

MN11 02

Esta montaña d'enfrente Anon

Arranged by Steve Walter

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Esta montaña d'enfrente, Anon

Date unknown

Historical context

Sephardic music has its roots in the musical traditions of the Jewish communities in medieval Spain and Portugal. When Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, they spread as far as Morocco, Greece and Turkey. Since the expulsion, many of the original melodies have been lost so Sephardic music adopted the melodies and rhythms of the various countries where the Sephardim settled. Songs were often sung by women while performing household tasks without accompaniment. However, the oud (lute), qanún (zither) and percussion instruments are sometimes used, especially in wedding songs.

Original Score

Esta montaña d'enfrente

Anon

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef. The first staff begins with a 6/8 time signature and contains the first line of the melody. The second staff begins with a 3/8 time signature and contains the second line of the melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

1. Es-ta mon-ta-ña d'en-fren-te, s'a-cien-de y va que-man-do
a-llí pe-drí al mi a-mor, m'a-sen-to y vo llo-ran-do.

Translation

Esta montaña d'enfrente
s'aciende y va quemando.
Allí pedrí al mi amor;
M'asento y vo llorando.

This mountain in front of me
is on fire and burning.
There I sought my love;
I sit down and weep.

Arvolico de menekhse,
yo lo ensembrí mi huerta,
yo la crecí y lo en grandeci;
Otros s'están gozando.

Flowering tree
that I keep in my garden,
that I grew and nurtured;
Others now enjoy it.

Secretos quero descubrir,
secretos de mi vida.
El cielo quero por papel,
la marquero por tinta.

I would discover secrets,
secrets of my life.
I would have the sky for paper,
the sea I would have for ink.

Los árboles por péndola,
para 'scrivir mis males.
No ay quen sepa mi dolor,
ni ajenos ni parientes.

The trees for a pen
to write of my ills.
No-one knows of my sorrow,
neither strangers nor kin.

Performance directions

Esta montaña d'enfrente is scored for voice, bass recorder, vihuela and viol.

Suggested tempo: quaver = 104

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 fifth 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.