

ABSTRACT

Title of Document: A GOLDEN AGE: FRENCH AND SPANISH
CELLO MUSIC FROM SAINT-SAËNS TO
CASSADÓ

Chun-Wen Chuan, Doctor of Music, 2008

Directed By: Professor Evelyn Elsing
School of Music

Motivated by both the delicacy of French music, such as *La Mer* by Claude Debussy, and the exotic atmosphere of Spanish music, such as *Zigeunerweisen* by Pablo Sarasate, I decided to investigate the characteristics of French and Spanish cello music from Camille Saint-Saëns to Gaspar Cassadó.

French cello music flourished from the end of the 19th to the middle of the 20th century because of the innovation of many unprecedented techniques and experimentation with a variety of sonorities. The Spanish were heavily influenced by the French due to the geographical connection. Cello virtuosos like Auguste Tolbecque, August Franchomme, Pierre Fournier, and Paul Tortelier inspired composers of their day, creating a “golden age” of cello music.

This dissertation consisted of three recitals in Gildenhorn Recital Hall. The first recital was held on May 10th, 2007 at 5:30 pm with pianist David Ballena. The second recital was held on October 14th, 2007 at 2pm with collaborators Minna Han, piano and

Jenny Wu, violin. The third recital was held on March 30th, 2008 at 5:30 with pianist Naoko Takao.

Here is the program of the recitals:

The first recital: Gabriel Fauré (1856-1924): *Sonate pour Violoncello et Piano*

Op.109 (1917)

Gaspar Cassadó (1897-1966): *Suite per Violoncello Solo* (1926)

Claude Debussy (1862-1918): *Sonate pour Violoncelle et Piano* (1915)

The second recital: Manuel de Falla (1876-1946): *Melodia* (1897), *Romanza* (1898)

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921): *Concerto for Cello and Orchestra*

No.1 in A minor Op.33 (1873)

Maurice Ravel (1875-1973) : *Sonata for Violin and Cello* (1920-22)

The third recital: Pablo Casals (1876-1973): *Song of the Birds* (1925)

Edouard Lalo (1823-1892) : *Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in D Minor* (1877)

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963): *Sonata for Cello and Piano*
Op.143 (1940-48)

A GOLDEN AGE: FRENCH AND SPANISH CELLO MUSIC FROM SAINT-
SAËNS TO SASSADÓ

By

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Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the
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Doctor of Musical Arts
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CD 2: Manuel de Falla: Melodia, Roman.....	7'02"
Camille Saint-Saëns: Concerto for Cello and Orchestra No.1 Op.33.....	22'01"
Maurice Ravel: Sonata for Violin and Cello.....	20'22"
CD 3: Pablo Casals: Song of the Birds.....	3'02"
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Francis Poulenc: Sonata for Cello and Piano Op.143	26'45"