

About Manuel de Falla

- Manuel de Falla (1876-1946) was born in Cádiz, Spain. Cádiz is in the state of Andalusia, in the southern most part of Spain. How old was Falla when he died?
- As a boy, Falla listened to Andalusian and Gypsy folk music as well as classical operatic and orchestral music in his hometown.
- Falla believed that a sense of regional or ethnic identity was important in composing music.
- A famous Gypsy dancer from Andalusia named Pastoria Imperio wanted to create a stage work with dancing and singing. She and her mother sang songs and told traditional legends to Falla. He took notes and wrote the music to a ballet called *El amor brujo*. In English, this means *Love, the magician*.
- At first, critics did not like *El amor brujo*, but that did not matter to Falla, as the Gypsy people loved it! It has become a favorite of many, especially the “Ritual Fire Dance”



The Story of *El amor brujo*

El amor brujo is about a young Gypsy girl from Andalusia named Candela. Candela was forced to marry a mean, unfaithful man who has died.

Candela meets the handsome Carmelo and they fall in love. Unfortunately, the ghost of Carmela’s dead husband returns to haunt them. To get rid of the ghost, the Gypsies make a large campfire at midnight. They make a circle around the fire, and Candela performs the “Ritual Fire Dance.” This makes the ghost appear, and she dances with him. They whirl faster and faster until the ghost is pulled into the fire and vanishes forever. Candela and Carmelo can now be together and live in happiness.

SPEAKING SPANISH: How do you say...

Manuel de Falla:
mahn-WELL duh FAH-ya

Andalusia:
and-a-loo-SEE-ya

Candela:
kahn-DAY-la

Cádiz:
KAH-dees

El amor brujo:
el ah-more BREW-ho

Carmelo:
kar-MEH-lo