





MN11 08

Pase el agoa, ma Julieta Anon

Arranged by Steve Walter

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Pase el agoa, ma Julieta, Anon Date unknown

Original Score





Historical context

This unusual song is an example of an ensalada which is a genre of secular music that mixes languages and dialects and sometimes nonsensical quodlibets or popular tunes.

The text of Pase el agoa is a mix of the following languages: Spanish, Portuguese, Gallician, French, Occitan and even a word of Latin (venite).

Translation

Pase el agoa, ma Julieta, dama, pase el agoa. Venite vous à moy.

Ju me'n anay en un vergel, tres rosetas fui coller.

Ma Julioleta, dama, pase el agoa. Venite vous à moy. Come across the water, my Lady Julieta, come across the water. Come to me.

I shall go into a garden and pick three roses.

My Lady Julieta, cross over the water. Come to me.

In this song, Julieta's lover implores her to cross the water after which he will present her with three roses. Traditionally, plucking roses implies impending loss of virginity, as the garden was the most common place for making love in the ballad tradition.

Performance directions

Pase el agoa, ma Julieta is scored for voice, alto recorder and vihuela. There is an instrumental prelude and a variant which follows immediately after the song.

Suggested tempo: dotted crotchet = 84

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 flute, oboe or clarinet can be substituted for the recorder and a lute for the vihuela.

Pronunciation

A few directions about the pronunciation of some of the words in this text may be of value:

Agoa pronounced as modern agua.

The <j> can be pronounced either [ʒ] as in French, or [dʒ] as in Italian *Giorgio*, but not as in modern Spanish [x].

Vous should be pronounced [vuz] as in modern French, with [z] linking to the following a.

Moy can be either [moi] like boy or [moe]/[mwe] like moe-eh, but not [mwa] as in modern French.

Rosetas can be pronounced either rozetas or ruzetas.

Coller can be pronounced either [koller] or [kuller].

References

Francisco Asenjo Barbieri Cancionero musical de los siglos XV y XVI 1890. (No. 446)

Higinio Anglés Cancionero Musical de Palacio Barcelona 1947. (No. 363)