

ONLINE AUDIO GUIDE 5.10

MARIACHI

title: “Las Abajeñas” (The Lowland Women)

composer: traditional, arranged by Rubén Vargas and Silvestre Fuentes

language: Spanish

performing forces: guitarrón, guitar, vihuela, violins, trumpets, voices, male voices, including singing, *gritos* (shouts) and whistles,

form: multisectional, with two principal parts (A, B)

function: performance, either by amateurs or professionals; expression of Mexican identity

source: *Mariachi Cobre* (Kuckuck Schallplatten CD 11105-2, 1995)

Listen for:

- timbres (trumpets versus strings)
- alternation of vocal and instrumental passages
- singing in harmony
- gritos (whooping, shouting)
- sesquiáltera
- sudden ending
- long coda in proportion to rest of piece

Timing	Structure and text	What happens
00:00	Instrumental Introduction	main melody in trumpets, close harmony strumming (harmony) and bass line covered by other instruments, including interlocking rhythm between guitarrón and vihuela whistling trumpets drop out at end of introduction
00:16	A Me gustan las abajeñas por altas y presumidas. Se bañan y se componen y siempre descoloridas.	singing in close harmony interjections in violins constant activity in strummed instruments
00:24	A repeats (same words)	
00:32	B Mariquita, mi alma yo te lo decía	sequence

	que tarde o temprano, mi vida tú habías de ser mía.	sesquiáltera (“que tarde o temprano, mi vida”)
00: 41	B repeats (same words)	
00:48 00:59	Instrumental interlude	violins introduce new melody, close harmony sesquiáltera trumpets enter with another melody, close harmony sesquiáltera
1:12	A Me gustan las abajeñas que saben la ley de Dios que largan a sus maridos, por irse con otros dos.	interjections in violins
1:20	A section repeats (same words)	
1:28	B section: Déjala que vaya ella volverá si amores la llevan, mi vida, celos la traerán.	sequence sesquiáltera
1:36	B section repeats (same words)	
1:44 1:56 2:08 2:14	Coda	Instruments only repeats material of interlude (see above) gritos and whooping trumpets repeat material of introduction (main melody) sudden cessation of strumming and bright brass timbres final cadence

English Translation

I like the lowland women
For their haughtiness and arrogance
They bathe and they doll themselves up
and they are fair-skinned.

Mariquita, my dear
I used to tell you
that sooner or later, my darling,
you'd be mine.

I like the lowland women
who know the law of God.
They get rid of their husbands
by going around with two other guys.

Go ahead and let her go,
she'll come back
if various loves take her away, my darling,
jealousy will bring her back.

Consider:

- How does the structure of this selection resemble strophic form? How does it depart from it?
- How do you interpret the words to this traditional mariachi number?