

A rich musical heritage and vibrant contemporary culture intersect in Catalunya in north-eastern Spain. Granados's long-lost masterpiece *Song of the Stars* is comparable to a virtuoso piano concerto with chorus and organ rather than orchestra, gloriously combining Romantic-Modernista poetry with post-Wagnerian harmonies. The internationally famous cellist Pau Casals also composed a small body of very beautiful music, including the deeply spiritual choral works on this disc. Morera's *The Nightingale* and Blancafort's *Love Song* are evocative of their Catalan texts, while Oltra's *Echo* and *Prelude* explore themes of memory and hope through images of nature.

Song of the Stars

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| 1-9 | PAU CASALS (1876-1973): Rosarium Beatae Virginis Mariae | 10:41 |
| 10 | PAU CASALS: Recordare, Virgo Mater | 2:26 |
| 11 | ENRIC GRANADOS (1867-1916): Salve Regina | 5:06 |
| 12 | PAU CASALS: Nigra sum | 4:29 |
| 13 | ENRIC MORERA (1865-1942): El Rossinyol * | 1:32 |
| 14 | ENRIC GRANADOS: Romanza | 5:56 |
| 15 | ENRIC MORERA: Ave Maria * | 2:21 |
| 16 | ENRIC GRANADOS: Escena religiosa * | 4:32 |
| 17 | MANUEL BLANCAFORT (1897-1987): Cant d'amor * | 2:45 |
| 18 | MANUEL OLTRA (b. 1922): Eco * | 2:06 |
| 19 | MANUEL OLTRA: Preludio * | 1:46 |
| 20 | ENRIC GRANADOS: Cant de les estrelles * | 17:36 |

* WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS



Voices of Ascension 1-13, 15, 17-20
Dennis Keene, Conductor 1-13, 15, 17-20
Douglas Riva, Piano 14, 16, 20

Mark Kruczek, Organ 1-12, 15, 16, 20 • **Erica Kiesewetter, Violin** 14, 16

Dennis Keene and the Voices of Ascension appear courtesy of Delos International

Sung texts are also available at www.naxos.com/libretti/570533.htm

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SPANISH CLASSICS

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DDD

Playing Time
62:44



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