

Three Spanish Saroque Composers

& Four Compositions for Organ

Juan Bautista José Cabanilles

Pasacalles de 1º tono

Narcís Casanoves i Beltrán

Cantabile & Paso VII

José Lidon

Sonata de 1º tono

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Editions for Organ

Fruhauf Music Publications

Three Spanish Baroque Composers & Sour Compositions for Organ

Notes

Juan Bautista José Cabanilles (1644-1712) pursued a musical career as a composer and organist in Valencia. He wrote extensively for organ, but his output also includes numerous sacred vocal works. His *Pasacalles de 1º tono* presents a facet of the compositional genre related to *ostinato* and ground (bass). The title, 'street steps,' indicates a dance rhythm as well as a formal structure that came to be known as the *passacaglia* (or the French *passacaille*). As a curious contradiction, the *passacaglia* is more frequently manifested in triple meter, where Cabanilles' twenty-six variations are written primarily in quadruple meter. His work has been adapted here for performance on a modern instrument, with the addition of a relatively straightforward pedal part. As in all sets of variations, contrasting touches, timbres and dynamic levels will enhance the musical interest and appeal.

Narcís Casanoves i Beltrán was born in Sabadell, near Barcelona in 1747; his name reflects the Catalán culture and tradition of his native land. In 1763 he became a monk and took up residence at Montserrat; he died in neighboring Viña Vieja in 1799. Casanoves is noted as a composer of sonatas and fugues for keyboard, as well as of vocal settings of liturgical texts. His expressive 'Cantabile' in D-Minor is a binary structure, similar to the sonatas of Lidon and Domenico Scarlatti, but it is notable also for its floridly ariose soprano line that calls for an appropriate solo registration. The rhythms and harmonies of its andante motion are unique in their evocation of some of the distinctively Iberian and Moorish melodic traditions of an exotic culture. Paso VII is in essence an abbreviated — but carefully crafted — fugue, combining chromatic tonalities with traditional imitative textures and rhythms. Ornamentations have been added editorially, along with optional notations for pedal. These two movements could be effectively combined with the Lidon Sonata to provide a larger three movement set of stylistically related but contrasting compositions from the Iberian school.

José Lidon was born in 1752 in Bejar, a province of Salamanca, and his career postdates the musical activities of a majority of the other composers represented in this collection. Both his and Casanoves' compositional styles display manifestations of latter Baroque practices in the musical world of the Iberian Peninsula, and they verge on *rococo*. Lidon was organist of the Chapel Royal (*Capilla Real*) in Madrid, and he referred to himself on a title page that appeared in 1787 as "Master of the Italian Style at the Royal College." He died in Madrid in 1827. His sonorous *Sonata de 1º tono 'para órgano con trompeta real'* offers an opportunity to showcase unusual and brilliant horizontal (or other) solo reeds found on various organs.

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Passacalles de 1º Tono



regarding the tempo indication

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Sonata de 1º tono

para clave o para órgano con trompeta real José Lidon (1752-1827) [Poco allegro = \(\)] Edition for Organ **Ennis Fruhauf**







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