

Flor de Lir — Program Notes

Flor de Lir is born from a paradox: it is music designed to move both an audience and a procession.

Rooted in the Valencian tradition of *Moros y Cristianos*, the work transforms the ceremonial pulse of the Christian March into an epic symphonic narrative of advance, struggle, courage and triumph. In this tradition, music does not merely accompany a scene: it physically carries a company through the streets, combining a steady processional pulse with grandeur, martial energy and celebration.

Flor de Lir preserves that physical function while expanding it through the scale and colour of the symphonic wind orchestra. Martial rhythms and percussion establish the forward motion; brass and woodwinds progressively enlarge the sonic space; more lyrical passages provide contrast; and recurring thematic material accumulates energy until the final sections turn the processional character into a broad, triumphant climax.

The ***fleur-de-lis*** acts as the central symbol of the work: identity, nobility, strength and victory. An optional SAT choir introduces a text inspired by medieval Occitan troubadour poetry, invoking joy, virtue, valor and courage. Its language connects the piece with an older poetic and ceremonial world while reinforcing the sense of collective identity at the heart of the march.

Rather than relying on a separate cinematic introduction, the dramatic arc grows from within the march itself. The epic character is therefore not added from outside: it emerges naturally from rhythm, orchestral mass, contrast, repetition and the gradual intensification of the musical journey.

Flor de Lir seeks to preserve the identity of a living Spanish street tradition while allowing its language to speak beyond the festival: as symphonic music of conflict, determination and triumph.