

Joaquín Rodrigo (1901–1999) was a renowned Spanish composer best known for his contributions to 20th-century classical music, particularly for the guitar. Blind from the age of three due to diphtheria, Rodrigo developed a deep connection to music early in life, studying in Valencia and later in Paris under famed composer Paul Dukas. Though not a guitarist himself, he wrote some of the most beloved works for the instrument, blending Spanish folk influences with rich orchestration and lyrical depth.

His most famous composition, *Concierto de Aranjuez* (1939), remains a cornerstone of the classical guitar repertoire and is celebrated for its hauntingly beautiful second movement. Rodrigo also composed concertos for piano, violin, harp, and voice, along with numerous orchestral, vocal, and chamber works. Honored with many awards, including a Spanish nobility title (Marqués de los Jardines de Aranjuez), Rodrigo's music played a key role in popularizing Spanish classical music worldwide. His legacy endures as one of Spain's most iconic and influential composers.