

Manuel de Falla (1876–1946) was one of Spain's most important and influential composers, known for blending classical music with the rich folk traditions of his homeland. Born in Cádiz, he studied in Madrid and later in Paris, where he was influenced by composers like Debussy and Ravel. Falla's music is celebrated for its vibrant rhythms, Spanish color, and deep emotional expression, often drawing on flamenco, Andalusian melodies, and traditional themes.

His best-known works include the ballet *El amor brujo* (with the famous "Ritual Fire Dance"), *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* for piano and orchestra, and *The Three-Cornered Hat*, a ballet commissioned by Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Later in life, Falla moved to Argentina, where he worked on his unfinished oratorio *Atlántida*. His legacy remains central to 20th-century Spanish music, bridging the gap between folkloric tradition and modern classical innovation.