

The distinguished Basque composer Francisco Escudero spent his life creating an exceptional and individual catalogue of works embracing almost all musical genres. His musical style is characterised by a very personal conception of traditional Basque music, which is not afraid to employ bold avant-garde effects. Set to the poem *Biotzean min dut* (My heart is broken) by Xabier Lizardi (1896–1933) the imposing oratorio *Illeta* depicts the grief experienced on the death of a loved one during the wake, funeral and burial. Sung in the first person by a baritone and by a chorus representing the townspeople, it begins with a five note motif, reflecting the influence of Gregorian chant on traditional Basque music, and culminates in a deeply moving finale on the words ‘my heart is broken’.

Francisco ESCUDERO

(1913–2002)

Illeta (1953)

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| 1 | I – Gaubela (Wake) | 21:42 |
| 2 | II – Eliza Bidean (Procession to the Church) | 11:27 |
| 3 | III – Illeta (Funeral) | 12:19 |
| 4 | IV – Kanposantu Bidean (Procession to the Cemetery) | 3:44 |
| 5 | V – Eorzketa eta Azken Agurra (Burial and Final Farewell) | 9:48 |

Ricardo Salaberria, Baritone
Coral Andra Mari • Bilbao Symphony Orchestra
Juan José Mena

Recorded at the Euskalduna Concert Hall, Bilbao from 25th to 27th March, 2002
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 (Museo de Bella Artes de Bilbao)

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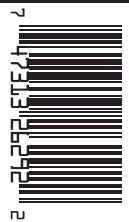


SPANISH CLASSICS

DDD

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