



COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



TERESA CARREÑO

1853-1917

Style: Romantic

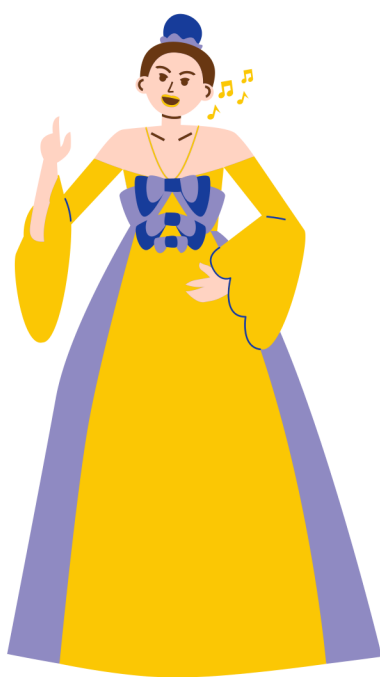
Early Years

Teresa Carreño was born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1853. Her family moved to the U.S. when she was young to escape political upheaval in Venezuela. She took her first music lessons from her father; he oversaw her career until his death in 1874. She also studied with Louis Moreau Gottschalk, Anton Rubinstein, and George Matthias. She is best known for being a pianist, soprano, composer, and conductor.



A Well-Traveled Diva

Carreño, being the well-connected artist that she was, kept an active and well-traveled performance schedule that spanned the United States, United Kingdom, France, Cuba, and Spain. She performed for Abraham Lincoln at the White House in 1863 and for Woodrow Wilson in 1916. In 1866, she spent some time in Paris meeting Rossini, Mathias, Gounod, and Liszt.



Operatic Roles

While in Paris, she also studied voice with Rossini and began performing in a few operatic roles in Edinburg, Boston, and New York. Her first role happened by chance when a principal singer couldn't go on and the director asked her to fill in. She eventually organized an opera company in Venezuela where she both sang and conducted the orchestra.

Her Music

Carreño produced approximately 75 works for piano, voice, choir and orchestra, and chamber music in her lifetime. In addition to her own music, she also promoted the music of Edward MacDowell (her student) and Edvard Grieg to audiences across Europe and the Americas. She was often called the "Valkyrie of the Piano" for her renowned virtuosity.

Significant Works:

- Mi Teresita (Little Waltz)
- Rêverie-Impromptu, Op. 3
- Nocturne, Op. 10, "Souvenirs de mon pays"