



MN11 06

A los baños del amor **Anon**

Arranged by Steve Walter

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A los baños del amor, Anon

Date unknown

Original Score

A los baños del amor

Anon

A los ba - ños de llor a - mor so - la ra llos me ba - ña ra. Por - que sa - que'es un do ne d'es - te mal que me cau - sa des - ven - tu - ra, lor tan mor - tal que des - tru - ye mi fi - gu - ra.

Fine

D.C. al Fine

Historical context

This song can be found in the Cancionero de Palacio compiled between c.1474 and c.1505.

Translation

A los baños del amor
sola me iré
y en ellos me bañaré.

To the fountain of love
I shall go alone
to bathe in its waters.

Porque sane de este mal
que me causa desventura,
qu'es un dolor tan mortal
que destruye mi figura.

I would be purged of this ill
that brings me misfortune,
for such is the pain
that it ruins my features.

A los baños de tristura
sola me iré
y en ellos me bañaré.

To the fountain of sadness
I shall go alone
to bathe in its waters.

The lyrics of this villancico have a definite connection with another song written by Juan Vásquez called *Con que la lavaré* in which a woman is lamenting for her lover and now finds herself alone. She asks the question 'With what shall I wash the flower of my face?' and decides that nothing can purge her from her feeling of desolation and pain. It is not clear what has brought the lady in this song to such a misfortune, although it would not be too fanciful to suppose that a lover who has deserted her is responsible for the pain she now feels.

Performance directions

There are various possibilities for the performance of this song. (The numbers refer to the line of music played).

Four performers: 1 sop/alto voice, 2 omit 3 bass recorder, 4 vihuela, 5 viol

Five performers: 1 sop/alto voice, 2 omit 3 tenor/bass voice, 4 vihuela, 5 viol
1 sop/alto voice, 2 bass recorder, 3 tenor/bass voice,
4 vihuela, 5 viol

Suggested tempo: minim = 52

To enable the music to be played by a greater diversity of instruments, I have added a transposed part for guitar which would need to have a capo placed on the third fret and the third string tuned down a semitone to F#. A cello can be substituted for the viol, a clarinet for the recorder and a lute for the vihuela.

References

Francisco Asenjo Barbieri Cancionero musical de los siglos XV y XVI 1890 (No. 101)

Higinio Anglés Cancionero Musical de Palacio Barcelona 1947 (No. 149)