

Sounds of Spain

BOOK ONE

Catherine Rollin

Over the years I have had many requests from teachers for more Spanish-style pieces. Two of my solos, NIGHTS IN SPAIN and EL CONQUISTADOR, have been selected for several competitions and festival lists and have received a very enthusiastic response. The pieces are at an intermediate level and very manageable technically, yet they feature expressive melodies and dramatic sections that sound quite difficult and showy. While I had thought of composing a few more pieces in this style, I decided to write an entire collection devoted to Spanish-style pieces after giving a workshop in Oklahoma. A teacher there described her students' successful performances of these two solos so effusively that I was convinced of the need for more pieces like them. Once I started working on ideas for a new collection, many pieces evolved and it was rewarding exploring the different elements that make up the colorful Spanish music tradition. Soon these ideas grew into two new collections!

In these pieces I have tried to include the diverse and colorful sounds of Spain. Listen for the rolled chords and plucked staccatos that emulate the guitar. There are strong dance rhythms that emanate from the many dance forms that influence Spanish music, including Flamenco and Tango. The expressive melodies have harmonies that reflect the Moorish presence that permeates Spanish music.

My hope is that these pieces will elicit expressive, rhythmic and dramatic performances from those who play them. Most importantly, however, *por favor disfrutenlo* (please enjoy)!

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7 Colorful Early Intermediate to Intermediate Piano Solos in Spanish Styles

Cover art: Photodisc

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ISBN 0-7390-0354-2



Fire Dance

Catherine Rollin

Fast, with energy and spirit

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Measures 1-6: Treble clef has chords with fingerings 5, 3, 1. Bass clef has notes 2 and 5. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*.

Measure 7: Treble clef has a rest. Bass clef has notes 1, 3, 2, 1, 4. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*, *mp*.

Measures 13-18: Treble clef has chords and melodic lines with fingerings 1, 3, 5, 1, 3, 5. Bass clef has notes 2, 5, 5. Dynamics: *p*, *f*, *mf*. A bracket spans measures 13-18.

Measures 19-24: Treble clef has melodic lines with fingerings 5, 1. Bass clef has notes 5, 3, 2, 1, 2, 3. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.

The Matador

Fairly slow and singing, with expressive freedom

Catherine Rollin

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The music is in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a slur over measures 1-4, starting on G4 and ending on G4. The left hand (LH) provides a harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mf* in the RH and *mf* in the LH. Fingering is indicated: RH (1, 2, 3, 2) and LH (5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1).

Measures 5-8 of the piece. The music continues with a melodic line in the RH and accompaniment in the LH. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present in measure 7. Fingering is indicated: RH (5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1) and LH (5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1).

Measures 9-15 of the piece. The music is marked "Fast and energetic". The RH features a melodic line with a slur over measures 9-15, starting on G4 and ending on G4. The LH provides a harmonic accompaniment. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. Fingering is indicated: RH (5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1) and LH (5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1). The word *simile* is written below the LH staff.

Measures 16-20 of the piece. The music continues with a melodic line in the RH and accompaniment in the LH. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. A *LH over* marking is present in measure 18. Fingering is indicated: RH (5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1) and LH (5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1, 5, 1).

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BOOK TWO

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7 Colorful Intermediate Piano Solos in Spanish Styles

This collection is dedicated to my parents, Vera Rollin Burke and the late Bernard Rollin. It was their love and appreciation of all music that opened my ears to a myriad of diverse sounds and styles. I can close my eyes and see them dancing the Tango still.

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ISBN 0-7390-355-0



Flamenco

Catherine Rollin

Fairly fast, with dramatic flair

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece is marked 'Fairly fast, with dramatic flair'.

Measures 1-5: The right hand (RH) plays a melodic line with fingerings 4, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 3, 1, 4, 3, 4. The left hand (LH) plays a bass line with fingerings 1, 3, 5, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 5, 1, 2, 5. The dynamic is *f* (forte).

Measures 6-10: The RH continues with fingerings 2, 3, 1, 3, 1, 4. The LH has fingerings 2, 5. Dynamics include *rit.* (ritardando), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *p* (piano).

Measures 11-14: A repeat sign is present. The instruction 'Play RH one octave higher than written on the repeat a tempo' is written above the staff. The RH has fingerings 3, 1, 3, 1. The LH has fingerings 3, 2, 1, 5, 3, 2, 1, 5, 3, 2, 1, 5. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*.

Measures 15-18: The RH has fingerings 3, 1, 4, 3, 1, 4, 3, 2. The LH has fingerings 3, 2, 1, 5, 3, 2, 1, 5. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp*. The piece ends with a *rit.* (ritardando) and a final chord.

Castanets

Fast and fiery

Catherine Rollin

The musical score is written for piano in 3/4 time. It consists of five systems of music, each containing measures 1 through 15. The notation includes treble and bass staves for both hands (RH and LH). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *cresc.* (crescendo). Articulation marks like accents and slurs are used throughout. Measure numbers 1, 5, 10, and 15 are boxed at the start of their respective systems. The piece is titled 'Castanets' and is described as 'Fast and fiery' by Catherine Rollin.

Measure 1: RH: *f* (5), *p* (3); LH: *f* (5), *p* (2). Dynamics: *f*, *p*. Articulation: accents.

Measure 5: RH: *f* (5), *p* (3); LH: *f* (5), *p* (2). Dynamics: *f*, *p*. Articulation: accents.

Measure 10: RH: *mf* (5), *p* (3); LH: *mf* (5), *p* (2). Dynamics: *mf*, *p*. Articulation: accents.

Measure 15: RH: *mp* (5), *p* (3); LH: *mp* (5), *p* (2). Dynamics: *mp*, *p*. Articulation: accents.