### Encoded Spanish Music Heritage through Verovio: The Online Platforms Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC and Books of Hispanic Polyphony IMF-CSIC

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### Abstract

This paper presents the recent implementation of encoded music notation in two open access platforms of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) devoted to traditional music and polyphony, respectively: Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC (FMT)<sup>1</sup> and Books of Hispanic Polyphony IMF-CSIC (BHP)<sup>2</sup>. Even though, at first, both repertories seem unconnected, they have many textual/literary and musical points in common - such as the presence/survival of old 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century texts and/or melodies of polyphonic romances (ballads) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century oral tradition -; future technological developments will facilitate further connections beyond the ones already found through search by text incipits and numeric melodic incipit connecting both platforms. The presentation will have two parts devoted to FMT (with more than 20.000 images of melodies in open access, it is the largest online archive of folklore in the Hispanic world; it is used also for OMR research) and BHP (a reference online catalogue for polyphonic choir books in Spain and books with Hispanic polyphony elsewhere). After a brief explanation about the origin and scope of the repertories covered in each platform, a few examples of encoded transcriptions of a melody, of an incipit in mensural notation, and of a polyphonic work (in MusicXML, \*\*mens, and \*\*kern; MEI can be used, too) rendered through Verovio will illustrate the potential development of FMT and BHP. Both websites constitute leading educational and musicological resources of the very rich Spanish music heritage, inviting national and international collaboration (crowdsourcing) to expand the contents of both platforms and to develop their digital technology.

### Introduction

This paper presents the recent implementation of encoded music notation examples in two open access platforms devoted to Spanish traditional music and polyphony, respectively: *Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC* (*FMT*)<sup>1</sup> and *Books of Hispanic Polyphony IMF-CSIC* (*BHP*)<sup>2</sup>. The presentation will have two parts devoted to *FMT* and *BHP* to explain briefly their origins and scope of the repertories covered in each platform; musical examples of a melody, of an incipit in mensural notation, and of a polyphonic work will illustrate their rendering through Verovio.

<sup>1</sup> https://musicatradicional.eu (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> https://hispanicpolyphony.eu (accessed January 12, 2022).

## 1 Origins of the *Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC* (*FMT*) and Encoded Transcription of Spanish Folk Tunes<sup>3</sup>

In 1943, the Spanish musicologist Higini Anglès (1888–1969) founded the former "Instituto Español de Musicología" of the CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas / Spanish National Research Council) in Barcelona, one of the main projects of which was to collect pieces of oral tradition throughout Spain. For these so-called "misiones folclóricas" (1944–1960), Anglès engaged the most prestigious folklorists of the country and invited Marius Schneider (at that time head of the Phonogramm-Archiv in Berlin) to direct the Folklore department. As a result of this project, more than 25.000 melodies were collected on paper from close to 3.000 locations, as well as cards with basic data about the informants who sang/played these pieces. Although between 1951 and 1987 the CSIC published five volumes with transcriptions of pieces collected through these "Misiones" (and competitions, "Concursos", to collect repertory), most of the materials remained unpublished and basically forgotten for several decades at my institution, the Institución Milá y Fontanals of Research in Humanities (IMF-CSIC), heir to the former Instituto Español de Musicología.

In 2010, I started to organize and catalogue all these materials (with the help of my colleague at the IMF-CSIC, María Gembero-Ustárroz, and former PhD student Ascensión Mazuela-Anguita, now teaching at the University of Granada); in September 2012, Jan Koláček helped us to create the online platform *Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC*, presenting it to the public on 4 February 2013 with the first thousand items. It should be pointed out that those materials had no name, and thus its current name *Fondo de Música Tradicional* is new, referring both to an old 'physical archive' at the IMF-CSIC in Barcelona and to an 'online platform' to present the materials. At that time, and with no financing, the priority was to digitize thousands of cards of the melodies and of the informants' data to present the information online in a structured database (MySQL in DRUPAL) which could be useful both to researchers and the general public. From the very beginning, we wanted to incorporate music incipits, and we adopted a useful numeric incipit for practical reasons, since a complete music transcription and encoding of the melodies was out of the question at that time due to our limited financial and technological resources.<sup>4</sup> Since then, the platform has incorporated digitized IMF-CSIC audios from cylinders, magnetic wire, magnetic tape from the "Misiones" as well as other related materials from other sources. By 2016, an international review stated: *FMT* "[...] presents in digital form the single most important archive of Spanish musical folklore" [3, p. 869].

Now that *FMT* has included more than 46.000 pieces (from *FMT* and other sources) and is getting closer to presenting most of the melodies held at the IMF-CSIC, we can look forward to incorporating the full text of the songs, complete transcriptions of the melodies, and their encodings. In recent years, we have experimented with exporting transcriptions from Sibelius or Musescore to MusicXML, which is rendered in *FMT* through Verovio<sup>5</sup>, with SVG being the front-end notation graphics seen on the website (see Figure 1). This result is the fruit of collaborative work among members of our project: Antonio Pardo Cayuela (Universidad de Murcia) and webmaster Jan Koláček, based on the initial modern transcription by Esperanza Clares (Universidad de Murcia). We are engaging undergraduate and graduate students to transcribe melodies of the *FMT*, export them to MusicXML (MEI or \*\*kern), and incorporate them into the website as part of academic internship opportunities at different universities; we hope that this kind of crowdsourcing will be very productive in many respects. *FMT* currently has over 800 modern transcriptions that can be searched under the menu "Pieces".

<sup>3</sup> For a full discussion of *FMT* and *BHP*, see [4].

<sup>4</sup> The numeric music incipit we created for *FMT* represents the intervals between the first few notes of a piece, indicating whether the interval is ascending (+), descending (-), or represents a repeated note (=0); the number corresponds to the number of semitones (C-D is +2). For instance, the music incipit F-A-C-D-F-D can be searched through its equivalent numeric incipit: +4+3+2+3-3. This simple system helps to identify identical melodies transposed to different tonalities and/or with different texts, as well as to distinguish between different musical versions of pieces with identical text; for instance, this incipit +4+3+2+3-3 helped identify two instances of the same melody, one without text starting on F and the other with text starting on D.



**Figure 1:** *FMT* presentation of the lullaby "Mi nenica es mi nenica", collected in 1947 in Lorca (Murcia), with images of the original cards of the transcription of the music and text; it also includes the modern transcription (a MusicXML file rendered through Verovio). See *Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC*: https://musicatradicional.eu/piece/12280 (accessed January 12, 2022).

We are also collaborating with the R+D project "Handwritten Spanish music heritage preservation by automatic transcription (TIN2017-86576-r)" carried out by Jorge Calvo-Zaragoza, David Rizo Valero, and José Manuel Iñesta Quereda in order to apply the Optical Music Recognition (OMR) application MuRET, developed by them at the Universidad de Alicante, Spain, to *FMT*; this research will certainly speed up the transcription/encoding process [1]. We are planning to incorporate user-friendly one-click melodic analysis and other music searching tools into *FMT*.

*FMT* is still a modest project from the music encoding point of view – especially when compared, for instance, to such formidable repositories as the Dutch Song Database<sup>6</sup> –, but it constitutes a very important and well-documented collection of Spanish music heritage with ramifications in Latin America. Moreover, the future incorporation of the *FMT* as a dataset for Music Information Retrieval (MIR) research could open new vistas. As pointed out by Peter van Kranenburg and Berit Janssen, the same dataset of 20.000 songs, the *Essen Associative Code and Folksong Database* (*EsAC*)<sup>7</sup> is used over and over (de-contextualized) "to test segmentation algorithms, melodic similarity measures, pattern discovery algorithms, and the like"<sup>8</sup>, and perhaps FMT could provide another alternative.

# 2 Origins of *Books of Hispanic Polyphony IMF-CSIC* (*BHP*) and Encoded Transcription of Spanish Polyphony

Soon after the creation of the *Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC* – designed for uncatalogued holdings in my institution (literally in the office next door) –, I realized that a similar platform would be very useful for my own research on Spanish polyphony and of interest to the community of scholars. Thus, I started *Books of Hispanic Polyphony IMF-CSIC (BHP*). Why was it necessary? At that time, in 2013, and still today, we could say (although we have now a better idea thanks to *BHP*):

- We don't know how many books of polyphony there are in Spain.
- We don't know how many books outside Spain contain Hispanic polyphony.
- Catalogues and other existing reference works are very useful, but
  - they may refer to a single institution only,
  - they may be cataloguing only manuscripts,
  - they may be cataloguing only printed books,
  - they may cover only a restricted chronological period (15th-16th century),
  - they may cover only a particular genre.
- *RISM* (*Répertoire International des Sources Musicales*), with over 1.3 million records, is "the largest and only global organization that documents written musical sources"<sup>9</sup>. RISM attempts to catalogue all music to 1900 (including all Spanish/Hispanic sources), but that's quite a lot to cover, and the Hispanic world is not well represented. *BHP* can play a collaborative role.
- All of these limitations directly affect our view of Hispanic polyphony, and in particular hinder a broader, *longue durée* perspective beyond the 16th century.
- The digital age offers new research tools.

After four years of preparatory work, our team (see *BHP* homepage) made the website available to the public in open access coinciding with our presentation during the Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference in Prague on 7 July 2017.

<sup>6</sup> http://www.liederenbank.nl/index.php?lan=en (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>7</sup> http://www.esac-data.org/ (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>8 &</sup>quot;An illustration of this is the way in which the EsAC collection is used in MIR research. Virtually all papers in the proceedings of the yearly conference on Music Information Retrieval (ISMIR), in which this set of melodies are used, do not show an interest in folk music as such. Instead, the melodies are taken as just a collection of labeled musical data to test segmentation algorithms, melodic similarity measures, pattern discovery algorithms, and the like. The meta-data that comes with the collections (e.g., region of origin, tune family membership, segment boundaries), are used as ground-truth data for corresponding MIR tasks" [5, p. 118].

<sup>9</sup> https://rism.info/index.html (accessed January 12, 2022).

The objective of Books of Hispanic Polyphony (BHP) is to serve as a comprehensive research tool concerning manuscript and printed polyphonic books in Spain as well as books with Hispanic polyphony elsewhere. BHP has no chronological limitations, and we have started to cover the period from the 15th through the 20th century. We do not provide images of the sources, unless the institutions that hold them do so through repositories or permission. In such cases, we incorporate the appropriate links; for instance, we have found the following repositories particularly useful: (a) Biblioteca Digital Hispánica<sup>10</sup> for books at the Biblioteca Nacional de España in Madrid; (b) Digital Vatican Library<sup>11</sup> for choir books at the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana; and (c) the digital collections at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich,<sup>12</sup> among others. We also incorporate links to manuscripts described in Digital Image Archive of Medieval Music (DIAMM),<sup>13</sup> to printed books in Printed Sacred *Music Database 1500–1800,*<sup>14</sup> to *Portuguese Early Music Database (PEM),*<sup>15</sup> and to other appropriate websites that could offer relevant information. Our menu with "Sources", "Locations", "Institutions", "People", "Genres", "Works", "Movements", "Documents", and "Bibliography" should give you a sense of our objective, and we are still building searching tools and different ways to connect information. We would like to serve as a reference tool and as a platform to present original research and foster international collaboration. This digital platform was initiated as part of the four-year (2013–2016) R+D Project "Libros de polifonía hispana (1450–1650): catálogo sistemático y contexto histórico-cultural" (HAR2012-33604) of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness. BHP continued to be part of the objectives – together with FMT – of a new R+D project "Hispanic Polyphony and Music of Oral Tradition in the Age of Digital Humanities" (HAR2016-75371-P, Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, 2016–2020).

Currently, *BHP* contains information about 2478 polyphonic sources, 545 institutions, 1821 people (musicians and non-musicians related to books of polyphony), 5929 works, 6029 movements of works, 104 documents (such as old inventories), and 1770 bibliographic items; it has become an international reference work in the field. As we did with *FMT*, we included a search option by numeric music incipit as a helping aid to locate possible concordances among pieces for the identification of anonymous works; the only difference between *FMT* and *BHP* in this respect is the addition of =P to indicate the presence of a pause/rest of any length in the music incipit of a polyphonic voice in *BHP*.<sup>16</sup>

An important aspect of the project is the incorporation of music encodings using two Humdrum formats: \*\*mens for incipits in original, mensural notation, and \*\*kern for full transcriptions of polyphonic works in modern notation, both rendered through Verovio. This has been accomplished thanks to the collaboration with David Rizo Valero (Universidad de Alicante), Antonio Pardo Cayuela (Universidad de Murcia), and our webmaster Jan Koláček; in the near future, these and other formats will allow us to incorporate sophisticated analytical tools. See in Figure 2 the incipit in mensural notation of "Qui pius prudens" from the hymn "Iste confessor" by Francisco Guerrero (1528–1599), and in Figure 3 the beginning of the full transcription of this work in the webpage of *BHP*.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>10</sup> http://www.bne.es/es/Catalogos/BibliotecaDigitalHispanica/Colecciones/ (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>11</sup> https://digi.vatlib.it/all/ (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>12</sup> https://www.bsb-muenchen.de/en/collections/music/about-the-collection/ (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>13</sup> https://www.diamm.ac.uk/ (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>14</sup> http://www.printed-sacred-music.org/ (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>15</sup> http://pemdatabase.eu/ (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>16</sup> See the alphabetical list of piece titles with the corresponding numeric music incipit in the menu "Movements": https://hispanicpolyphony.eu/movements (accessed January 12, 2022).

<sup>17</sup> For information and multiple resources about Humdrum, see *CCARH Humdrum Portal* (http://humdrum.ccarh.org/, accessed January 12, 2022).



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**Figure 2:** Hymn "Iste confessor" by Francisco Guerrero (1528–1599). *BHP* webpage of the polyphonic verse "Qui pius, prudens" with the music incipit of the superius voice in the original, mensural notation rendered by Verovio from encoding in \*\*mens. See *Books of Hispanic Polyphony IMF-CSIC*: https://hispanicpolyphony.eu/movement/26874 (accessed January 12, 2022).

Source navigation:		Piece navigation:				
E-ORIc 06	►	05. Iste Confessor				
E-ORIc 06 (18v-23r)						
Order No.:	05					
Source:	E-ORIc 06					
Title:	Iste Confessor					
Text incipit:	Qui pius, prudens					
Text underlay:	t;t;t;t;					
Ascription:	Anon.					
Attribution:	Guerrero, Francisco					
No. of voices:	4					
Scribes:	Sart, José					
Language:	Latin					
Genre:	Sacred vocal > Hymn					
Date:	18/4 (1777)					
Location/Origins:	Comunidad Valenciana >	Alicante > Orihuela				
Comments:	Alternatim and abbreviated version of <i>Iste confessor</i> included in <i>Liber Vesperarum Francisco Guerrero Hispalensis Ecclessiae Magistro auctore</i> (Roma: Domenico Bassa, 1584) (RISM G4873). This setting uses the verses of <i>Iste Confessor Domini colentes</i> instead of <i>Iste confessor Domini sacratus</i> , used in <i>Liber vesperarum</i> . The music applied to verse 4 ( <i>Unde nunc noster chorus in honorem</i> , canon in diapason) in <i>Liber Vesperarum</i> 's version has been supressed.					
Text:	[Iste confessor Domini col	lentes variant].				
Cantus Cantus Cantus C 2Qui 4.Nos	<ul> <li>1. Iste confessor Domini c [If it is not the day of</li> <li>2. Qui pius, prudens, hum</li> <li>3. Cuius ob præstans mer</li> <li>4. Noster hinc illi, Chorus</li> <li>5. Sit salus illi decus atque</li> <li>• • • • • •</li> <li>• • • • • • •</li> <li>• • • • • • • •</li> <li>• • • • • • • •</li> <li>• • • • • • • • •</li> <li>• • • • • • • • • •</li> <li>• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •</li></ul>	colentes/ Quem pie laudant populi per orbem:/ Hac die lætus meruit beatas/ Scandere sedes. 'his death, the last line is changed to:] Hac die lætus meruit supremos/ Laudis honores. nillis, pudicus/ Sobriam duxit sine labe vitam,/ Donec humanos animavit auræ/ Spiritus artus. 'itum frequenter./ Ægra quæ passim iacuere membra,/ Viribus morbi domitis, saluti/ Restituuntur. obsequentem/ Concinit laudem, celebresque palmas;/ Ut plis ejus precibus juvemur/ Omne per ævum. e virtus,/ Qui super cæli solio coruscans/ Totius mundi seriem gubernat/ Trinus, & unus. Amen.				
di cus quen tus, vir tus, - di tus, - di tus, - di	O     O	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				

**Figure 3:** Webpage of *BHP* with the hymn "Iste confessor" by Francisco Guerrero (1528–1599) in the choir book *Libro de Partitura de Atril* 6 at the Cathedral of Orihuela (Alicante); image includes the beginning of the complete four-voice polyphonic transcription, starting with "Qui pius, prudens" rendered by Verovio from \*\*kern. See *Books of Hispanic Polyphony IMF-CSIC*: https://hispanicpolyphony.eu/piece/16370 (accessed January 12, 2022).

Since our webmaster, Jan Koláček, is also responsible for other related websites, we are exploring the simultaneous search in several databases. In the menus "Works" and "Movements" in *BHP*, a search by "Title" offers additional searches in two websites: 1) *Portuguese Early Music Database (PEM*); and 2) *Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC (FMT*). For instance, a search by "Title" in *BHP* of the word "Domine" finds 278 pieces containing that word; at the end of the list, the option "Click here to search in external resources (*PEM*)" provides 84 additional findings in that database, and 4 other works after clicking on "Click here to search in *Fondo de Música Tradicional IMF-CSIC*". The connection between *BHP* and *FMT* is particularly valuable to research possible relationships between melodies and texts from old romances and *villancicos* in Spanish (15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> century) and the repertory of oral tradition collected in the 20th century [2]. See Figure 4, where a search for "Triste de mi" finds the *villancico* "Triste qué será de mi" in the *Cancionero Musical de Palacio* (E-Mp II-1335; 1495–1520) and six pieces in *FMT*, probably not related in this case but containing the words "triste de mi". We hope to apply simultaneous search of encoded music notation soon.

*BHP* has also adopted the list of liturgical feasts ("List of feasts") from *Cantus: A Database for Ecclesiastical Chant – Inventories of Chant Sources*;<sup>18</sup> we thank Debra Lacoste (University of Waterloo, Canada) for her permission to do so. This way, in the near future, a search for a particular feast in *BHP* will provide liturgically related polyphonic works and, with an additional click, plainchant melodies for the same celebration listed in *Cantus*.

Displaying 1 - 1 of 1									
Attribution	MS / Pri	nt	Cantus firmus / Title	Liturgical feast	G	Genre		Title	
- Any - 🗸 🗸	- Any -	~	- Any -	✓ - Any -	~	- Any	-	✓ Triste de mi	
Text search	Institut	ion	Location						
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Title Work ID			Attribution	MS / Print		MS / Print	Date		
Triste qué será de mí		E-Mp II-1335 (lx)	xi'/90v)	Torre, Francisco de	а	MS		15/4-16/1 (1496-1520)	
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Search in Fondo de 6 results found. Title	e Músi	ca Tradiciona	Al IMF-CSIC		Genre		Location	Informant	Piece ID
Search in Fondo de 6 results found. Title Habanera a dos voces. V	e Músia	ca Tradicion	Melody =0=0=0+2+1=0		Genre Canto y b	baile	<b>Location</b> Andalucía	<b>Informant</b> Almazán. Iulio	Piece ID
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Search in Fondo de 5 results found. Title Habanera a dos voces. V Triste de mí que vivo sin e Dónde vas Alfonso XII Dónde vas, Alfonso doce, o Dónde vas, Alfonso doce, o Dónde vas Alfonso XII Dónde vas Alfonso XII Dónde vas Alfonso doce d	e Músia ivas speranza donde vas dónde vas,	ca Tradiciona , triste de mi , triste de mi triste de mi	Melody           0000+2+1=0           +1+2+9-4-5+2-2           0000+2-4+2-3-2-2+9           -1-2-5+3+2-2-1           14-2-2-2-2-2	=0=0+2+1-1-2-2	Genre Canto y b Canto y Canto Canto	baile	Location Andalucía Aragón Aragón Aragón	Informant Almazán, Julio Garcés Lample, Anselma Castillón Huerri, Isabel Bielsa Cazcana, Antonia	Piece ID           C04-11           M21-470           M28-708           M20-126
Search in Fondo de 5 results found. Title Habanera a dos voces. V Triste de mí que vivo sin e Dónde vas Alfonso XII Dónde vas, Alfonso doce, o Dónde vas, Alfonso doce, o Dónde vas, Alfonso doce d Soledad de las campanas	e Músia ivas speranza donde vas dónde vas, s	ca Tradiciona , triste de mi , triste de mi triste de mi	Melody           0000+2+1=0           1+2+9-4-5+2-2           0000+2-4+2-3-2-2+9           1-2-5+3+2-2-1           1+4+3+2-2+2-2	=0=0+2+1-1-2-2	Genre Canto y b Canto y b Canto y Canto y Canto y Canto y Canto y Canto y	baile	Location Andalucía Aragón Aragón Aragón Aragón	Informant Almazán, Julio Garcés Lample, Anselma Castillón Huerri, Isabel Bielsa Cazcana, Antonia	Piece ID           C04-11           M21-470           M28-708           M20-126           C01-a114
Search in Fondo de 6 results found. Title Habanera a dos voces. V Triste de mí que vivo sin e Dónde vas Alfonso XII Dónde vas, Alfonso doce, o Dónde vas, Alfonso doce de Dónde vas Alfonso doce de Soledad de las campanas Triste de mi camilla	e Músia ivas speranza donde vas dónde vas, soledad tr	ca Tradiciona , triste de mi , triste de mi triste de mi iste de mi	Melody       0000+2+1=0       1+2+9-4-5+2-2       000+2-4+2-3-2-2+9       1-2-5+3+2-2-1       1+4+3+2-2+2-2       000-0+4+3=0	=0=0+2+1-1-2-2	Genre Canto y b Canto y b Canto a Canto Canto Canto Canto Canto Canto Canto	baile	Location Andalucía Aragón Aragón Aragón Aragón	Informant Almazán, Julio Garcés Lample, Anselma Castillón Huerri, Isabel Bielsa Cazcana, Antonia	Piece ID           C04-11           M21-470           M28-708           M20-126           C01-a114           M39-0637

**Figure 4:** A search in *BHP* by title "Triste de mi" finds one piece in the *Cancionero Musical de Palacio* (E-Mp-1335; 1495–1520) and, after a simultaneous search in *FMT*, six other pieces of oral tradition collected in the 20<sup>th</sup> century containing those words.

<sup>18</sup> http://cantus.uwaterloo.ca/ (accessed January 12, 2022).

### Conclusion

Altogether, both platforms, *Fondo de Musica Tradicional IMF-CSIC* and *Books of Hispanic Polyphony IMF-CSIC*, constitute leading educational and musicological research resources for the very rich Spanish music heritage, inviting national and international collaboration (crowdsourcing) to expand the contents of both platforms and to develop their digital technology related to encoded music notation and analytical tools.

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