



Music Notes

Intermezzo from *Goyescas*, English Horn solo, by Enrique Granados

Enrique Granados, a Spanish composer, wrote the opera *Goyescas* in 1915. The melodies in the opera are adapted from a piano suite Granados wrote in 1911 based upon a famous series of six paintings by Francisco Goya. The paintings depict young men and women of the “majismo” movement, a movement characterized by a bohemian attitude and a taste for the finer things. American pianist, Ernest Schelling, premiered the piano suite in the United States and encouraged Granados to compose the opera.

Granados augmented the music from the piano suite to form a three-scene work. The libretto was fitted to the existing melodies, rather than the other way around, which is how it's usually done. *Goyescas* premiered at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City on January 28th, 1916, and though rarely performed since, the Intermezzo has become a popular concert piece with several orchestrations including for full orchestra and for cello and piano.

Written by Merri Lee Newby