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**RUBINSTEIN** has many times performed Manuel de Falla's "Nights in the Gardens of Spain" in that country, and with the composer's artistic advice and benediction. It was therefore logical not only that he should express Falla's intentions at the keyboard, but also that he should communicate many of Falla's wishes and expressions to the conductor and orchestra.

Cooperation of pianist and orchestra consequently was splendid—and the nocturnes took on the beauty of those Moorish scrollwork friezes, which are outlined in graceful interlaced patterns. The eye follows their intricate tracery on the Alhambra and elsewhere, without noting where the themes begin or end. And so, yesterday, the ear followed the graceful, nostalgic and sometimes wistful themes which are so interlaced through Falla's music, seemingly arising from nowhere and arriving nowhere, yet so importantly interwoven with the whole evocation.

Falla intended his "Nights" to be nocturnes or impressions for orchestra, in which the piano is a prime but not the paramount factor. They suggest the eternal plashing of fountains, the strumming of guitars, and the rhythmic movement of dancing bare-soled feet. The dancing is sometimes intense and frenzied but never orgiastic, and the sound of plucked accents is transferred freely between soloist and orchestra, with a sort of suspended mystery brooding over the whole picture.

There is adequate room for virtuosity of both pianist and orchestra—but never virtuosity for itself alone. Rubinstein knew and let this be felt in his playing which, though brilliant, never went beyond the confines set by the composer. The transference of accent and color between the piano and the other instruments was subtle and, for that reason, very effective.

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**RUBINSTEIN'S** artistry was acknowledged by excited applause from the audience. He thanked his delighted listeners with two encores — Liszt's "Valse Oubliee" and Prokofieff's March from the "Love For Three Oranges" on Saturday night — a Chopin Nocturne and a decorative bagatelle by Villa-Lobos yesterday afternoon.

The orchestra also provided an impromptu fanfare for Rubinstein yesterday — a verse of "Happy Birthday To You." He was 65, having been born at Lodz on January 28, 1886.

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