

## *Aranjuez, Mon Amour*

Music by Joaquín Rodrigo, lyrics by Guy Bontempelli, arrangement by John Tarrh, performed at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, East Falmouth, MA on April 19, 2026. Michael Goldring, voice, Shirie Leng, violin, Jessica Baum, viola, Judith Glixon, cello, Daniel Goodman, piano.

Aranjuez, Mon Amour is a song set to the adagio movement of Rodrigo's most famous work, the Concerto de Aranjuez (1939) for guitar and orchestra. French singer Richard Anthony recorded the song in 1967, and it became one of the most popular international hits of the year.

Although framed as a love song, the Aranjuez, Mon Amour has a deeper, darker meaning, as the lyrics make oblique references to executions carried out near Aranjuez in the Spanish Civil War.

My love, on the water of the fountains  
Where the wind leads them, my love  
As evening falls, one sees floating rose petals

My love, and the walls crack  
In the sun in the wind and in the passing years  
Since the May morning they came

And while singing, suddenly they wrote  
On the walls with the tip of their rifle  
Very strange things

My love, the rosebush follows the traces  
On the wall and entwines their engraved names  
And every summer the roses are a beautiful red

My love, the fountains dry up  
In the sun, in the wind of the plain, and in the passing years  
Since the May morning they came

The flower in the heart, barefoot, stepping slowly  
And their eyes lit with a strange smile  
And on this wall when evening descends

One would think they see bloodstains  
They are only roses  
Aranjuez, my love