

Sephardic music, from the ancient domain of al-Andalus (Andalusia), lies at the heart of this selection of songs in remembrance of a lost homeland. The word *endechar* comes from a time before the expulsion of the Jews and their culture from Spain in 1492; within the Jewish community it meant 'to sing funeral dirges' or 'to lament'. After leaving Spain, the Sephardim kept alive the tradition of singing *endechas* (laments), *romances* (narrative ballads), and other songs in their traditional language, *ladino*, or Judeo-Spanish, which was based on ancient Castilian. This was enriched by the addition of words from Hebrew and then from the languages, music and instruments of the places to which they travelled, such as Greece, the Balkans, Turkey and Morocco.

Endechar: Lament for Spain

Sephardic Romances and Songs

1 Arvolicos d'almendra	2:46	9 Ya crecen las hierbas	2:34
2 Hija mía mi querida	3:17	10 Paxaro de hermosura	2:53
3 Esta montaña d'enfrente	4:58	11 Nani, nani	4:07
4 Una matica de ruda	4:27	12 En la mar hay una torre	4:31
5 Muerte que a todos convidas	5:44	13 Calvi arabi – Kol libi – Rey don Alfonso	3:02
6 ¿Por qué llorax blanca niña?	2:28	14 Durme, durme hermozo hijico	3:43
7 Ven querida	3:19	15 Avrix mi galanica	2:51
8 Cuatro años d'amor	2:45	16 El rey Nimrod	4:06

Capilla Antigua de Chinchilla • José Ferrero, Director

A detailed track list and artists' details can be found on page 2 of the booklet

The Ladino texts and English translations can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572443.htm

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Cover: Detail of a Sephardic woman on a golden plate by an anonymous artist, Tetouán, Morocco

(Courtesy of José Ferrero)

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