

TALEGÓN DE CÓRDOBA and SONIA MIRANDA

Flamenco Singing: Talegón de Córdoba, Sonia Miranda
Guitar: Paco Cortés

Song

TORRELAGUNA
PLAZA MAYOR
SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH AT 22:00

TALEGÓN DE CÓRDOBA and SONIA MIRANDA in concert

Art has many roads and Talegón follows his own chosen path in the hopes of occupying the space he deserves with great wisdom, intoning the *cantes* (flamenco songs) of his beloved Andalusia, *caracoles*, *tientos*, *tangos*, *fandangos*, *tarantos*, *cantiñas*, *alegrías*... and accompanied only by Paco Cortés' *toque* (guitar playing). That's all he needs.

Belmonte said "one sings as one is" and, in Sonia Miranda's case, he was right. Because, like her, her *cante* (flamenco singing) is a profusion of sweetness and emotion; honest, intimate and thrilling with a voice that is full of nuances and flees all false pretenses.

Talegón de Córdoba. Manuel Aranda Zamorano 'Talegón de Córdoba' is an exceptional *cantaor* (flamenco singer) and a true *maestro*, in every sense of the word. At age 65, his portentous voice remains intact, and he uses it to masterfully interpret whatever *palos* (flamenco styles) come his way. When he's not on stage showing off his talent, Talegón is usually busy passing on his knowledge, teaching *cante* (flamenco singing) at Amor de Dios and Casa Paca.

Flamenco is Manuel Aranda's life. His aunt is María 'la Talegona'. He was orphaned when he was still very young and was forced to leave the neighborhood (Costanillas and Córdoba's Jewish Quarter) where he first began to sing, in order to move to Madrid. In the capital, he scraped together a living by working in *tablaos* and this allowed him to meet some of the most outstanding *maestros* of *arte grande* (the "major art" that is flamenco). He admits that this was, "a magnificent and delightful period," in his life. He has been based in Madrid ever since. Although he has a house in Córdoba, his professional commitments do not allow him to spend much time there.

Flamenco professionals and artists hold Talegón in high regard as a *cantaor* (flamenco singer) and, not surprisingly, some of the most important dance companies have requested his services. He has accompanied great artists like Antonio "El Bailarín", Antonio Gades, and believes that, "knowing how to sing to accompany dancing, known as *cantar 'detrás*, gives you the experience, sense of rhythm and stage presence necessary to sing *adelante* as a main performer with no problem." Talegón believes flamenco is full of untrue stereotypes, "like that whole thing about *cante grande*, or major song, and minor or *chico* song, because the idea is really to sing well, it has nothing to do with major or minor, gypsy or non-gypsy."

And he'll continue to battle it out on the front line as long as his voice and health hold up, enjoying the total anarchy that makes flamenco music unique and different from every other type of music. "That is why whenever, in our travels around the world, we meet performers working in other disciplines, they invariably listen to the way we sing, play guitar and dance and fall in love."

Sonia Miranda. She was raised in Almería but born in Isla Mayor (Seville) and growing up in the lowlands of the Guadalquivir has undoubtedly left its mark on this woman who was born with an innate appreciation of music in general and flamenco in particular.

She didn't realize that this ability, along with her desire to improve herself, her thirst for knowledge and her tremendous dignity, would allow her to make a living doing what she loves the most: singing.

Her experience has made her keenly aware of just how privileged she is to be able to dedicate her life to her greatest passion. Experience has also taught her that life is no bed of roses, that there is no set path to follow, that one has to forge one's own path, and that this path never ends, or rather, that each of us can take that path to get wherever it is we feel we need to go. What matters is that you stay on the path, enjoy it and walk calmly, with satisfaction and take things seriously.

Miranda is clearly influenced by the *Sevillana* School. She stands out as a well-rounded *cantaora* (flamenco singer) whose repertoire includes both popular, well-known *cantes* (flamenco songs) and a series of *cantes* that are now rarely heard. She excels for her original performances, full of sensitivity and nuances.

Miranda's track record includes singing in some of the most important flamenco *peñas* (folk clubs) in Spain, as well as participating in important events such as Jerez's Festival 2008, Suma Flamenca 2008, Seville's Biennial 2006, and Málaga en Flamenco 2005, not to mention her performances at international festivals like the ones in New York, Berlin, Grenoble, Miami, Lille, Utrecht, and Amsterdam.

After collaborating on different projects with several other artists, in 2006 she launched her own solo record, *Garabato* (Doodle) produced by Miguel A. Cortés. The record was chosen Best First Album by the specialized on-line magazine *Deflamenco.com*.