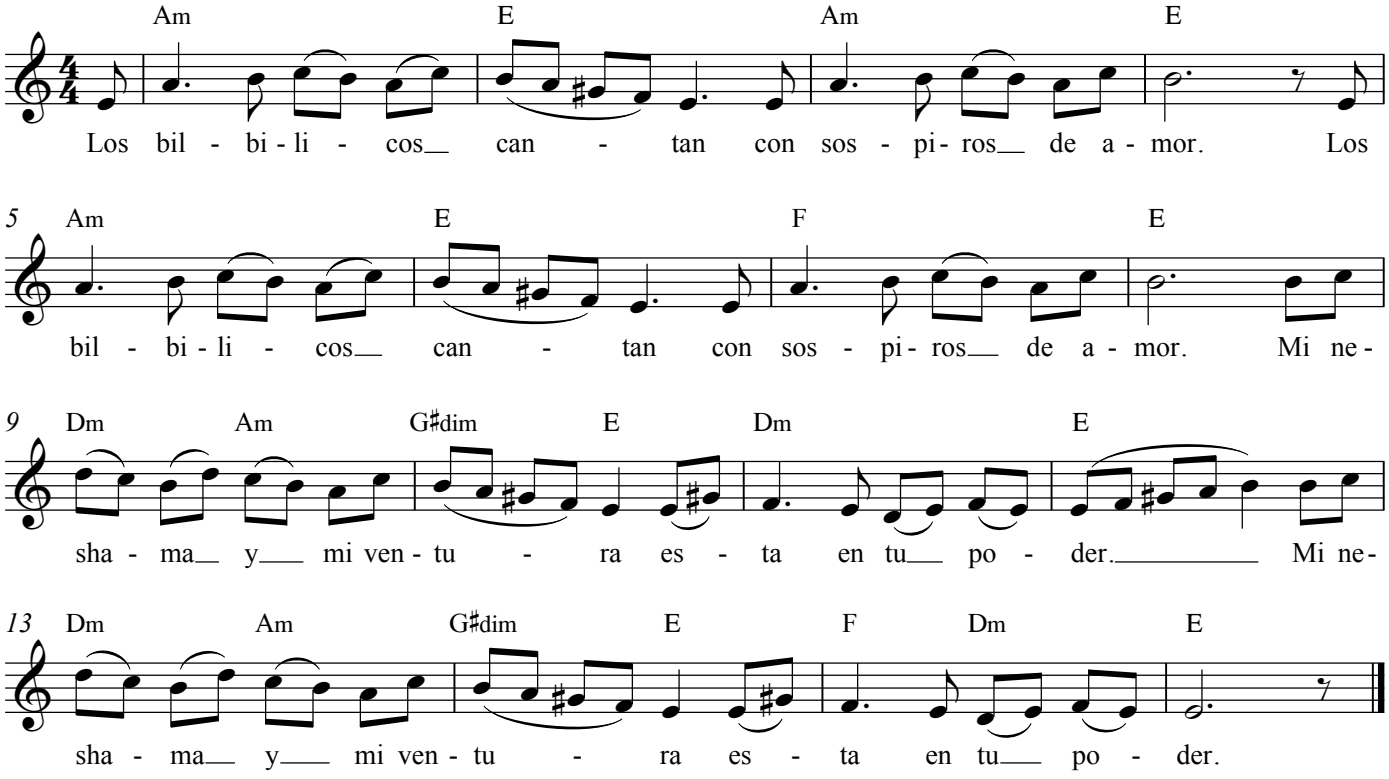
Los Bilbilicos

(The Nightingales)

Freely ♩ = 80
Set all G's sharp

Trad. Ladino
Judeo-Spanish



The nightingales sing with sighs of love.
My soul and my fate are in your power.

Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish, is the Hispanic language of the Sephardic Jews. When the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, they continued to speak this combination of medieval Castilian and Hebrew in the countries to which they emigrated. Los Bilbilicos is a very old song, possibly Andalusian in origin. As is often the case with old songs, there are many variations on the lyrics, the phrasing, the ornamentation, the order of the verses, and even the title (sometimes called La Rosa Enflorece). The melody is a modal variation of the harmonic minor scale (called Freygish in Hebrew music, or Hijaz in Arabic music).

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