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# News

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## MEXICAN PIANIST OSORIO MAKES CEDILLE LABEL DEBUT WITH WORKS OF SPANISH COMPOSERS

### Technicolor Technique Illuminates Works by Falla, Albéniz, Soler, and Granados

Jorge Federico Osorio, a widely recorded and much-honored international concert pianist, makes his Cedille Records debut this month with his first recording devoted to solo piano music by Spanish composers.

On *Piano Español*, the Mexico City native, now living in the Chicago area, performs Manuel de Falla's theatrically tuneful *Piezas Españolas*, Isaac Albéniz's panoramic *Suite Española* No. 1, four sprightly and elegant sonatas by Antonio Soler, and selected *Danzas Españolas* by the "Spanish Chopin," Enrique Granados (Cedille CDR 90000 075).

Osorio calls it a program "for sheer enjoyment, for the beauty and the colors and the rhythm."

Falla's four *Piezas Españolas* (1908) are stylized departures on folk tunes and bear descriptive names of locations and landscapes. For example, the first piece, *Aragonesa*, is loosely based on the *jota*, a triple-meter dance from Spain's Aragon region, traditionally performed with castanets and guitars.

Albéniz's eight-part *Suite Española*, completed in the 1880s, provides an even more comprehensive musical atlas of Spain, with pieces named Granda, Cataluña, Sevilla, Cádiz, Asturias, Aragón, Castilla, and Cuba.

The work is most often heard on guitar, but Osorio makes a persuasive case for the original, piano version — witness the rapid-fire, repeated-note passages of "Asturias" (subtitled *Leyenda*).

Albéniz was a virtuoso pianist, and hearing these pieces on piano “demonstrates just how brilliantly they suit their original medium,” observes Andrea Lamoreaux in the CD’s program notes.

Soler’s (1729-1783) sonatas are marked by the originality and adventurousness of their key relationships. Soler luxuriated in the eighteenth century’s technological advances in keyboard tunings, and his sonatas, along with those of Scarlatti, have been likened to Bach’s *Well-Tempered Clavier* for their exhaustive explorations of key signatures.

The CD contains the original piano versions of four of Granados’s *Danzas Españolas*, written in the 1890s. These are especially haunting in their exotic echoes of the long-departed Moorish civilization of Andalucia.

Hailed by many as Mexico’s greatest living pianist, Osorio has performed with a host of world-class orchestras and conductors. The *Los Angeles Times* (Nov. 25, 2002) called him “one of the more elegant and accomplished pianists on the planet. . . . He always brings new insights, eloquent readings and an effortless virtuosity to all his assignments.”

Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) is dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from Chicago in programs of attractive yet neglected repertoire. The label is an arm of the nonprofit Chicago Classical Recording Foundation.

Cedille CDs are distributed by Qualiton Imports and are available at finer record stores nationally and through online retailers. For a free catalog and the whereabouts of local retail outlets, consumers can contact Cedille Records, 5255 N. Lakewood Ave., Chicago, IL 60640-2220; phone (773) 989-2515; E-mail [info@cedillerecords.org](mailto:info@cedillerecords.org); [www.cedillerecords.org](http://www.cedillerecords.org).

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**PIANO ESPAÑOL**

**Jorge Federico Osorio, piano**

**Falla: Piezas Españolas**

**Albéniz: Suite Española No. 1**

**Soler: Sonatas in G minor, D major,**

**F-sharp minor, and D-flat major**

**Grandos: Danzas Españolas, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6**

**Cedille Records CDR 90000 075**