

GERARDO NÚÑEZ

Guitar: Gerardo Núñez

Second guitar: Manuel Valencia

Dancing: Carmen Cortés

Flamenco Singing: Jesús Méndez

Double Bass: Pablo Martín

Cajón (Rhythm Box): *Cepillo* (Brush)

Guitar

CHINCHÓN

PLAZA MAYOR

SATURDAY, JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 22:00

GERARDO NÚÑEZ in concert

Fine personal *falsetas* (guitar solos), complex harmonies, not pressing the strings so the notes won't echo, soft strumming and caresses... this is all part of a basic concert by the guitarist from Jerez who will once again display his mastery and genius.

Núñez is accompanied by Carmen Cortés' racial and delicate footwork, El Cepillo's brisk pace, Pablo Martín plucking at the bass, Jesús Méndez's elegant singing and Manuel Valencia's guitar playing. Together they form a group that is so well integrated, it serves to heighten Gerardo Núñez's virtuosity.

**Gerardo Núñez.** Gerardo Núñez (Jerez de la Frontera, 1961) is a great performer and composer. He is considered one of the best flamenco guitarists alive. His main virtues are amazing execution, technique, strength, exceptional talent, rhythm, *compás* (beat), musical creativity and a feel for innovation. His curiosity has led him to respectfully and seriously explore other musical styles, such as symphonic rock, classical music and especially jazz. Gerardo's expertise and sensibility for combining jazz sounds with certain flamenco *palos* (styles) have contributed to his work with Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci and Arto Tuncboyacin, and with Eberhard Weber, Richard Galliano and Erico Raba, among many others.

At age fourteen, when he was studying guitar with Rafael del Águila, Núñez was already a *virtuoso* guitarist. He began to accompany well-known *cantaoras* (flamenco singers) such as Tío Borríco, Manuel Mairena, José de la Tomasa, Terremoto de Jerez and La Paquera. After playing with Paco Cepero on an intense tour all over Japan, Núñez joined Mario Maya's company as a concert guitarist. Soon afterward, he decided to work for himself and formed an artistic duo with his partner, outstanding *bailaora* Carmen Cortés, for whom he has written pieces such as *A contraluz*, *Memoria del cobre*, *Cantes de ida y vuelta*, *Los Gabrieles...* and adaptation for four guitars of Manuel de Falla's *El amor brujo*. In the 1980's he settled in Madrid, where his interest in jazz led him to participate in several different bands: Dave Thomas, José Antonio Galicia, Tomás San Miguel, Paquito D'Rivera.

Núñez has also participated in several theater plays as a composer, performer and concert guitarist and he has composed some interesting symphonies. In 1998, after joining Eberhard Weber, Richard Galliano and Erico Raba's band, he recorded *Calima* with Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci and Arto Tuncboyacin in the US. The record won them several awards and is further proof that the combination of traditional styles such as flamenco with more cutting edge techniques such as jazz can result in great music. But, Núñez's American adventure had only just begun. Gerardo later joined a guitar quartet called International Guitar Night that Alex Gras, Paolo Bellinati and Briam Gare had formed in San Francisco. Thanks to this ensemble, Gerardo's guitar strumming was heard in major cities throughout the US.

As far as flamenco is concerned, Núñez's discography is worth noting as it illustrates the best aspects of the flamenco guitar's evolution, with pieces such as *Flamencos en Nueva York*, *El Gallo Azul*, *Jucal*, and *Andando el tiempo*.