings. He was concertmaster of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony for twenty years and appeared as a featured orchestral soloist several times performing works by Tchaikowsky, Mozart, Sibelius, and Bruch, among others.

Alan has a passionate interest in exploring the music of past great composers, now all but lost to obscurity, and he is actively researching, locating and scanning public domain scores, freely making these available to the internet community worldwide.

A native of Fargo, ND, **Sandy Rawson** (pianist, organist, harpsichordist) completed her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance at the University of Minnesota and continued her studies at the Musik Akademie in Vienna, Austria. During her long tenure in the Fargo Moorhead area, she was a highly active accompanist and large ensemble pianist performing with all the major organizations including opera, symphony, choral, ballet, universities and public schools. She frequently appeared on faculty and guest artist recitals at the three local universities, NDSU, MSUM, and Concordia College. An active church organist from the age of 14, she held the post of organist at the First Congregational Church in Fargo for 25 years. She currently is the organist for Sequim Community Church and piano accompanist for Peninsula Chamber Singers.

Sandy's love of music is equaled by her love for cooking. A professionally trained chef, having lived several years in Europe and Japan, international cuisine has been a lifelong passion.

Spanish Favorites prepared for today's program by Sandy

Manchego con Membrillo en Tortas de Aceite

manchego cheese and quince paste on olive oil cakes

Croquetas de Jamón ~ ham croquettes

Dátiles Rellenos con Chorizo

dates stuffed with spicy chorizo sausage

Pan de Higo ~ fig cakes

Tarta de Chocolate con Galletas

layered chocolate and cookie cake

Pastel de Azafran Español ~ Spanish cake with saffron and orange blossom water

Almendrados ~ almond-lemon macaroons

Láminas de Merengue con Mantequilla de Almendra

meringue wafers with almond butter

PROGRAM

Rapsodia Ibérica (1926)

Joaquín Nin
(1879-1949)

Seguida Española (1927)

Vieja Castilla
Murciana
Catalana
Andaluza

— Interval

Danse du meunier (Miller's Dance) † from *El sombrero de tres picos*

Manuel de Falla
(1876-1946)

El Amor Brujo (The Love Sorcerer, excerpts) ‡

Danza Del Terror
Pantomime
Danza Ritual del Fuego

— Interval

Dos Esbozos, Op. 1 (Two Sketches, 1923)

Joaquín Rodrigo
(1901-1999)

*La enamorada junto al pequeño surtidor**
Pequeña ronda

Rumaniana (1943)

Sonata Pimpante (1966)

Allegro
Adagio
Allegro molto

arrangements with additions from piano reductions by the composer:

† Joseph Szigeti, *arr.* / ‡ Paul Kochanski, *arr.*

* *The Young Girl in Love beside the Fountains*



Parterre Gardens, Valencia



Spain

Joaquín Nin (1879-1949) was a Cuban pianist and composer of Spanish descent. He married singer Rosa Culmell and had three children, Thorvald Nin, composer Joaquin Nin-Culmell, and writer Anaís Nin. He studied piano with Moritz Moszkowski and composition at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, and made his début as a pianist in Barcelona at the age of 12. He began touring in 1901, returning frequently to Spain to perform in modern music festivals.

Nin taught at the New University of Brussels and the Schola Cantorum, and turned to composing relatively late in his career with a strong interest in popular Spanish materials, publishing several vocal pieces and a number of works for violin and piano.

His awards include the Cross of Isabel the Catholic (Spain, 1928) and induction into the Légion d'Honneur (France, 1929). In 1930 he became a corresponding member of the Royal Academia de S Fernando. He spent his last decade in Havana.

Manuel de Falla was born in Cádiz. His first lessons in music were with his mother, and at age 9 he was introduced to his first piano professor. Little is known of that period of his life, but his relationship with his teacher was likely conflicted. From the late 1890s he studied music in Madrid, piano with José Tragó and composition with Felipe Pedrell. In 1899 by unanimous vote he was awarded the first prize at the piano competition at his school of music, and around that year he started to use de with his first surname, making Manuel de Falla the name he became known as from that time on. When only the surname is used, however, the de is omitted.



It was from Pedrell, during the Madrid period, that Falla became interested in native Spanish music, particularly Andalusian flamenco (specifically *cante jondo*), the influence of which can be strongly felt in many of his works. Among his early pieces are a number of zarzuelas, but his first important work was the one-act opera *La vida breve* (Life is Short, or The Brief Life, written in 1905, though revised before its premiere in 1913).

Falla spent the years 1907 to 1914 in Paris, where he met a number of composers who had an influence on his style, including the impressionists Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy and Paul Dukas.

He wrote little more music, however, until his return to Madrid at the beginning of World War I. While at no stage was he a prolific composer, it was then that he entered into his mature creative period.

In Madrid he composed several of his best known pieces, including *Nocturne* for piano and orchestra, *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* (*Noches en los jardines de España*, 1916), the ballet *El amor brujo*, the ballet *The Magistrate and the Miller's Wife* (*El corregidor y la molinera*) which, after revision, became *The Three-Cornered Hat* (*El sombrero de tres picos*, 1917) and was produced by the Ballet Russe directed by Serge Diaghilev with set design and costumes by Pablo Picasso.

From 1921 to 1939 Falla lived in Granada, where he organized the Concurso de Cante Jondo in 1922. In Granada he wrote the puppet opera *El retablo de maese Pedro* (*Master Peter's Puppet Show*, 1923) and a concerto for harpsichord and chamber ensemble (1926).

Also in Granada, Falla began work on the large-scale orchestral cantata *Atlántida* (*Atlantis*), based on the Catalan text *L'Atlántida* by Jacint Verdaguer. Falla considered *Atlántida* to be the most important of all his works, based on a mythological account of how the submersion of Atlantis created the Atlantic ocean, thus separating Spain and



Latin America, and how later the Spanish discovery of America reunited what had always belonged together.

Falla moved to Argentina in 1939, following Francisco Franco's victory in the Spanish Civil War. He never married, had no children, and died in Alta Gracia, in the Argentine province of Córdoba. In 1947 his remains were brought back to Spain and entombed in the cathedral at Cádiz. One of the lasting honors to his memory is the Manuel de Falla Chair of Music in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters at Complutense University of Madrid. His image appeared on Spanish currency notes for some years.

Joaquín Rodrigo was born in Sagunto, Valencia in 1901, and almost completely lost his sight at the age of three after contracting diphtheria. He began to study solfège, piano and violin at the age of eight, and harmony and composition at sixteen. Although distinguished by having raised the Spanish guitar to dignity as a universal concert instrument and best known for his guitar music, he never mastered the instrument himself. He wrote his compositions in braille, which were transcribed for publication.

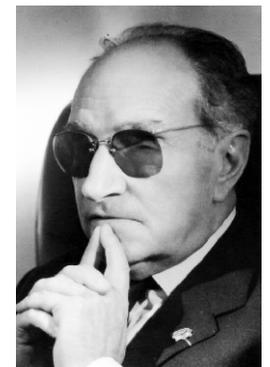
Rodrigo studied music under Francisco Antich in Valencia and under Paul Dukas at the École Normale de Musique in Paris. After briefly returning to Spain, he went to Paris again to study musicology, first under Maurice Emmanuel and then under André Pirro. His first published compositions date from 1940. In 1943 he received Spain's National Prize for Orchestra for *Cinco piezas infantiles* ("Five Children's Pieces"), based on his earlier composition of the same piece for two pianos, premiered by Ricardo Viñes. From 1947 Rodrigo was a professor of music history, holding the Manuel de Falla Chair of Music in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, at Complutense University of Madrid.

His most famous work, *Concierto de Aranjuez* for guitar and orchestra, was composed in 1939 in Paris, and in later life he and his wife declared that it was written as a response to the miscarriage of their first child. The central adagio movement is one of the most recognizable in 20th century classical music, featuring the interplay of guitar with English horn. This movement was later adapted by the conductor Gil Evans for Miles Davis' 1960 album *Sketches of Spain*. *Concierto de Aranjuez* was adapted by the composer himself for harp and orchestra and dedicated to Nicanor Zabaleta.

The success of this concerto led to commissions from a number of prominent soloists, including the flautist James Galway and the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber. In 1954 Rodrigo composed *Fantasia para un gentilhombre* at the request of Andrés Segovia. His *Concierto Andaluz*, for four guitars and orchestra, was commissioned by Celedonio Romero for himself and his three sons.

In 1991, Rodrigo was raised to the nobility by King Juan Carlos and he was given the title *Marqués de los Jardines de Aranjuez*. He received the prestigious *Prince of Asturias Award*—Spain's highest civilian honor—in 1996. He was named Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government in 1998.

He married Victoria Kamhi, a Turkish-born pianist whom he had met in Paris, on 19 January 1933, in Valencia. Their daughter, Cecilia, was born 27 January 1941 and married violinist León Ara for whom Rodrigo composed his *Sonata Pimpante* in 1966. Rodrigo died in 1999 in Madrid at the age of 97. He and his wife Victoria are buried at the cemetery at Aranjuez.



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