

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)

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
 Producer and Engineer: Teije van Geest • This recording was made with support from Bizkaiko Foru

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 (Museo de Bella Artes de Bilbao)

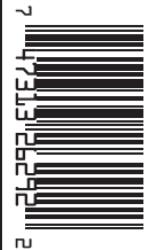


SPANISH CLASSICS

DDD

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Playing Time
59:03



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