

Traveling Shots & Musical Notes:

Catalan Film & Music

Song of the Stars A Celebration of Catalan Music

May 21st at 6:30pm
King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at New York University
53 Washington Square South

Spring 2009
at The Catalan Center

Song of the Stars
A Celebration
of Catalan Music
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On March 11, 1911, composer Enric Granados premiered *CANT DE LES ESTRELLES*, a work for piano solo, organ, and three choirs, at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona. A second performance of the piece did not take place until March, 22, 2007, when Douglas Riva, musicologist and pianist, performed the piece with Dennis Keene's Voices of Ascension chorus.

In June 2009, Naxos will release *SONG OF THE STARS--A CELEBRATION OF CATALAN MUSIC* (8.570533), the recording of that historic second concert. *Song of the Stars (CANT DE LES ESTRELLES)* was recorded live at the Church of the Ascension in New York by the Voices of Ascension chorus, directed by Dennis Keene, Douglas Riva, piano, Mark Kruczek, organ, Erica Kiesewetter, violin. The CD contains World Premiere recordings of works by Enric Morera, Manuel Blancafort, Manuel Oltra and Enrique Granados, including *ESCENA RELIGIOSA* (violin, organ and piano) and the long-lost choral masterpiece *CANT DE LES ESTRELLES* for piano solo, three choruses and organ.

Douglas Riva is not only one of Granados's major interpreters on the piano, he is also a distinguished Granados scholar. He will tell us the story of tracking down the long-lost score of the Song, and the many vicissitudes that kept it from being played: the Spanish Civil War, bad blood in the Granados family, fire, flood, and more.

This event holds out the opportunity to hear this extraordinary music with the commentary, both exciting and learned, of one of the composer's greatest scholars.

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Catalan Language and Culture



The Catalan Center
at New York University

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