# SPANISH LYRIC DICTION WORKBOOK 

A graded method of phonetic transcription that employs frequently occurring words from art songs in Spanish

Cheri Montgomery

## PREFACE

The Spanish Lyric Diction Workbook was created from the lyrics of more than 1,000 art songs and choral texts. Words from the lyrics were organized in order of frequency of occurrence. The most frequently occurring words are short in length and appear in the enunciation exercises. Other frequently occurring words are introduced in graded order and categorized according to the singing sounds of the Spanish language as defined by the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). A study of articulatory phonetics is provided with consonant and vowel charts for student application and definition of terms.

Consecutive units highlight specified sets of symbols by providing transcribed art songs, enunciation instructions, transcribed enunciation exercises, rules for transcription, group assignments, individually assigned word and phrase lists, quizzes, and a final exam. The words, phrases, and songs needed to create this workbook were extracted from texts set by composers from Spain and Latin America. Composers with settings representing European Spanish include: Albéniz, Arrieta, Chapí, Falla, Grignon, Gerhard, Granados, Guridi, Halffter, Misón, Mompou, Montsalvatge, Nin, Obradors, Palomo, Rodrigo, Sor, Sorozábal, Turina, Valls, Vidre, and Vives. Composers with settings representing Latin American Spanish include Carrillo, Chávez, Galindo, Lavista, Mabarak, Moncada, Ponce, Revueltas, Rodríguez, and Sandi. Lyrics were organized to find words, phrases, and songs with the most frequent occurrence of the sounds highlighted in each unit.

European Spanish and Latin American Spanish are introduced simultaneously. An SP abbreviation stands for the Spanish of Spain and an LA abbreviation stands for the Spanish of Latin America. Transcription of dialects within each category is introduced throughout the text. Authentic pronunciation is verified through listening. Settings by European and Latin American composers are included. QR codes provide access to audio clips of recommended performances.

The Lyric Diction Workbook Series was created to make foreign languages accessible to singers. Familiarity is gained as numerous words are encountered. It was also designed to make grading easier for instructors. Accurate transcription and proficiency of memorized rules is assessed through in-class enunciation.

The Spanish Lyric Diction Workbook introduces singers to the language through enunciation and transcription of a rich vocabulary. The carefully selected words and phrases are designed to guide students through the unique sounds and formations of the Spanish language. This text functions consecutively within our series of workbooks created for lyric diction.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my senior editor, Pablo Willey-Bustos, tenor and instructor of Spanish Lyric Diction and La Canción Lírica: A Survey of Spanish Art Song at the Eastman School of Music. His expertise in assisting with the selection of enunciation and transcription rules is much appreciated. View highlights from his active teaching and performing career at www.pablobustos.com. I am grateful for assistance from Dr. Isaí Jess Muñoz, Chair of the Voice Department at Boston Conservatory. His willingness to share his knowledge of the Spanish dialects and precise pronunciation gave me much needed guidance and insight. Consultation with authoritative sources is of inestimable value when finalizing the many rules that govern authentic pronunciation! I am also thankful for my dear friend Luisa Correa de Buzard. Her assistance with editing the Spanish spellings and English translations is much appreciated.

The Spanish language provides an ideal introduction to lyric diction study. Spanish is a lovely singing language and the rules that govern the transcription of vowels and consonants are reliable. It is gratifying to observe the spellings of languages and see how beautifully they display evidence of structure, order, and design.

## SELECTION OF TRANSCRIPTION RULES

Editorial contributions by professor Willey-Bustos substantially elevated the accuracy, organization, and conciseness of this text. He pointed out transcription irregularities by creating a comparison of texts by standard authorities: Nico Castel, Patricia Caicedo, Arden Hopkins, Tomás Navarro, and Suzanne Rhodes Draayer. He simplified the comparative process by designing charts that provided an overview of each scholar's approach. We discussed the differences and finalized rules based on listening, dictionary transcription, and his native ear and experience as a classically trained tenor, diction coach, and Spanish lyric diction instructor. In three instances, we chose transcription details that are not unanimously published. Our first choice was to indicate the syllabic vowel of a falling diphthong with a long mark. This agrees with standard transcription practice for English, Italian, and German diphthongs. Most Spanish sources indicate the short vowel of a falling diphthong with a glide. Indicating the short vowel with a glide is not inaccurate but might seem unfamiliar to those who have studied lyric diction. Our second choice pertained to the transcription of $e$ and é. All authorities, except Hopkins, transcribe $e$ and $\dot{e}$ with an open [ $\varepsilon$ ] or closed [e] symbol (with none using both in the same text). We observed two distinct vowel sounds for the $e$ and é spellings and choose to follow Hopkins' example. Hopkins' rules are worded differently. Our wording follows syllabification. Hopkins' wording follows spelling. Establishing rules based on syllabification simplifies the learning process since numerous spellings are involved. Our third choice was to avoid the assimilation of $s+$ voiced consonant. We chose to follow Caicedo and dictionary transcription. An audio example of performance practice is available in the front matter on page x. Consultation with Dr. Isaí Jess Muñoz was vital in making these final decisions.

Students are alerted to spellings affected by dialects throughout the workbook. Dr. Patricia Caicedo, author of Spanish Diction for Singers, is the authority on this topic. For example, she provides clear instructions for the pronunciation of $l l$ and $y$ spellings. She recommends a $[K]$ pronunciation of $l l$ and a [j] pronunciation of $y$ for European Spanish lyric diction. She recommends a [j] or [ḑ] pronunciation for the Latin American pronunciation of $l l$ and $y$ (the Latin American [ds] option is articulated with the tongue tip touching the lower front teeth). A voiced fricative [3] pronunciation of $l l$ and $y$ is recommended for texts set by composers from the Río de la Plata region and the South Cone of the continent, Argentina, and Uruguay. A voiceless fricative [J] pronunciation of $l l$ and $y$ is also acceptable for the Río de la Plata region as it has become widespread in the area. The reader is encouraged to consult Caicedo's text for a thorough discussion of dialects within the SP and LA pronunciations.

The primary focus of this workbook is to offer rules and exercises that advance a standardized (dictionary supported) representation of European Spanish and Latin American Spanish for lyric diction courses.

Nico Castel, author of A Singer's Manual of Spanish Lyric Diction, provides an excellent history of the Spanish language with practical guidance in discovering a pronunciation that reflects the highest form of the language. A quote from his text best summarizes his (and our) approach to a standardization of the rules for lyric diction:

> The generally-recognized standard for good Spanish pronunciation is Castilian (Castellano), which is spoken by both cultivated people and peasants of Castile. In fact, they are the historical originators of the language in its purest form. And are perhaps, even today, its chief guardian. It is the language taught in schools and used by actors, singers and all involved in the pedagogic scene. It eschews all vulgarisms found in local dialects and certain pedantic exaggerations that can be found among overzealous speakers. (Castel, page 10)

Discovering an authentic pronunciation of an art song or aria requires research. It is important to recognize the origin of the poet and composer, consider the time period in which the lyrics were set, and ultimately balance those considerations with the knowledge of a pronunciation that reflects the highest form of the language.

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## *European Spanish Art Song Selection

Poet: Lope Félix de Vega Carpio (1562-1635)
Composer: Joaquín Rodrigo (1901-1999)

## Couplets of the shepherd in love

Coplas del pastor enamorado
['ko.plas ðعl pas'tor e.na.mo'ra.ðo]

## Green pleasant banks,

Verdes riberas amenas,
['ber.ðes ri' $\beta \varepsilon$.ras a'me.nas]
Fresh and flowery valleys,
Frescos y floridos valles,
['fres.kos i flo' 1. .бos ' $\beta$ a.Kes]
Pure, crystalline waters,
Aguas puras, cristalinas,
['a.ywas 'pu.ras kris.ta'li.nas]
Born in the high mountains.
Altos montes de quien nacen.
['al.tos 'mon.tes ðe $\mathrm{kj}_{\mathrm{k}} \mathrm{m}^{\mathrm{n}}$ ' $\mathrm{na} . \theta \varepsilon \mathrm{n}$ ]
Guide me along your paths,
Guiadme por vuestras sendas, [gi'að.me por ' $\beta$ wes.tras 'sen.das]

And let me find
Y permitidme que halle
[i per.mi'tið.me ke 'a.Ke]
This treasure that I lost,
Esta prenda que perdí,
[' $\varepsilon s . t a$ 'pren.da ke per'ði]
And which costs me so great a love.
Y me cuesta amor tan grande.
[i me 'kwes.ta a' mor tay 'gran.de]
I wear, stained in blood, Llevo, teñidas en sangre,
['Ke. $\beta$ o te'ji.ðas $\varepsilon$ n 'say.gre]
My sandals and my hands,
Las abarcas y las manos,
[las a' $\beta$ ar.kas i las 'ma.nos]
Broken from removing thorns;
Rotas de apartar jarales;
['ro.tas ðe a.par' tar xa'ra.les]

From sleeping on the sand De dormir sobre la arena [de ðor'mir 'so.ßre la a're.na]

On that deserted bank,
De aquella desierta margen, [de a'ke.Ka ðe'sjer.ta 'mar.çen]

I have tangled hair.
Traigo enhetrado el cabello.
['tra:i. үo عn.e'tra.ðo عl ka' $\beta \mathrm{e} . \kappa \mathrm{o}$ ]
And when the dawn comes,
Y cuando el aurora sale,
[i 'kwan.do $\varepsilon$ l a:u' ro.ra 'sa.le]
Wet with dew
Mojado por el rocío
[mo'xa.ðо pos $\varepsilon 1$ ro' $\theta$ i.o]
That scatters on my head
Que por mi cabeza esparcen
[ke por mi ka' $\beta \mathrm{e} . \theta \mathrm{a}$ عs' par. $\theta \varepsilon \mathrm{n}$ ]
The clouds that flee from the sun,
Las nubes que del sol huyen,
[las 'nu. ßes ke ð $\varepsilon$ l sol 'u.jen]

Moistening the air.
Humedeciendo los aires.
[u.me.ðe' $\theta \mathrm{j} \varepsilon$ n.do los 'a:i.res]
Green pleasant banks,
Verdes riberas amenas,
['ber.ðes ri' $\beta \varepsilon$.ras a'me.nas]
Fresh and flowery valleys,
Frescos y floridos valles,
['fres.kos i flo' 1. .бos ' $\beta$ a.Kes]
Pure, crystalline waters,
Aguas puras, cristalinas,
['a. $\quad$ was 'pu.fas kris.ta'li.nas]
Born in the high mountains.
Altos montes de quien nacen.
['al.tos 'mon.tes ðe 'kjem ${ }^{\mathrm{n}}$ 'na. $\theta \varepsilon \mathrm{n}$ ]

* This selection contains a frequent occurrence of final $s$. A gentle voicing of the $s$ may be observed when $s$ is followed by a voiced consonant. A [z] transcription is not recommended and would not agree with Caicedo or dictionary transcription.


# ;Toma este ramito de flores! <br> ['to.ma 'es.te ra'mi.to ðe 'flo.res] <br> (Take this bouquet of flowers!) 



# Transcription of monophthongs and syllabic division 

TOPIC
Rules for transcription
Application of rules
Individual exercises
Phrases
Answer key

## Syllabic Division

Syllabic division must be indicated within the IPA in order to determine the pronunciation of $e$. A stress mark ['] or a period [.] is used to indicate the divisions. A stress mark denotes the beginning of a stressed syllable. A period denotes the beginning of an unstressed syllable. A syllable begins with a vowel: oro ['o.ro] (gold), a single consonant: mira ['mi.ra] (sight), or a consonant blend. A consonant $+l$ or $r$ form a blend: aclara [a'kla.ra] (clarify), secreto [se 'kre.to] (secret). Spellings $n s$ and $x$ form a blend when followed by a consonant: instante [ins'tan.te] (moment), excepto [ Eks ' $\theta(\mathrm{s})$ हp.to] (except). All other consonant clusters are divided. A stress mark or period follows the first consonant of a consonant cluster: espiritu [es' pi.ci.tu] (spirit).

Stress falls on the penultimate syllable for:

1. Final vowel words: mano ['ma.no] (hand)
2. Final $s$ and $n$ words: amores [a'mo.res] (loves)

Stress falls on the last syllable for:

1. Final consonant words: portal [por'tal] (entrance)
2. Final $y$ words: estoy [ Es 'to:i] (I'm)

## RULES FOR TRANSCRIPTION

## MONOPHTHONGS

| SPELLING | IPA | EXAMPLE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a | [a] <br> Bright central | alma ['al.ma] (soul) |
| á |  | cántico ['kan.ti.ko] (canticle) |
| i | $[\mathrm{i}]$ <br> Closed front | chiquitita [tfi.ki 'ti.ta] (tiny) |
| 1 |  | aquí [a'ki] (here) |
| y |  | The word: y [i] (and) |
| u | $[\mathrm{u}]$ <br> Closed back | tumultuoso [tu.mul 'two.so] (tumultuous) |
| ú |  | música ['mu.si.ka] (music) |
| 0 | [o] <br> Closed back | doloroso [do.lo 'ro.so] (painful) |
| Ó |  | pasó [pa'so] (s/he passed) |

A dropped final vowel (indicated within the setting) reflects casual speech.

## CLOSED FRONT [e]

Syllabic divisions are required: see page 17
Final $e$ or é of word or syllable: anhelante [a.ne 'lan.te] (longing)

| EXCEPTION WORDS |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| esa | ['z.sa] | (that) | fuese | ['fwe.se] | (I was) |
| esas | ['ع.sas] | (those) | fueseis | ['fwe.se:is] | (you were) |
| ese | ['ع.se] | (that) | mese | ['me.se] | (months) |
| eso | ['ع.so] | (that) | peso | ['pe.so] | (weight) |
| esos | ['ع.sos] | (those) | riese | ['rje.se] | (I laughed) |

The prefix des is [dعs]: desatar [des.a'tar] (to untie)
Spelling: $e$ or $\dot{e}+$ final [s]: montes ['mon.tes] (hills)

| EXCEPTION WORDS |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| diez | [dje日(s)] | (ten) | pies | [pjes] | (feet) |
| es | [ Es$]$ | ( $\mathrm{s} / \mathrm{he} \mathrm{is)}$ | pues | [pwes] | (then, well) |
| les | [les] | (them, you) | ríes | ['ri.cs] | (you laugh) |
| mes | [mss] | (month) | ves | [bes] | (you see) |

Note. Exception words are indicated with asterisks in the worksheets

## OPEN FRONT [ $\varepsilon]$

Syllabic divisions are required: see page 17
$e$ or $\dot{e}+$ consonant within the syllable mente ['men.te] (mind) aquel [a'kel] (that)

Spelling: $e$ or $e ́+r$ : madera [ma'ðع.ra] (wood)

CLASSWORK \#3: Monophthongs and syllabic division Indicate syllabic divisions for polysyllables, identify the stressed syllable, then provide IPA:

1. las
(the, them)
2. luna
3. salero $(r$ is $[\mathrm{r}])$ (salt shaker) 10 . tono
(moon)
(tone)
4. pito
(whistle)
5. este
(east, this)
6. me
(myself)
7. pupila
(pupil)
8. falsa
(false)
9. temes
(you fear)
10. ante
(before)
11. mano
(hand)
12. plata (silver) 15. $\operatorname{rosal}_{(r \text { is }[r])}$
(rose bush)
13. momento
(moment)
14. $\sin$
(without)

## WORKSHEET \#3: Monophthongs and syllabic division

Indicate syllabic divisions for polysyllables, identify the stressed syllable, then provide IPA:
\#1 pan
mires $(r$ is $[\mathrm{r}]$
sala
*les
tanto
pelo
alta
esposa
ufano
luto
florero ( $r$ is [r])
punto
monte
los
salen
mi

[^0]\#2
estilo
ma
pesares ( $r$ is [ $[\mathrm{r}$ )
tinta
uso
se
mentas
pasa
tales
a mi
molinero ( $r$ is $[\mathrm{rl}] \quad$ (miller)
su
amenas

0
santo
tapa
(style)
(mom)
(griefs)
(ink)
(use)
(themselves)
(reputation)
(raisin)
(such)
(to my)
(his, her)
(pleasant)
(or)
(holy)

## WORKSHEET \#3: Monophthongs and syllabic division

Indicate syllabic divisions for polysyllables, identify the stressed syllable, then provide IPA:
\#3
s
a
al tem
mapa
*esas
sumisa
papel
mulas
en
olores ( $r$ is [r])
falta
polo
alto
limones
mismo
si
(if)
mala
(and)
y
(shepherds)
pastores ( $r$ is [r])
(cloak)
(tall, high) manto
(same)
non
(lemons)
(you were being)
lino
(flax, linen)
(s/he shakes)
(lullaby)
(that)
(s/he put)
mate
(chess play)
tus
(your)
espuma
(foam)
(odd)
(bad)

[^1]
## WORKSHEET \#3: Monophthongs and syllabic division

Indicate syllabic divisions for polysyllables, identify the stressed syllable, then provide IPA: \#5

| el | (the) | malos | (bad, villains) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| mates | (math) | San | (Saint) |
| fama | (fame) | oeste | (west) |
| ti | (you) | filo | (edge) |
| este | (east, this) | temo | (I fear) |
| mula | (mule) | plantas | (plants) |
| perfumes (ris [r]) | (perfumes) | soneto | (sonnet) |
| al fin | (finally) | esta | (this) |
| uno | (one) | alas | (wings) |
| amante | (lover) | ni | (nor) |
| mosto | (grape juice) | pelusa | (fluff, jealousy) |
| ponemos | (we put) | supo | (s/he knew) |
| a | (to) | eres (ris [r]) | (you are) |
| otero (r is [r] | (hillock) | nos | (us) |
| notas | (notes) | monteros (ris [r]) | (hunters) |
| tomen | (they take) | pone | (s/he puts) |

## WORKSHEET \#3: Monophthongs and syllabic division

Indicate syllabic divisions for polysyllables, identify the stressed syllable, then provide IPA: \#7 más altares $(r$ is [r])
(altars) \#8
(more)
mansa
(meek)
*ese
(that)
u
*peso
(weight)
(sun)
(tea)
(line)
(s/he departs)
(bread, old)
(steps)
(sphere)
papa
lastimero ( $r$ is [r])
misma
(same)
flama
metas
(goals)
(have)
(subtle)
entona
(s/he intones)

[^2]
## WORKSHEET \#3: Monophthongs and syllabic division

Indicate syllabic divisions for polysyllables, identify the stressed syllable, then provide IPA:
\#9

OS
ma
pi
dé
un
esposos
pasan
semos
toma
solamente
la
palmera ( $r$ is [r])
mis
tantas
ame
plumas
\#10
primera ( $r$ is $[r]$ )
sino
*mes
tul
estima
puntas
sanaste
lana
numen
fina
pena
olas
tres ( $r$ is [r])
mal
no
santa
(first)
(but)
(month)
(tulle - fabric)
(esteem)
(ends, tips)
(you cured)
(wool)
(spirit)
(fine)
(pity, shame)
(waves)
(three)
(bad, wrong)
(not)
(missus, saint)

## WORKSHEET \#3: Monophthongs and syllabic division

Indicate syllabic divisions for polysyllables, identify the stressed syllable, then provide IPA:
\#11
pares
alma
le
musa
sepa
pupilas
es
in
in
tate
mata
intente
son

| templo | (temple) | fronteras $(r$ is $[\mathrm{r}])$ | (borders) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| pa | (dad) | palma | (palm) |
| salmo | (psalm) | sus | (his) |
| misa | (mass) | amas | (you love) |

[^3]
## WORKSHEET \#3: Monophthongs and syllabic division

Transcribe the following phrases (transcribe $r$ as flipped [ r$]$ unless indicated otherwise):
Example:
al mirarse suspiran (when they look at each other they sigh) r

1. por las amenas liras (for the pleasant lyres)
r
2. Irémos á misa (We will go to Mass)
3. por el otero asoma (by the knoll it appears)
4. En el pinar (In the pine forest)
r
5. Sale el sol, sale el sol (The sun rises, the sun rises)
6. O no ó sí, ó sí ó no (Either no or yes, or yes or no)
7. Pon en mi mano, en mi manita (Put in my hand, in my little hand)
8. solamente para mí (only for me)
9. Sale la luna, sale la luna (The moon rises, the moon rises)
10. por amorosas mentiras (for loving lies)
11. No nos miremos (Let's not look at each other)
12. ;*Eso sí! (Yes indeed!)

* Exception word

ANSWER KEY

WORKSHEET \#1 and quiz on page 17: Classification of Vowels

Spanish Vowels

| IPA | Slope | Quality | Peak of tongue arch |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $[\mathrm{i}]$ | steep | closed | front |
| $[\mathrm{e}]$ | moderate | closed | front |
| $[\varepsilon]$ | moderate | open | front |
| $[\mathrm{u}]$ | steep | closed | back |
| $[\mathrm{o}]$ | moderate | closed | back |
| $[\mathrm{a}]$ | mild | open | central |

English Vowels

| $\begin{array}{r} \text { greet } \\ \text { bit } \end{array}$ | IPA | Slope | Quality | Peak tongue arch |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | [i] | steep | closed | front |
|  | [I] | steep | open | front |
| said | [ $\mathrm{\varepsilon}]$ | moderate | open | front |
| blue | [u] | steep | closed | back |
| look | [ U$]$ | steep | open | back |
| obey | [0] | moderate | closed | back |
| ought | [0] | moderate | open | back |
| sat | [æ] | mild | open | central |
| father | [a] | mild | open | central |
| up | [ 1 ] | flat | open | central |
| bird | [3] | retroflex |  | central |

Unit \#3: Transcription of monophthongs and syllabic division
Classwork

1. las
2. salero
3. pito
4. me
5. falsa
6. ante
7. plata
8. momento
9. luna
10. tono
11. este
12. pupila
13. temes
14. mano
15. rosal
16. $\sin$
\#1

| pan <br> mires | [pan] | (bread) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| sala | ['mi.res] | (look) |
| les | ['sa.la] | (living room) |
| tanto | [lss] | (them, you) |
| pelo | ['tan.to] | (so much) |
| alta | ['pe.lo] | (hair) |
| esposa | ['al.ta] | (tall) |
| ufano | [हs'po.sa] | (wife) |
| luto | [u'fa.no] | (proud) |
| florero | ['lu.to] | (mourning) |
| punto | [flo' re.ro] | (vase) |
| monte | ['pun.to] | (period) |
| los | ['mon.te] | (mountain) |
| salen | [los] | (the) |
| mi | ['sa.len] | (they go out) |
|  | [mi] | (my) |

\#2

| estilo | [es'ti.lo] | (style) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ma | [ma] | (mom) |
| pesares | [pe'sa.res] | (griefs) |
| tinta | ['tin.ta] | (ink) |
| uso | ['u.so] | (use) |
| se | [se] | (themselves) |
| mentas | ['men.tas] | (reputation) |
| pasa | ['pa.sa] | (raisin) |
| tales | ['ta.les] | (such) |
| a mi | [a mi] | (to my) |
| molinero | [mo.li'ne.ro] | (miller) |
| su | [su] | (his, her) |
| amenas | [a'me.nas] | (pleasant) |
| o | [o] | (or) |
| santo | ['san.to] | (holy) |
| tapa | ['ta.pa] | (lid) |

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[^0]:    * Exception word

[^1]:    * Exception word

[^2]:    * Exception word

[^3]:    * Exception word

