

TOMATITO

Guitar: Tomatito
Second Guitarist: Cristy
Vocals: Simón Román
Vocals: Morenito de Íllora
Percussion: Lucky Losada
Dance: José Maya

Guitar

BUITRAGO DE LOZOYA
PATIO DE ARMAS DEL RECINTO AMURALLADO
SATURDAY, JULY 2ND AT 22

LUZ DE GUÍA

After his appearance at the Seville Biennial the Almeria guitarist Tomatito is appearing at Suma Flamenca to present *Luz de guía*, a tribute to the person who is and always will be his point of reference: Camarón de la Isla.

In a meeting with journalists, the guitarist said about Camarón: *He's always in my mind, he's the one who guides me. I was with him for 20 years, from I was a boy of 15; I owe him everything, he is still very special for me and he is the one who continues to guide me along the right path.*

Some of the music and lyrics in the concert will recall Camarón but there will be time to move through the sounds of South America via the versions which, from his personal view as a flamenco guitarist, Tomatito has made of musicians from other cultures such as the Argentinean Astor Piazzolla, the Turk Erkan Ogur and the Dominican Michel Camilo.

Luz de guía is a retrospective of all his discography, going from his first album in 1987, *Rosas del amor*, to the recently published *Sonanta Suite*, or the penultimate one which he recorded with the pianist Michel Camilo.

After the legendary Camarón de la Isla passed away, Tomatito became a soloist of maximum importance within the world of flamenco guitar. His way of tackling both sober styles and festive ones displays an unprecedented sensitivity and an uncommon interpretative gift. With this retrospective Tomatito allows us to share in the intangible magic, the captivating rhythm and the emotive power of flamenco as only he can do.

The critic Gonzalo Montaña Peña wrote about the show's premiere at the last Seville festival: *... I thought it was a good concert when we heard the Tomatito we were all expecting, when he left us dishevelled with his rhythmic typhoon and delighted us with his most flamenco sound, the sound that makes him who he is and that will continue being his sign of identity while he continues to play the guitar.*

Tomatito is José Fernández Torres' stage name. This flamenco guitarist was born in Almería's Pescadería district in 1958. The son of José Fernández Castro, "El Tomate", and grandson of Miguel Fernández

Cortés (also known as "El Tomate" and a regular at flamenco gatherings at the start of the century), Tomatito has a passion for guitar in his blood. He debuted when he was just ten years old as an accompanying

guitarist at Peña el Taranto in Almería. At age twelve, he moved to Malaga, where he began his career in music performing at Taberna Guitarra. There he met Camarón de la Isla, Tomatito's main influence. From the next 18 years, Tomatito accompanied the *maestro* from San Fernando both at live recitals and on a great many recordings. Thanks to this, he played in major cities in the world of music, such as Montreux and New York. Following Camarón's death, Tomatito began his career as a soloist, amazing audiences with his great quality as a concert guitarist. Tomatito stands out for his rhythmic virtuosity and a guitar playing style that is both traditional and innovative. His extraordinarily charismatic personality and his ongoing commitment to developing and spreading flamenco around the world have won him hard-earned recognition, not only in the world of music but also in film, theater and art.

Tomatito has appeared in the film *The Devil's Advocate*, starring Al Pacino, and also won a César Award as co-author of the soundtrack for the French film *Vengo*, directed by Tony Gatlif. For theater, he has composed music for *Madre Caballo*, starring Teréle Pávez; *Salomé* a show directed by Carlos Saura for the Aida Gómez Ballet; and *Romeo X Julieta*, a project for which Tomatito won Best Musical Director at the Max Awards for the Performing Arts.

Some of his most outstanding personal performances include his participation in the El Giraldillo del Toque Competition at the 3rd Bienal de Flamenco in Sevilla, in 1984; the Festival Cumbre Flamenca at the Teatro Alcalá Palace, in Madrid, in 1985; the City of Madrid's Los Veranos de la Villa, in 1991; and the first edition of Madrid's Festival Flamenco, 1993. Of course, he is a constant presence at Flamenco Festivals in Almería, and has received, among other awards, the El Taranto de Oro trophy and the Lucas López, awarded by the El Taranto *peña* (social club) in Almería.

Critics and audiences alike have praised Tomatito's participation in international festivals such as Montreux, New York, Basel and Poland; the International Music Festival

in Istanbul (Turkey); the International Guitar Festival in Lyon (France); Barcelona's Grec; Los Veranos de la Villa... Tomatito's guitar has also been heard in many prestigious venues, including Madrid's Auditorio Nacional de Música; Barcelona's Palau de la Música Catalana; Valencia's Palau de la Música; New York's Carnegie Hall; and London's Royal Albert Hall, where he was the first guitar soloist to step on the stage.

The flamenco musicians he most admires include Enrique Morente, José Mercé, Potito, El Cigala, Duquende, Carmen Linares and Remedios Amaya. As for the international scene, Tomatito confesses he has been influenced by jazz artists such as Wes Montgomery, Pat Metheny, George Benson, Django Reinhardt, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker and Mingus and by blues and Latin rock musicians such as Santana, Pablo and Luis Salinas, B.B.King, Chuck Berry and Eric Clapton.

Tomatito has recorded albums as a soloist, including *Rosas del amor* ("Roses of Love", 1987); *Barrio negro* ("Black Neighborhood", 1991); *Guitarra gitana* ("Gypsy Guitar", 1997); *Spain* (2000), which won him a Latin Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album. The guitarist from Almería had already won another Latin Grammy for Best Flamenco Album as an accompanist for Camarón de la Isla on the album *Paris 1987*. In 2001 Tomatito released an album called *Paseo de los Castaños* ("Chestnut Walk"); in 2004 *Aguadulce* ("Freshwater"), in which he recalls his homeland; and *Spain Again* was released in 2006. This last album marked his second collaboration with prestigious pianist Michel Camilo.

Tomatito's latest recordings are *Anthology 1998-2008* (2008) and *Sonanta Suite* (2010), this last album was recorded with the Spanish National Orchestra.

In addition to this discography, Tomatito has also recorded a great number of live and studio records all over the world with artists as different as Camarón de la Isla, Paco de Lucía, Enrique Morente, Diego el Cigala, Frank Sinatra, Elton John, Neneh Cherry, John McLaughlin, Irakere, Chick Corea, Carlos Cano, Mecano...

Dossier de prensa

His projects for this year include presentations at the Koln Philharmonie, Festspielhaus Baden Baden, Moscow International House of Music, Dubrovnik's

Summer Festival and the Bulgaria Concert Hall in Sofia.

In recognition of his career, Jerez's Cátedra de Flamencología has just awarded Tomatito the National Guitar Award.