

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND THE OFFICE OF LECTURES AND CONCERTS

present

La Vida Breve

by

Manuel De Falla

R # 1 - 3269

R # 2 - 3270 .

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 1963 • 8 P.M. • UNIVERSITY PLAYHOUSE

Complimentary

La Vida Breve
(In Spanish)

Music by Manuel De Falla
Libretto by Carlos Fernandez-Shaw
Stage and Musical Direction by Loyd Simpson*

CAST (in order of appearance):

La Abuela (the grandmother)	Lynn Dupin
Street vendors:	
Flower vendor	Dan Liening
Vegetable vendor	Frances Lowe
Fruit vendor	Lois White
Salud (the granddaughter)	Doris Richards
Paco (her lover)	Kenneth MacLaren
Uncle Sarvaor (brother of La Abuela)	Robert Wright
Carmela (Paco's bride)	Karen Cahill
Manuel (Carmela's brother)	David Sternoff
Singer-Guitarist	Timothy Lamont
Solo voice in forge	Rod Eichenberger
Men's voices in forge	Frank Burlingame, Dan Liening, Rod Eichenberger, Kenneth MacLaren, Bobby Keeney, Robert Wright, David Sternoff, Timothy Lamont
Women's voices off stage	Shirley English, Donna Fennell, Lois White, Karen Cahill, Frances Lowe
Guests at wedding party	Donna Fennell, Frances Lowe, Shirley English, Lois White, Dan Liening, Frank Burlingame, Bobby Keeney
Dancers in first dance	Janet Dadosio, Nancy Makela, Lael Jacobson
Dancers in flamenco Sevillanas	Joanna Gruber, La Von King, Linda Berson, Laurie Gruber, Pamela Priestly, Susan Barmuta, Jackie Ruben, Mardelle Wilson, Glen Breed, Dale Rowe, Bruce Baker, Eric Barnum, Paul Harder, Gary Schultz, Jamie Houston
Guitarist for flamenco Sevillanas	Milo Hubbard
Dancers in third dance	Linda Hyllingren, Jane Brotnov, Susan Cratty, Carol Quinlan, Glen Breed, Bob Thacker, Barret Brick, Darrel Shelton

THE ACTION takes place in Granada, Spain, in the early 1900's.

ACT I—The courtyard of a gypsy dwelling, and a forge in the old Albaicin quarter of Granada. Late afternoon of a summer day.

ACT II—In the patio of Manuel's house, where Paco's and Carmela's wedding day is being celebrated. Early evening.

CONCERNING THE OPERA . . .

"The Short Life" (*La Vida Breve*) was written by Falla in the years 1904-1905 and won for him the first prize offered by the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid. It was not until eight years later that it received a public performance, and then not in Spain, but at the Casino Municipal de Nice, on April 1, 1913. Later that same year, it was given at the Opéra Comique in Paris, December 30, and was finally given its first Spanish hearing at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid on November 14, 1914. The American première was at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City on March 7, 1926.

The plot of the opera is a simple one. Salud, a frail gypsy girl of Granada, is hopelessly in love with Paco, a young Spanish gentleman of a higher class; and due to this difference in class, Salud is in constant fear of losing him. Although he swears his eternal love for her in the lovely first-act duet, his marriage to Carmela is planned for the following day. Uncle Sarvaor learns of the wedding to take place and comes home ready to kill Paco; but his sister, La Abuela, restrains him, fearing that Salud's health could not stand such a blow as discovering that her lover is false.

In the second act, Paco and Carmela are celebrating their wedding, while Salud, who has been watching and listening to the gay celebration, conceals herself outside the patio wall. The grandmother and Uncle Sarvaor have missed Salud and come searching for her. They try to calm her, but Salud is determined to go in and face Paco.

Uncle Sarvaor and Salud, in the guise of entertainers, go into the patio, while the grandmother remains outside. Once inside, Salud has had enough of pretending to be an entertainer, and suddenly faces Paco and names him as her lover, begging him to kill her so that she may be through with her suffering. Paco tries to deny knowing her; but in his agitation, he speaks her name, thus giving himself away. He becomes furious, calls her a liar, and demands that she be thrown out. These insults are too much for Salud's weak heart. Taking a few faltering steps toward Paco, calling his name, she falls dead at his feet. The grandmother and Uncle Sarvaor hurl the name of "Judas" at him as the curtain falls.

The opera is scored for full opera orchestra. The present performance is being done with piano accompaniment.

* In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Music.

The director wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. Stanley Chapple and Ralph Rosinbum, of the School of Music, and to John Ashby Conway, James Crider, Alanson Davis, Warren Lounsbury, and Joseph J. E. Poc, of the School of Drama, for their advice and assistance.

Since the printed page of music is but a blueprint of the composer's ideas and wishes, the director tenders his heartfelt thanks to the entire cast and to the technical assistants, without whose talents, given so freely in this endeavor, *La Vida Breve* would still remain just notes on a musical score, lovely but unheard.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage director and accompanist.....Loyd Simpson
Stage design, set construction, and decoration.....Joseph J. E. Poc
Choreography.....Henriette and Giovanni Giglio, directors of
the Giglio Theatre Dance Players
Musical assistant.....Karl Fuss
Stage manager.....Lawrence Thompson
Electrician.....Charles Merrill
Percussionist (off stage).Chris Trembanis