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SAN CARLOS DE GUATEMALA UNIVERSITY
CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS FOLKLORICOS

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5

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TESTIMONIES

THE DANCE OF FLOWERS

Manuel Juárez Toledo

This work comes from the central area of the republic. The first performances, it is said, took place in the city of Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala, gradually spreading and gaining popularity over time throughout towns, homesteads, and villages. The piece is composed of poetry, singing, instrumental music, and choreography that reflect the Baroque style of the colonial era.

Formal research, data collection, recordings, interviews, musical sessions, analysis, and recomposition of the work began on February 10th, 1973, in the village of Montúfar. Mrs. María Eufemia Juárez de Manzo was the one who, in addition to providing her "originals" for copying, narrated, recited, sang, and gave choreographic details from the beginning to the end of the piece, allowing herself to be recorded on magnetic tape. She also recounted episodes from her first performance in the year 1924, on Saint Joseph's Day.

Information was also gathered in the towns of San Juan Sacatepéquez and San Raymundo Peñafort. Among these meetings, the collection of music from more authentic sources stands out. The refinement of melodic lines, harmonization, and phrasing represents a truly positive achievement.

Mr. J. Luis Juárez O. and Mr. Adolfo Ortiz García performed on marimba and harmonium, respectively, recomposing the three musical pieces that accompany the entire work (a process that was also recorded).

Mr. Ortiz García referred to his performances as a musician in the years prior to the 1917 earthquake.

In addition to the informants already mentioned, special thanks go to Evelia Navas in Santiago Sacatepéquez; Felipe Siliézar in San Raymundo (may he rest in peace); Rosario Arriola de Zelaya in the village of Puerta Parada; and Esperanza J. de Urrea in Mixco.

The residents of San Juan Sacatepéquez and several nearby villages hold this work in high regard, as for this folk group it symbolically represents the region's abundance in the field of floriculture.

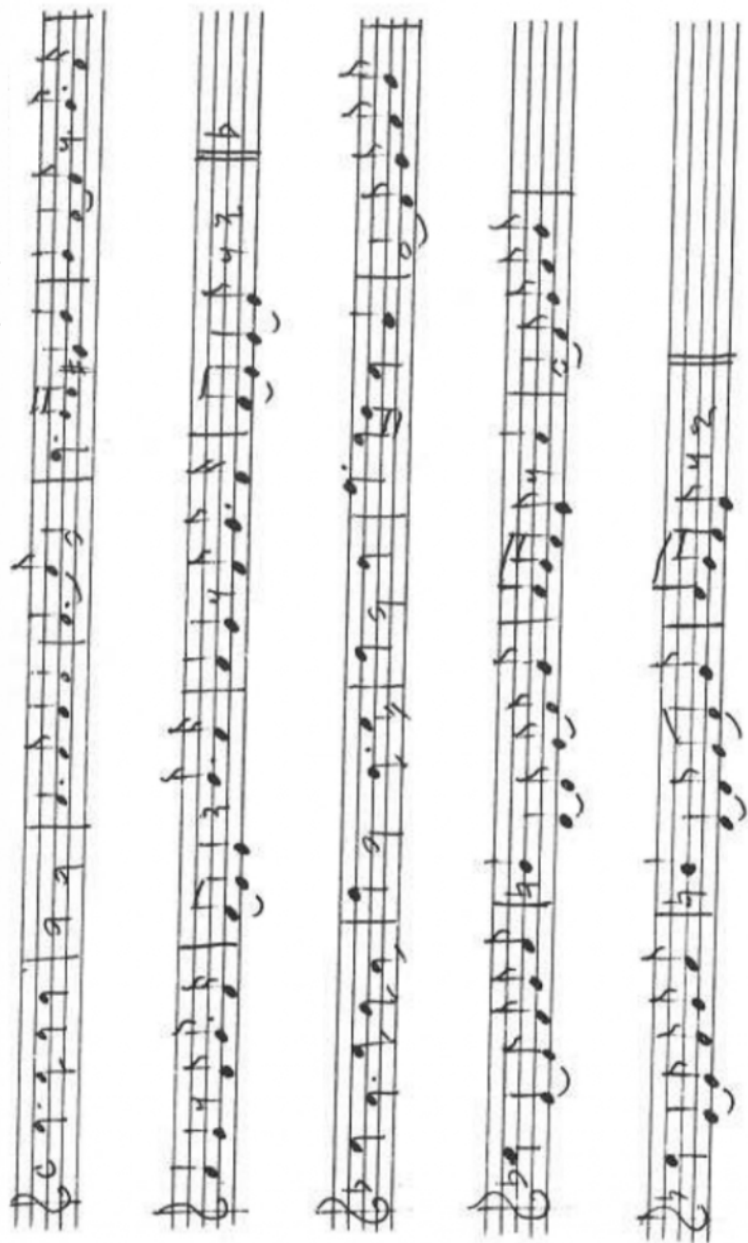
Guatemala, May 28, 1973.

MAIN MELODIES OF THE DANCE OF FLOWERS

(Compiled and annotated
by Manuel Juárez Toledo,
1973, Central Area -
Guatemala).

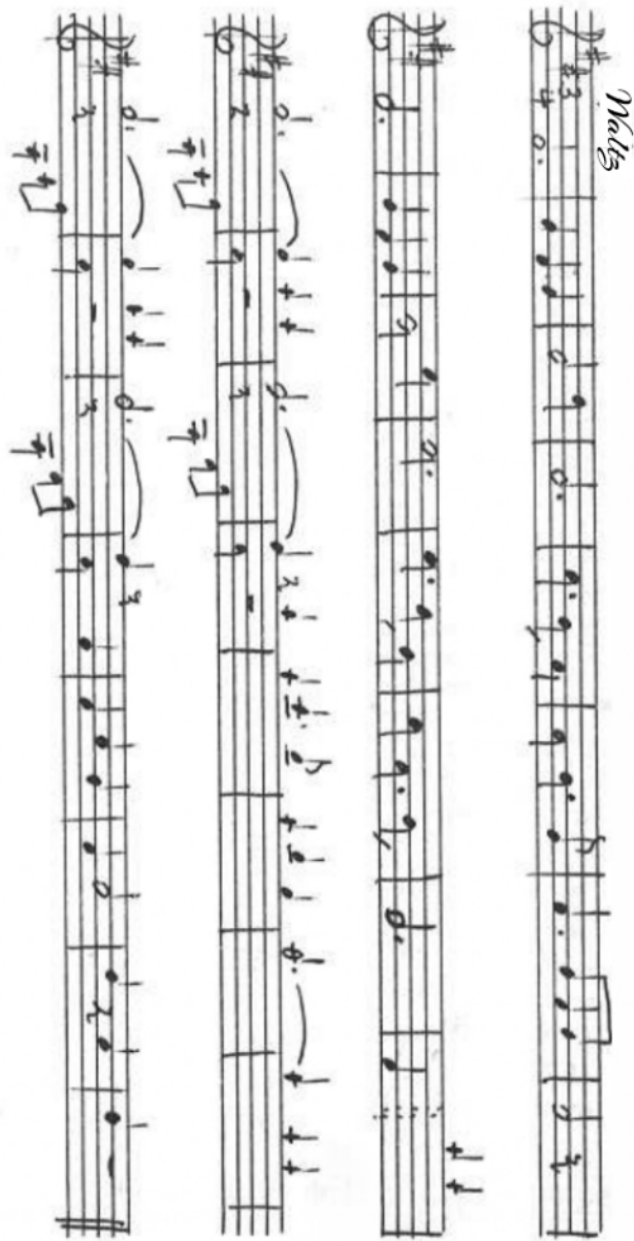
Sing: Spring and gardeners
text of the libretto

Presentation time



Theme of salutation to the flowers.

Sing: Spring and gardeners
text of the libretto



1. Spring recites while the Gardener pretends to water the flowers

Spring:

—Yo que soy la Primavera
me ofrezco con rendimiento
al venir en este día
con regocijo y contento.

I, who am Spring, offer
myself with devotion,
arriving on this day
with joy and delight.

—O—

My age is the most
blossoming, and the most
pleasant season, for among
the times of the year, I am
the favored and amiable one.

Mi edad es la más florida
y la estación más agradable
pues de los tiempos del año
soy preferente y amable.

—O—

Knowing my duties, it is
only right that I come
today with a devoted
heart.

Conociendo mis deberes
tócame en razón
el venir en este día
con rendido corazón.

—O—

What could I offer? I
will offer my greenery,
the fragrance, and
perfume of the gentle
flowers.

¿Qué es lo que podré ofrecer?
ofreceré mis verdores
la fragancia y el perfume
de las apacibles flores.

—O—

Come, come, Gardener,
come with great haste,
bringing promptly the
most beautiful flowers.

Venid, venid Jardinero
venid con grande presteza
trayendo con prontitud
las flores de más belleza.

—O—

Gardener:

(deja de regar y recita)
¡Ob! deidad más agradable
aquí me tenéis presente
fatigado estoy Señora
del cultivo permanente.

(stops watering and recites)
Oh, most pleasant deity,
here I am before you, weary,
O Lady of eternal
cultivation.

—O—

Vengo de andar los jardines
de ver las flores alegres
las fuentes cristalinas
y todos los prados verdes.

I come from wandering
through the gardens, seeing
joyful flowers, crystal
fountains, and all the green
meadows.

—O—

A tus órdenes está
el escoger los colores
pues, eres la soberana
de la estación de las flores.

At your command is the
choice of colors, for you are
the sovereign of the season
of flowers.

—O—

Spring:

Que tengas presente quiero,
mi deseo es sin par quisiera
tener diamantes para poder
coronar al Santo José y a
María quienes deseo elogiar.

Keep this in mind, for my
desire is without equal. I
would like to have
diamonds to crown Saint
Joseph and Mary, whom I
wish to praise.

—O—

Coronémosle de rosas,
azucenas y jazmines y de
otras preciosas flores que se
encuentran en los jardines.

Let us crown them with roses,
lilies, and jasmines, and with
other precious flowers found
in the gardens.

—O—

Gardener:

Cumplirás vuestro deseo
con humilde devoción
formemos la corona
con toda veneración.

Your wish shall be fulfilled
with humble devotion.
Let us form the crown with
all reverence.

*Vamos a andar los jardines
con muchísima atención
a ver las preciosas flores
que sirvan en la ocasión.*

We will walk through the
gardens with great care to
see the precious flowers that
will serve for this occasion.

—O—

Spring and the Gardener sing together:

*¡Oh! Clavel florido
Encarnada rosa
¡OH! Lirio, Lirio fragante
Margarita hermosa
Retámara alegre
y Dalia orgullosa.*

Oh! Blooming Carnation,
Rosy red flower,
Oh! Lily, Fragrant Lily,
beautiful Daisy,
Cheerful Broom and proud
Dahlia.

Introductions:

The Carnation steps out of the line, pretending to be
carried by the wind, and stands where the crown will be
formed. Then it recites:

1. Carnation:

*Yo me presento primero
aquí me tenéis Señora
ansiando la preferencia
de servirlos en toda hora.*

I present myself first— Here
I am, my Lady, longing for
the honor of serving you at
all times.

—O—

*Yo soy el clavel florido
pompa de Abril y Mayo
monarca soy de las flores
y decoro de los campos.*

I am the blooming carnation,
splendor of April and May,
monarch of the flowers and
ornament of the fields.

—O—

*Soy el galán y suave
a la vista y al olfato
causo del ámbra los celos
como a la púrpura agravio.*

I am charming and gentle—
pleasing to both sight and
smell. I make amber envious,
and offend the color purple.

*Ofrezco con voluntad
mi homenaje y agrado
mi amor y rendimiento
a San José el venerado.*

I willingly offer my homage
and delight, my love and
devotion to the venerated
Saint Joseph.

—O—

(At the end of the poem, the
Carnation places its flower, listens
to its song, and dances offstage.)

Spring and Gardener sing:

*¡Oh! Clavel florido
de cuya hermosura
fragancia despides
con dulce ternura.*

Oh! Blooming Carnation,
whose beauty and
fragrance you release with
tender sweetness.

At the end of the song, dancing, the Carnation returns to its place.

At the same time, the Rose enters dancing toward the center and recites.

2. Rose:

*Yo soy la encarnada Rosa
que de púrpura soy vestida
en los campos me conservo
por ser allí nacida.*

I am the incarnate Rose,
clothed in purple,
thriving in the fields,
for there I was born.

—O—

*Soy gala del oriente
de la región olorosa
entre espinas intratable
pero en fin. . . yo soy la Rosa.*

I am the ornament of the
East, of the fragrant region,
untouchable among thorns,
but still... I am the Rose.

—O—

To whom shall I give thanks? To the One who formed me— the author of wonders, creator of all that exists.

*¿A quién las gracias daré?
Las daré a quien me ha formado
al autor de maravillas
y cuanto en el mundo hay creado.*

—O—

With great will, I joyfully offer myself to form the crown for our patron Saint Joseph.

*Con crecida voluntad
gustosa me rendiré
para formar la corona
a nuestro patrón San José.* (Same procedure as above.)

—O—

Spring and Gardener sing:

*¡Oh! tú hermosa Rosa
de la alegre mañana
fragancia despides
reluciente y galana.*

Oh, you beautiful Rose of the joyful morning, you release fragrance, radiant and proud.

(Same as above)

3. Jasmine:

*Yo soy la flor especial
el Jazmín más oloroso
que sólo el Creador del cielo
pudo hacer tan precioso.*

I am the special flower—the most fragrant Jasmine, that only the Creator of Heaven could make so precious.

—O—

*Tan blanco como la nieve
tan exquisito y gracioso
de las flores envidiado
y de la humildad el gozo.*

As white as snow, exquisite and graceful, envied by other flowers, and the joy of humility.

—O—

*Me mantengo sin cesar
en continuo desvelo
siempre elevando mi frente
al que creó la tierra y el cielo.*

I remain ever watchful, in constant vigilance, always lifting my gaze to the One who made Earth and Heaven.

—O—

*Embriagado de dulzura
me rindo con todo amor
a fabricar la corona
de la madre del Salvador.*

Drunk with sweetness, I surrender with all my love to craft the crown for the mother of the Savior.

(Same as above.)

Spring and Gardener sing:

*¡Oh! Jazmín precioso
te colocaremos
en esta corona
que a María ofrecemos.*

Oh! Precious Jasmine, we will place you in this crown offered to Mary. (Same as above.)

(Same as above)

4. Madonna Lily:

*Yo soy la blanca azucena
cual la nieve entre las flores
y cuya casta belleza
es reunión de los colores.*

I am the white Madonna Lily, like snow among the flowers, and whose chaste beauty is a blend of all colors.

—O—

*Símbolo soy de la pureza
preferente en los olores
gozo eternidad de vida
con la castidad de amores.*

I am the symbol of purity, preferred among scents; I rejoice in eternal life with the chastity of love.

—O—

*Pero todas estas gracias
¿quién a mí me las ha dado?*

But all these graces—who has given them to me?

Only God, with His power,
for He has filled me with
them.

*Sólo Dios con su poder;
porque de ellas me ha colmado.*

—O—

Blessed is He who made the
sea,
blessed is He who made the
wind,
who feeds the birds,
who makes the sun shine.

*Bendito el que hizo el mar
bendito el que hizo el viento
quien al ave da sustento
quien al sol hace brillar.*

—O—

I will live in gratitude
for such great favor,
and gladly offer myself
to the venerated
Saint Joseph

*Viviré reconocida
a favor tan señalado
y me rendiré gustosa
a San José tan venerado. (Same as above)*

Spring and Gardener sing:

*Azucena hermosa
mil gracias os doy
a San José glorioso
le celebramos hoy.*

Beautiful Madonna Lily,
a thousand thanks we give
you,
today we honor
glorious Saint Joseph.

(Same as above.)

5. Lily:

*Yo soy el lirio hermoso
de fino amor retratado
con hermosura y candor doy vista
y alegre el más triste prado.*

I am the lovely Lily,
the image of noble love,
with beauty and radiance
I brighten the saddest
meadow.

—O—

*Con mi esfera levantada
y reluciente esplendor
creo que nadie me excede
ni la más sublime flor.*

With my head held high
and resplendent glow,
I believe none exceed me—
not even the most exalted
flower.

Let us bless the right hand
that made Earth and
Heaven,
all that is seen on Earth—
His love and mercy He
shows us.

*Bendigamos a la diestra
que hizo la tierra y el cielo
cuanto se ostenta en el suelo
su amor y piedad nos muestra.*

—O—

For He created the grass in
the fields—
and among the grass, the
flowers,
with their delicate scent
and vibrant colors.

*Pues creó la hierba en el campo
entre la hierba . . . las flores
y su aroma delicado
y sus vistosos colores.*

—O—

Let us bless the right hand
that elevated me so,
who with infinite power
formed us out of nothing.

*Bendigamos a la diestra
que tanto en mí se sublimó
con su poder infinito
de nada nos formó.*

—O—

Here I am, my Lady,
offering obedient
devotion—
let us crown her joyfully
with a new tribute!

*Aquí me tenéis Señora
con obediencia rendido
coronémosla gustosos
ile baremos un nuevo cumplido!*

—O—

Spring and Gardener sing:

Oh! Precious Lily, we offer
you our praise, for in
serving Mary you do so with
true fervor.

*¡Ob! Lirio precioso parabienes os doy
que al servir a María lo hacéis con todo fervor.*

6. Daisy:

*Yo soy la flor Margarita
que con humildad y amor*

I am the Daisy flower,
who with humility and love

*soy dedicada al Señor
por preciosa y exquisita.*

—O—

*Alabo al autor supremo
de la gran naturaleza
que con tanta profesión
ostentó en mí su grandeza.*

—O—

*¡Oh inescrutable poder!
no lo puedo investigar
la causa, que entre vergeles
me quisiste a mí formar.*

—O—

*Justo es que en esta ocasión
sirva con toda alegría
al soberano Señor
casto esposo de María.*

am devoted to the Lord,
for being precious and
exquisite.

I praise the supreme
Author
of great nature,
who with such skill
displayed His greatness in
me.

Oh, unfathomable power!
I cannot comprehend
why, among gardens,
You chose to make me
bloom.

It is just that on this
occasion,
I serve with all joy
the sovereign Lord,
chaste spouse of Mary.

Spring and Gardener sing:

Lovely Daisy,
oh, unique flower,
today we crown
the King of Heaven.

*Bella Margarita, Ob flor singular
boy al rey del cielo, vamos a coronar.*

—O—

7. Tribute:

*Ya sabes bella Señora
que siendo hierba del campo
recibo grandes placeres
porque por Dios fue formado.*

—O—

You already know,
lovely Lady, that though I
am but grass of the field,
I receive great pleasures,
for I was formed by God.

*No nací para mí mismo
mi atribución es servir
al Creador del Universo
que me supo distinguir.*

—O—

*Atributo soy, iqué placer!
mi gloria eternamente
es que el cielo me ha distinguido
con nombre tan excelente.*

—O—

*Centinela soy de flores
y el más considerado
como es la flor es la vida
las lecciones me ha dado.*

—O—

*Las bellas de púrpura bañadas
y de rosicler vestidas
en un abrir y cerrar de ojos
las veo desvanecidas.*

—O—

*Sólo Dios es permanente
el rey del mundo celestial
que con su Ser nos da ser
y nos preserva del mal.*

—O—

*Gozaré de suave olor
y de fragante devoción*

I was not born for
myself—
my purpose is to serve
the Creator of the
Universe,
who chose me with care.

I am called tribute—what
joy! My eternal glory is
that Heaven has honored
me with such an excellent
name.

I am a sentinel of flowers,
the most respected
one—for as the flower is,
so is life; they have taught
me lessons.

Those beauties bathed in
purple
and dressed in rosy hues—
in the blink of an eye,
I see them vanish.

Only God is everlasting,
King of the celestial realm,
Who protects us from
harm.

I will enjoy sweet
fragrance
and devout devotion

in offerings and praises,
with all my heart.

*en obsequios y alabanzas
de todo corazón.*

—O—

What joy and happiness
these sweet tidings
bring me...

*Qué placer y qué alegría
dándome dulces albricias (va. . .).*

8. *Delight:*

¡Oh! dichosa yo mil veces, feliz
me puedo llamar pues llegó el
dichoso día, en que puedo
cooperar en adornar la corona,
del santo singular.

Oh, how blissful I am,
a thousand times—
I can truly call myself happy,
for the blessed day has come
when I can take part
in adorning the crown
of the most singular saint.

—O—

Let me now give you my
name—
remember who I am:
"Delight of the Morning"
presents herself to you
today.

*Mi nombre ya os daré
tened presente quien soy
"Delicia de la mañana"
se os presenta el día de hoy.*

—O—

Daylight is surprised
by my beautiful color—
it marvels and rejoices,
giving thanks to the Creator.
I lift my gaze
to my sovereign Maker.

*Se sorprende el día, al ver mi hermoso color
se admira y se complace y da gracias al Creador
Yo dirijo mis miradas, a mi soberano autor.*

—O—

But at this moment,
what joy, my Lady,
to serve with happiness
in this joyful celebration.

*Pero en este instante,
qué éxito Señora
serviré con alegría
en la festividad de ahora.*

—O—

Indescribable is the pleasure
we all now enjoy—
"Broom" has now arrived;
we need more flowers today.

*Indecible es el placer
que todos hoy disfrutamos
"El Retámaro" ya ha venido
flores hoy necesitamos.*

If only we could, with care,
with joy and jubilation,
bless the pure Saint
we celebrate on this day!

*Quien pudiera con esmero
con júbilo y alegría
bendecir al Santo mero
que celebramos este día.*

—O—

* *Spring and Gardener sing:*

Oh, beautiful Delight,
you are unmatched in
charm.
You shall adorn this crown—
yes, let Delights also come
to decorate the crown!

*¡Oh! bella Delicia
Hermosa eres sin par
aquesta corona la vais a adornar.
A adornar la corona
vengan también las Delicias.*

—O—

Let us offer praises
and we shall find their great
reward—
of virtue and virtues—
this I ask as the Tribute.

*Tributémosles alabanzas
y ballaremos su gran fruto
de virtud y de virtudes
es lo que pido como Atributo.*

Spring and Gardener sing:

Oh, beautiful Tribute!
You are the guardian of the
flowers,
for you are ever honored
with many glories.

*¡Oh, hermoso Atributo!
guarda eres de las flores
pues que siempre gozas
de muchos honores.*

—O—

9. *Broom:*

*Yo soy el triste Retámaro
y me ballo tan consternado
porque en los mejores jardines
me ven como despreciado.*

—O—

I am the humble
Broom,
and I find myself
disheartened,
for in the finest
gardens
I am often seen as
worthless.

*Mi humildad, mi abatimiento
mi situación despreciable
acaso al Casto José
llegará a ser agradable.*

—O—

*Me ofrezco con gran tristeza
por no ser pulida flor
pero mi afecto es muy grande
y me desbago en amor.*

—O—

Spring and Gardener sing:

*Que ejemplo nos dais
Retámaro amado
por vuestra humildad
boy seréis ensalzado.*

—O—

10. Dahlia:

*(Jocosamente).
Yo soy la mentada Dalia
entre las flores. . . preciosa
y puedo conjeturar
que le supero a la Rosa.*

—O—

*Si porque soy amarilla
piensan que tengo tristeza,
algo de melancolía. . .
¡Es propio de mi fineza!*

—O—

My humility, my
lowliness,
my despicable state—
perhaps to Chaste
Joseph
these might be pleasing.

I offer myself in sadness,
for I am not a refined
flower;
but my affection is
immense—
I dissolve in love.

What an example you give,
beloved Broom—
for your humility
you shall now be exalted.

(Playfully)

I am the famed Dahlia—
among the flowers... the
most precious!
And I dare suppose
that I outshine even the
Rose.

If it's because I'm yellow
that they think I am
sorrowful,
a bit melancholic...
well, that's part of my
refinement!

In fragrance, the lily beats
me,
and if it's the Daisy,
she may be "cute,"
but not much of a
treasure.

—O—

I have the better looks—
seeing the lily in her slip,
she doesn't even know
how to dress—
and that gives me much
laughter!

—O—

The Carnation, the Lily, and
Jasmine—
and all the others nearby—
I sweep them all away,
and forget about them at
once!

I almost forgot—
from being such a chatterbox,
that I, too, can serve
in this lovely crown.

Spring and Gardener sing:

A thousand thanks to
Heaven,
for granting us
the joy of forming this crown
we have promised to them.
United, we flowers
offer you, good people,
this crown—
of blossoms and of love.

*En lo suave de el olor
la azucena me aventaja
y si es la flor Margarita
muy "cbula" se bace la albaja.*

*Soy de mejor parecer
viendo a la azucena en camisa
ella. . . ni se sabe vestir
eso me da mucha risa.*

*Del Clavel, Lirio y Jazmín
y cuantos se encuentran con ellos
a todos me los embolso
y ya no me acuerdo de ellos.*

*Ya se me había olvidado
por querer ser muy hablona
que también puedo servir
en esa hermosa corona.*

—O—

*Mil gracias al cielo, que nos han concedido
formar la corona, que a ellos hemos ofrecido.
Las flores unidas, les ofrecemos Señores
aquesta corona, de flores y de amor.*

—O—

After placing the crown, Spring recites:*Spring:*

¡Oh! flores, qué complacencia y qué
gozo, si gustáis, este día un trenzado
formaremos en obsequio a José y a
María a quienes dedicaremos
nuestra diversión sencilla.

Oh, flowers, what delight
and what joy, if you agree,
on this day we shall weave
a braid in honor
of Joseph and Mary,
to whom we dedicate
our simple celebration.

Chorus response:

We shall gladly do so—for Saint Joseph and Mary!

Todos lo haremos gustosos, por San José y María.

**The flowers form a circle around the canopy, each one taking a ribbon
tip equidistantly.**

The braid dance begins.

EVERYONE SINGS:

Hoy las dichosas flores celebran con alegría el
dulcísimo nombre de la emperatriz María. Hoy
en este día, enseñan bellos resplandores la
reina hermosa aparece, para hacernos mil
favores.

Venid ángeles del cielo, venid los hombres
rendidos venid con justo anhelo, venid todos
hoy unidos.

En lo alto del cielo reina y madre mía acoge a
todo aquel que llora, y Dios te salve María.

Today the blessed flowers celebrate with
joy the sweetest name of Empress Mary.
Today, on this day, they show beautiful
brilliance— the lovely queen appears
to grant us many favors. Come, angels from
heaven, come, devoted people,
come with just longing, come, all of you
united today. In the heights of heaven
reign, my mother— receive all who weep,
and Hail Mary to you.

Recitation:

1. Broom:

*Los ángeles y las flores
pedimos con viva fe
que sirvan la devoción
al nuestro patrón San José.*

The angels and the flowers
ask with lively faith
that they may serve in devotion
to our patron Saint Joseph.