

**L'HEURE ESPAGNOLE  
/ L'ENFANT ET LES SORTILÈGES**

Music by Maurice Ravel

Libretto by Franc-Nohain, after his own comedy

Premiere: Opéra-Comique, Paris, 19 May 1911

**Characters**

Torquemada (tenor)

Concepción (soprano)

Gonzalve (tenor)

Ramiro (baritone)

Don Inigo Gomez (bass)

It is clockmaker Torquemada's day to regulate the municipal clocks, and his wife Concepción's day to entertain lovers. When Ramiro, a muleteer, visits the clockshop to have his watch repaired, Concepción worries that his presence will ruin her rendezvous with the poet Gonzalve, so she asks Ramiro to carry one of two grandfather clocks to her bedroom. She persuades Gonzalve to hide inside the second clock, which she then requests Ramiro to transport to her bedroom. Another suitor, the banker Don Inigo, arrives. While Concepción accompanies Ramiro upstairs with the second clock (containing Gonzalve), Don Inigo hides in the first clock. Concepción returns with the second clock (and Gonzalve) and dutifully takes the first clock (and Don Inigo) upstairs. Meanwhile, Concepción tries to send Gonzalve packing, but he resumes his hiding place as Ramiro returns. Ramiro makes one more trip upstairs, this time to bring back the first clock. When he returns, he asks Concepción if she has any further orders. Weary of her other suitors, she requests the virile muleteer to return to her bedroom - without a clock!

While Ramiro and Concepción are upstairs, Torquemada returns to find Gonzalve and Don Inigo, and succeeds in selling the guilty duo the two clocks. The opera ends with a habanera quintet and a moral from Boccaccio.