

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: An Analytical and Comparative Study of Francisco Tárrega's Two Volumes of Guitar Studies: Volume One—Thirty Elementary Level Studies and Volume Two—Twenty-Five Intermediate and Advanced Level Studies

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The purpose of this study is to understand the principles of the “School of Tárrega” by analyzing Tárrega’s thirty elementary-level studies and twenty-five intermediate- and advanced- level studies according to books written by Pujol and Roch. Tárrega set the modern sitting position based on the guitar of luthier Antonio Torres’, and two of Tárrega’s outstanding pupils, Roch and Pujol, wrote three volumes of methods, which are the foundations of the “School of Tárrega.” Therefore, the principles of the School of Tárrega, such as sitting and playing positions, right- and left-hand playing positions, right- and left-hand finger movements, and sound quality are first discussed in this study. Then, the fifty-five guitar studies are discussed and analyzed in groups according to their different technical purposes, such as scale playing, arpeggio playing, blocked chords, barré technique, slur technique, and special sound effects. When applicable, the modern technique will also be visited and compared for understanding the similarities and differences between the modern approach and the School of Tárrega.