

Yo ya me voy a morir a los desiertos
3-part mixed, SSA or TTB, a cappella

Trad. Cardenche Song

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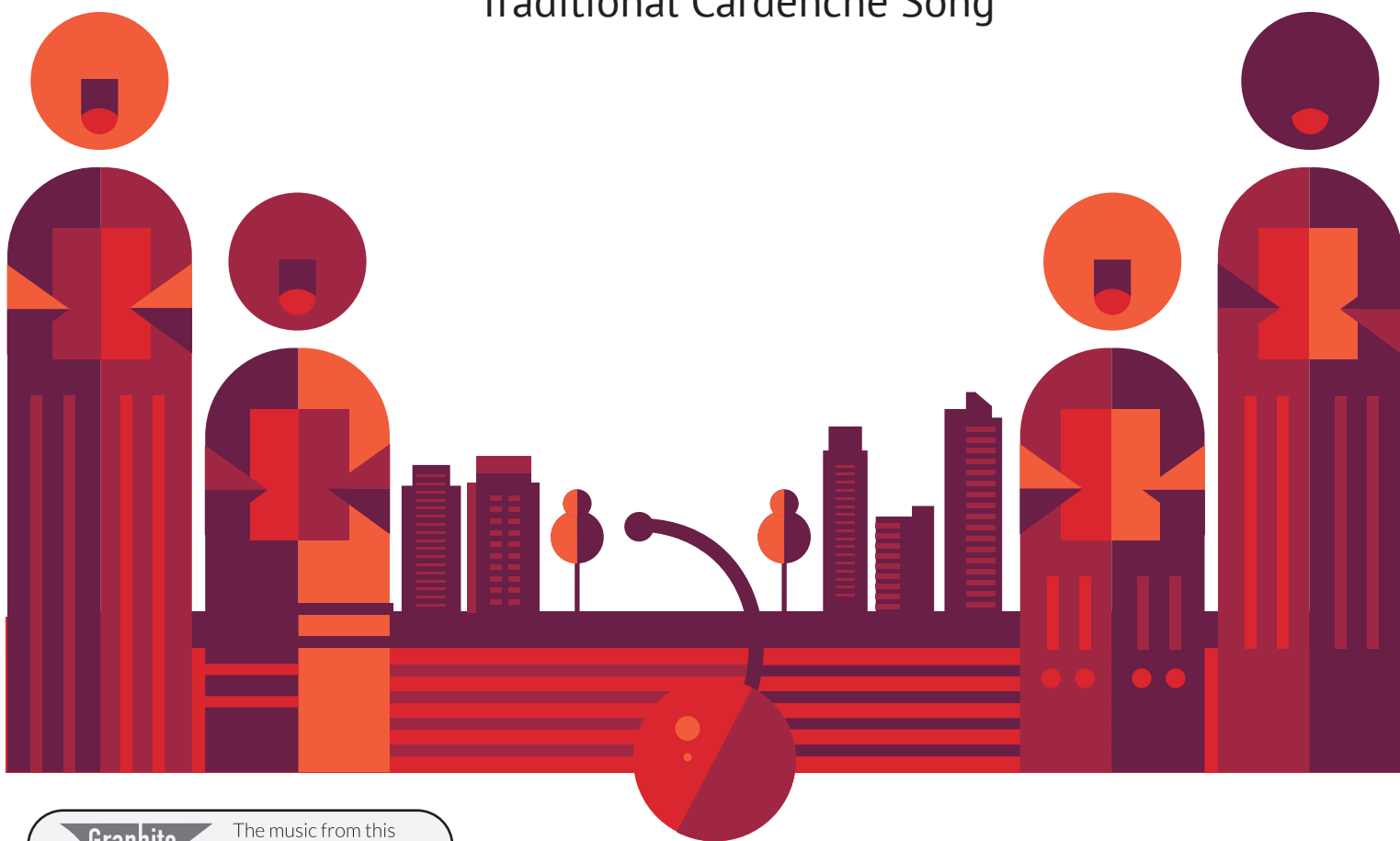
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BORDER CROSSING

Yo ya me voy a morir a los desiertos

Flexible: 3-part mixed choir, SSA choir or TTB choir, a cappella

Traditional Cardenche Song



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Sales of this score support Los Cardencheros de Sapioriz.

Text and IPA Transcription:

Yo ya me voy a morir a los desiertos,
[jo̞ ja me βoj a mo.'rir a los ðe.'sjer.tos]

me voy del ejido...
[me βoy ðel e.'xi.ðo]

y esa estrella marinera...
[je.saes.'tre.ja ma.ri.'ne.ra]

solo en pensar
[so.loem pen.'sar]

que ando lejos de mi tierra y nomás
[kean.do 'le.xos ðe mi 'tje.rraj no.'mas]

que me acuerdo
[ke mea.'kwer.ðo]

me dan ganas de llorar.
[me ðan 'ga.nas ðe jo.'rar]

Pero a mí no me divierten
['pe.roa mi no me ði.'βjer.ten]

los cigarros de la Dalia,
[los si.'ɣa.rros ðe la 'ða.lja]

pero a mí no me consuelan
['pe.roa mi no me kon.'swe.lan]

esas copas de aguardiente.
[e.sas 'ko.pas ðea.ɣwar.'ðjen.te]

Solo en pensar
[so.loem pen.'sar]

que dejé un amor pendiente y nomás
[ke ðe.'xewn a.'mor pen.'djen.tej no.'mas]

que me acuerdo
[ke mea.'kwer.ðo]

me dan ganas de llorar.
[me ðan 'ga.nas ðe jo.'rar]

Translation:

I now go to die in the desert,

I am leaving the farm...

and that sailor's star...

and to think

that I am far from my land

and when I remember

I just want to cry.

But I get no satisfaction

from Dalia's cigars,

but I get no consolation

from those cups of moonshine.

Just to think

that I left a love waiting behind

and when I remember

I just want to cry.

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Performance Note:

Cardenche singing is a genre of unaccompanied polyphonic singing from the Comarca Lagunera, a region in northern Mexico located at the intersection of the states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Durango. The word "cardenche" refers to a type of cactus that grows in this region. The cardenche cactus has hooked barbs that make them very painful, as they rip apart the flesh when they are extracted. In the same way, cardenche songs are meant to be "ripped out" of your body. The soul of cardenche singing is in capturing the extreme emotion of the text in the vocal tone and range. Themes that are common in cardenche singing are grief, death, and lost love.

Cardenche songs are transmitted in the oral tradition and typically sung with people sitting or standing very close to each other, with very long pauses between each phrase. They are sung by three or four different voice parts, each with its own unique role and sound. "Yo ya me voy a morir a los desiertos" is a classic song of the cardenche tradition and has three voice parts: the principal, contralta, and arrastre:

- The voz fundamental is the lead voice. It is in the middle of the harmony. In traditional cardenche, the principal singer determines the key and general tempo, and the principal always begins each phrase, with the other voices joining in harmony afterward. To sing the principal, it is essential to have accurate intonation, a clear tone without excessive vibrato, excellent diction, and a confident sense of rhythm.
- The voz contralta sings in the highest register in three-part cardenche. The best contralta singers fully commit emotionally while navigating the extreme high notes with a full-bodied tone that pierces the soul; the contralta is the "thorn" of the cardenche cactus.
- The voz de arrastre is the lowest part in the harmony and it drags behind the other parts, always slightly behind the principal and sliding from pitch to pitch. This dragging voice is one element that gives cardenche song its unique sound. Its role is to remain coordinated with the principal voice while also creating a strong foundation for the highest voices to move freely. Arrastre singers are often low basses or altos that sing with a rough, guttural vocal tone, which has led to this voice often being known as the "marrana" (Spanish for "pig").

Very few people today know and sing in the cardenche tradition, and for some time it was on the verge of disappearing entirely. Los Cardencheros de Sapioriz, singers based in the town of Sapioriz, Durango, have made it their mission to teach this genre of music to a new generation. They have toured the world and travel around Mexico to perform and teach the style, both in the traditional way and also developing a "choral style" of cardenche together with several Mexican choir directors. All of Border CrosSing's proceeds from the sale of this score will be donated to Los Cardencheros de Sapioriz to help them fund this work.

- Ahmed Anzaldúa

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CROS|SING**

Founded in 2017, Minnesota-based Border CrosSing envisions fundamental change in classical music culture, so that every concert, every audience, and the artists on stage truly reflect the cultural reality in which we live. Border CrosSing's work provides opportunities for people from different communities to understand each other in new ways through Puentes, a concert series centering Latinx culture and music; Heritage Choir, an inclusive community chorus with a focus on exploring cultural heritage; educational programming; and communal singing events. For more information visit www.bordercrossingmn.org

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Yo ya me voy a morir a los desiertos

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As sung by Juan Sánchez Ponce,
Eduardo Elizalde, & Pablo García Antúnez

Traditional Cardenche song
Sapioriz, Lerdo county, Durango
Performing edition by Ahmed Anzaldúa

Sorrowful ♩ = 48

Contraalta

Fundamental

Arrastre

8

Con.

Fun.

Arr.

14

Con.

Fun.

Arr.

me voy los de - sier - tos, me voy del e - ji - do

Yo ya me voy a mo - rir a los de - sier - tos, me voy del e - ji - do

a mo - rir a los de - sier - tos, me voy del e - ji - do

-tre - lla ma - ri - ne - ra so - lo en pen - sar - jos de mi tie - rra y no -

y e - sa es - tre - lla ma - ri - ne - ra so - lo en pen - sar que an - do le - jos de mi tie - rra y no -

-tre - lla ma - ri - ne - ra so - lo en pen - sar de mi tie - rra y no -

más que me a - cuer - do me dan ga - nas de llo - rar.

- más que me a - cuer - do me dan ga - nas de llo - rar.

más que me a - cuer do dan ga - nas de llo - rar.

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24

Con. di - vier - ten los ci - ga - rros de la Da - lia,

Fun. Pe - ro_a mí no me di - vier - ten los ci - ga - rros de la Da - lia, pe - ro_a

Arr. -vier - ten los ci - ga - rros de la Da - lia,

29

Con. me con - sue - lan e - sas co - pas de a - guar - dien - te. So - lo en pen - sar

Fun. mí no me con - sue - lan e - sas co - pas de a - guar - dien - te. So - lo en pen - sar

Arr. -sue - lan e - sas co - pas de a - guar - dien - te. So - lo en pen - sar

33

Con. -mor pen - dien - te_y no - más que me a - cuer - do

Fun. que de - jé un a - mor pen - dien - te_y no - más que me a - cuer - do

Arr. -mor pen - dien - te_y no - más que me a - cuer - do

39

Con. dan ga - nas de llo - rar

Fun. me dan ga - nas de llo - rar

Arr. dan ga - nas de llo - rar

Yo ya me voy a morir a los desiertos

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As sung by Juan Sánchez Ponce,
Eduardo Elizalde, & Pablo García Antúnez, transposed

Traditional Cardenche song
Sapioriz, Lerdo county, Durango
Performing edition by Ahmed Anzaldúa

Sorrowful ♩ = 48

Contra Alta

Fundamental

Arrastre

f me voy los de - sier - tos, me voy del e - ji - do

f Yo ya me voy a mo - rir a los de - sier - tos, me voy del e - ji - do

f a mo - rir a los de - sier - tos, me voy del e - ji - do

8

Con.

Fun.

Arr.

-tre - lla ma - ri - ne - ra so - lo en pen - sar que an - do le - jos de mi tie - rra y no -

y e - sa es - tre - lla ma - ri - ne - ra so - lo en pen - sar que an - do le - jos de mi tie - rra y no -

-tre - lla ma - ri - ne - ra so - lo en pen - sar de mi tie - rra y no -

14

Con.

Fun.

Arr.

más que me a - cuer - do me dan ga - nas de llo - rar.

más que me a - cuer - do me dan ga - nas de llo - rar.

más que me a - cuer - do me dan ga - nas de llo - rar.



24

Con.
 Fun.
 Arr.

di - vier - ten los ci - ga - rros de la Da - lia,
 Pe - ro a mí no me di - vier - ten los ci - ga - rros de la Da - lia, pe - ro a
 -vier - ten los ci - ga - rros de la Da - lia,

29

Con.
 Fun.
 Arr.

me con - sue - lan e - sas co - pas de a - guar - dien - te. So - lo en pen - sar
 mi no me con - sue - lan e - sas co - pas de a - guar - dien - te. So - lo en pen - sar
 -sue - lan e - sas co - pas de a - guar - dien - te. So - lo en pen - sar

33

Con.
 Fun.
 Arr.

-mor pen - dien - te y no - más que me a - cuer - do
 que de - je un a - mor pen - dien - te y no - más que me a - cuer - do
 -mor pen - dien - te y no - más que me a - cuer - do

39

Con.
 Fun.
 Arr.

dan ga - nas de llo - rar.
 me dan ga - nas de llo - rar.
 dan ga - nas de llo - rar.

