

ENRIQUE DE MELCHOR & Septeto

Guitar: Enrique de Melchor

Second Guitar: Juan Miguel Manzano

Flute: Juan Parrilla

Percussion: El Guille

Cantaor (Flamenco Singer): Leo Triviño

Choruses and *compás*: Marta and Loli Heredia

Bailarora (Flamenco Dancer): Karine Amaya

Guitar

ALCALÁ DE HENARES

TEATRO SALON CERVANTES (CERVANTES THEATER HALL)

SATURDAY, JUNE 5TH AT 21:00

FLAMENCO GUITAR CONCERT

"I don't play for the audience, I play for myself. If the audience likes it, so much the better. Honestly, I cannot play to please the audience. First I have to like it myself. Plus, when you do something you like, it's almost certain that others will like it too. That's the only way to be honest."

Enrique de Melchor

He has inherited his father's master of *cante* (flamenco singing) as well as his sensitivity. He cut his teeth working in *tablaos* and has a deep understanding of musical trends around the world, which he assimilates in order to build his own concept of flamenco music.

He conveys current-day feelings and emotions with an original base of orthodox flamenco. All of this makes Enrique de Melchor one of the most important and popular flamenco guitarists of recent times.

Enrique de Melchor. "It's in his blood", is a popular expression that is very appropriate when applied to guitarist Enrique de Melchor. He was born in Marchena (Seville) 58 years ago. When he was a boy, his father, master guitarist Melchor de Marchena, taught him to love the guitar, flamenco and music. Enrique soon developed his own characteristic style and sound, which quickly surpassed his father's legacy, until Enrique himself became one of the most coveted guitarists to accompany *cante* (flamenco singing) and *baile* (flamenco dancing), a talent he acquired thanks to the teachings of Manolo Caracol, who gave him his first chance as an artist at the Los Canasteros *tablao* (flamenco venue) where Enrique worked for five years alongside other great professionals.

It was there that Enrique discovered Paco de Lucía, who was amazed at his technique and suggested they play together. And so, Paco de Lucía and Enrique de Melchor spent years traveling around the world giving concerts together.

At age 18, de Melchor won the Jerez Cátedra de Flamencología's National Award as well as La Unión's El Castillete de Oro.

Later, he joined the cast of artists at Torres Bermejas, accompanying major figures of *cante* (flamenco singing), such as Camarón de la Isla, La Perla de Cádiz, Pansequito, El Turroneiro and Fosforito, among others, on his guitar.

His first sound recording session was with flamenco great Antonio Mairena and he went on to record with the likes of Carmen Linares, Rocío Jurado, Chiquetete, María Jiménez, El Fary, El Lebrijano, Enrique Morente, Fosforito, José Mercé, José Menese and Paco de Lucía.

Enrique de Melchor outdid himself in each recording. He was deft at adapting his guitar playing to the particular singing style of each of the artists he accompanied. So much so that he soon gained a reputation as the best guitar player for *cante* (flamenco singing) and thus became an indispensable presence at most flamenco events.

Enrique also stood out as a soloist and composer. In fact, some of his *falsestas* (melodic phrases between song verses) have become classics and the general public tends to consider them part of our popular tradition.

Enrique has performed as a soloist on some of the most important stages in the world: London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Madrid's Teatro Real, Barcelona's Liceo, New York's Carnegie Hall and the Jazz Festival in Madrid. He also participated, along with José Menese and two of the greatest voices of *bel canto* (José Carreras and Montserrat Caballé), in a concert offered by Spain's National Orchestra at the UN Theater in New York.

Enrique de Melchor had already launched three albums, but his recording career really began to take off in 1991, with the Fonomusic label. In his record, *La noche y el día* (Day and Night), the master plays tribute to those major figures of *cante* (flamenco singers) to whom he is so indebted. His latest record, *Raíz Flamenca* (Flamenco Root), is the seventh in his career. In it, de Melchor offers an overview of the works he recorded for Fonomusic, he's selected both new and old songs, all of them his own compositions.

Along with Paco de Lucía and Manolo Sanlúcar, Enrique de Melchor is one of the key members of this brilliant generation that has produced some of the most masterful guitar players in Spanish history.