

ESTRELLA MORENTE

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Song: Estrella Morente

Guitar: Motoyita, Monti

Choruses and *compás*: Antonio Carbonell, Angel Gabarre, Kiki

Percussion and choruses: Popo

Song

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SAN LORENZO DEL ESCORIAL

TEATRO AUDITORIO (THEATER AUDITORIUM)

SATURDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 20:00

### THE PRINCESS IN THE LAND OF BIRDS

She was born to sing. Very few people are gifted with such an expressive voice from such a young age. And this doesn't necessarily happen just because you've been living and breathing *arte jondo* (the "deep art" of flamenco) all your life. Rather, it is a natural talent that has made Estrella deserving of some of the best critiques in our country. She has become a point of reference and is one of today's most popular *cantaoras* (flamenco singers). Estrella seems to move people with her *cante* (flamenco singing) and astound them with her strong stage presence, "singing with her entire body". Her voice is hard to describe, but it has the ability to make any musical style she sets out to try sound simply divine. Although strongly influenced by her father's art, Estrella likes to add her own personal touch: *fados*, *coplas*, *sevillanas*, blues, jazz...

Her album, *Mi cante y un poema* (My Song and a Poem), proves that her true talent lies in *cante* (flamenco singing). Her *cante* is triumphant and has captivated flamenco lovers everywhere.

*"My father said, 'go ahead, sing flamenco' and I followed his advice. I knew it was my calling and my destiny to become a 'cantaora'."*

On stage, she is a phenomenal artist, full of beauty, perfectly in tune, and imbued with the spirit flamenco artists call *duende*, a spirit that reaches her through everyone around her: the people in her neighborhood, her father, her mother and her grandmother. Today, she has become a major figure in *cante flamenco*. This is how Miguel Mora described her in *El País*: *The princess in the land of birds*.

#### PROGRAMA\*

- Alegrías
- Tangos
- Soleá por Bulerías
- Taranta
- Granaína
- Instrumental
- La Estrella
- Bulería
- Oye
- Volver

\* The artist saves himself the right to modify the program

Estrella Morente was born in Granada in 1980 and is the daughter of flamenco singer Enrique Morente and *bailaora* (flamenco dancer) Aurora Carbonell. Her uncles and grandfather were also guitarists, which accounts for the huge role flamenco played in her life as she was growing up. Estrella is an ardent fan of La Niña de los Peines, Camarón de la Isla, Marchena, Vallejo and, of course, of her own father, with whom she has worked both on stage and behind the scenes in the process of putting some of his shows together. She has also sung and shared the stage with the likes of Chano Lobato, Juan Habichuela, Juan Manuel Cañizares, Imperio Argentina, Tomatito, Martirio and Carmen Linares, who presented Estrella at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville during a tribute to La Argentinita. "This little girl will put us all into retirement," said Linares.

At the age of four, she sang *cantes de levante*. At age seven, she recorded her first single along with Sabicas. And, at age sixteen, she impressed a crowd of thousands at the inauguration of Sierra Nevada's Skiing World Cup. Her debut in Madrid, in the spring of 1997, was equally amazing.

Worth highlighting among her records are: *Mi cante y un poema* (My Song and a Poem - 2001), which she dedicated to her grandfather, the guitarist known as Montoyita, the album was launched worldwide by Peter Gabriel's record label (Gabriel is said to have been fascinated by her singing); *Calle del aire* (Air Street- 2001), featuring folk songs and Christmas carols; *Mujeres* (Women- 2006), where the singer from Granada gives her personal perspective on several women that she admires in the world of art; and the DVD *Casacueva y escenario* (Cave Dwelling and Stage- 2007), which offers an overview of Estrella Morente's career as an artist. In addition to her own recordings, Estrella has also sung on the soundtracks for films such as Pedro Almodóvar's *Volver*, Carlos Saura's *Buñuel y la mesa del rey Salomón* (Buñuel and King Solomon's Table) and *Sobreviviré* (I Will Survive). Her new album, *Antología* (Anthology), was recorded in 2009.

Estrella Morente is "the future and the present, Estrella really sings flamenco," and she has managed to prove as much on some of our country's main stages and at many key events, among them: La Cartuja Auditorium's Flamenco Biennial, the Festival Internacional del Cante de la Minas de La Unión, Cartagena's Festival La Mar de Músicas, Barcelona's Festival del Mileni, the inauguration of Málaga's Picasso Museum and Granada's International Music and Dance Festival.

She debuted abroad at the Barbican Centre in London in July 2005 with a show called *Pastora 1922* in which her father Enrique stages a tribute to La Niña de los Peines. Estrella left British fans, including celebrities such as Billy Cobham and Hugh Grant, ecstatic. She also toured with *Mujeres* (Women), visiting New York's Broadway, Marseille's Fiesta des Suds Festival and major cities around Italy. In 2008, she toured around Europe, offering concerts in Oslo, Helsinki, Sofia and Lisbon, among other cities. She also joined Dulce Pontes for a recital called *Dulce Estrella*. In 2009, her voice resounded in Holland, the United States and in Great Britain, and she also completed a tour of Scandinavia and Mexico.

Estrella won the Premio de la Música award for Best Flamenco Album in 2006, she was the recipient of an Ondas Award for the Best Flamenco Creation, and she has been nominated for the Latin Grammy Awards and for the Premios Amigo awards. Her first album went platinum and her second was a gold record.

Estrella arouses passions. She represents hope and renewal. This great artist is not content to be the typical apple that hasn't fallen far from one of the most innovative, daring and brilliant "trees" in today's music scene (her father is Enrique Morente). Instead, Estrella's sweet and talented voice has the gift of touching those who hear it and moving them to tears. This is precisely what happened to guitar master Sabicas when he asked her to sing a *taranta* for him when she was just eight years old. Even when she was just a baby, Estrella is said to have cried to the rhythm of her grandfather Montoyita's guitar whenever he sat by her crib to soothe her.

Estrella has a thorough understanding of the roots of *cante* (flamenco singing). She is one of the chosen few destined to make *cante* grow and to completely renovate it. "Estrella" means "star", and her parents could not possibly have chosen a more appropriate and revealing name for her. Estrella is truly a star. Estrella was born under a lucky star.