

The Renaissance

2008-09: volume 6

Hot Latin Nights - October 4, 2008 at 8:00 PM



**MANSFIELD
SYMPHONY**

Robert Franz
Music Director

Hot Latin Nights The Program:

Manuel De Falla's *Three Cornered Hat*
Ravel's *Bolero*
Roberto Sierra's *Fandangos*

Guest Artist: Flamenco Ensemble Al Sur

From Music Director Robert Franz:

"Ravel's *Bolero* is one of the most famous works written for orchestra ever. The funny thing about how "Spanish" it sounds is that it was written by a very talented Frenchman! I thought the music from Spain and Latin American quarters would create the perfect balance. I knew right away that I wanted to include my friends and colleagues, Al Sur. They are musicians that I have known and worked with for years since I was in Louisville, and they are nothing short of astounding when they perform flamenco music. Couple that with Manuel de Falla's colorful ballet score to the "Three Cornered Hat" and an opener by Puerto Rican composer, Roberto Sierra and I bet you won't be able to keep your hips from moving... even in your seat."

Al Sur





Maurice Ravel

BOLERO

Maurice Ravel
1875-1937

“I have written only one masterpiece,” remarked Maurice Ravel to fellow composer Arthur Honegger, “that is *Bolero*. Unfortunately, it contains no music.” His self-irony notwithstanding, *Bolero* is one of the most popular musical compositions of all time. It was created for the dancer Ida Rubinstein, a protégé of Sergey Diaghilev and pupil of Michel Fokine, who was the inspiration for numerous artists of the 1910s and ‘20s, including Claude Debussy, Igor Stravinsky, André Gide, Darius Milhaud and others. In 1927, Rubenstein asked Ravel to orchestrate for her some of

Isaac Albéniz’s dances from *Iberia*, but the composer discovered that someone else was already working on those.

SOMBRERO DE TRES PICOS *(THE THREE-CORNERED HAT)*

Manuel de Falla
1876-1946

Like so many artists, Manuel de Falla showed not only precocious musical ability but also facility as a writer and a fascination with the Spanish themes and folklore that were to characterize so much of his music. He spent his youth and early career as a pianist and teacher, the proceeds from which helped support his family.



Composer Manuel de Falla as depicted on a former currency note of Spain



Roberto Sierra

FANDANGOS

Roberto Sierra

Dating back to around the sixteenth century, the fandango is a Spanish dance characterized by a repeated four-note bass line, one of the hallmarks of Flamenco music. The bass line descends stepwise but resolves harmonically only upon the repeat of the first note of the pattern, resulting in a massive buildup of tension until the final cadence.

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