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IDAN RAICHEL\* and DIEGO GUERRERO

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*From Israel*

Vocals and Piano: Idan Raichel

Oud and Tar: Shalom Mor

Vocals and Musical Direction: Diego Guerrero

Vocals: Saúl Quirós, Naïke Ponce

Flamenco Guitar: José Fernández "Petete"

Bass and Vocals: Dany Noel

Piano: Luís Guerra

Percussion: Nasrine Rahmani

Drums: Georvis Pico

Dance: Belén López

\*In association with the Israeli Embassy in Spain

Song, guitar
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MADRID

TEATRO DE LA ABADÍA – SALA SAN JUAN DE LA CRUZ

THURSDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 20:30

### FLAMENCO ON THE BORDER

A third spectacle forms part of this section that we have called FLAMENCO ON THE BORDER and in which Suma Flamenca once again opens its doors to the sister arts of flamenco.

To commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Spain, we have a leading figure from Israeli music: *Idan Raichel*, whose interests, knowledge and "duende" have led him to establish incredible collaborations, which of course include our flamenco. We are presenting *Sefarad* with Raichel and the innovative *Diego Guerrero* with his Solar de Artistas.

### SEFARAD

Idan Raichel and Diego Guerra present *Sefarad*, a show with music from both artists which commemorates the 25 years of diplomatic relations between Israel and Spain. An exclusive premiere for *Suma Flamenca 2011*.

Since they met last year, these two great musical producers have been working on ideas with the intention of bringing out the next disco by *Idan Raichel Project*. The Israeli musician features on the most prestigious lists of world music. As a result of this collaboration, the music acquires a fundamentally flamenco essence in the melodies by the Israeli maestro who in turn incorporates the collaboration of the most notable flamenco artists of the moment.

On the night of the premiere, the audience will have the chance to listen to material by both artists, as well as to an advance of the fruits of their joint work, arranged by Diego who, since the creation of the Big Band Flamenca in 2004, is recognised as the best flamenco arranger for large ensembles by experts such as Joan Albert Almargós and Rubén Dantas.

The base band of Solar de Artistas, which accompanies Guerrero in his live performances, will be no less that it has been throughout 2010: one of the hottest rhythmic sections in Spain, but this time extended to include the most outstanding young voices and instrumentalists in flamenco today, such as the singer Saúl Quirós, the dancer Belén López or the Granada guitarist José Fernández "Petete", among others.

Idan Raichel, burst onto the Israeli music scene in 2002 with his *Idan Raichel Project*, changing the face of Israeli popular music and offering a message of love and tolerance that had a huge impact in a region of the world where headlines are too often dominated by conflict. *Idan Raichel Project* offers an excellent combination of African, Latin and Caribbean music with Middle Eastern sounds, as well as sophisticated production techniques and spectacular live performances. It is one of the most successful Israeli musical acts on the international scene, filling venues as wide-ranging as the Sydney Opera House, New York's Central Park Summer Stage, Apollo Theater and Radio City Music Hall, and Los Angeles' Kodak Theater.

Idan Raichel, the architect behind this unique project, is a keyboard player, producer and composer from Kfar Saba (Israel), where he was born 33 years ago to a family of Eastern European descent. Idan began playing the accordion at the age of 9, and showed an interest in exotic sounds such as Gypsy music and *tango* from a very early age. Soon afterward, in high school, Idan began studying jazz and playing the keyboard, honing his skills at improvisation. During military service, which is compulsory for both men and women in Israel, Idan joined an army rock band, touring military bases and directing a group that played Israeli and European hits. He thus acquired experience as an arranger and concert producer. Idan first came into contact with Ethiopian culture while he was working as a counselor in a school for immigrants and troubled youth. He began to explore folk music and culture with the kids there.

By that time, Idan was already a successful musician, accompanying and recording with some of Israel's most popular performers. However, this was not enough for him and he

began to flesh out a project that would reflect his own musical interests. More than 70 colleagues from Israel's music scene contributed to his project. Little did Idan imagine that his musical experiments would turn him into one of the major Israeli music phenomena of recent years. His first album sold over one hundred fifty thousand copies; it went triple platinum and turned him into Israel's new pop star.

Known the world over, especially in the Jewish, Ethiopian and Israeli community, *Idan Raichel Project* often sells out tickets to concerts in large venues. In November 2005, Idan performed at the renowned Kodak Theater in Los Angeles, the venue where the Oscar ceremony is traditionally held. He also offered two critically acclaimed concerts at the famous Apollo Theater in Harlem. Ever since then, *Idan Raichel Project* has become a musical icon among Israeli communities around the world. The project is a musical experience that conveys a message of love and peace beyond political, religious or military interests. Music must help unite people and bring them together, becoming a catalyst of good intentions. Who says music can't change the world?

**Diego Guerrero** singer, guitarist, composer, and arranger, is capable of convincing musicians to turn a simple collaboration into a true experience in sharing. In his shows, flamenco, Afro-Cuban music, jazz, *tango*, and *copla*, have an absolutely harmonious dialogue yet; somehow, they all remain on stage in their purest form.

After working on productions with Rubem Dantas, Jerry González, Jorge Pardo, Juan de Juan, Caramelo de Cuba, Antonio Serrano, Alain Pérez, and Carles Benavent, for this new project, Diego has simplified things as much as possible, trading in the big

band for a septet, the baton for a microphone... and just singing. The project has a clear message, new arrangements, and performances from the best musicians in all of Madrid. Diego has astounded Spanish music professionals and it seems inevitable that this phenomenon will spread to the public at large. Artists such as Diego El Cigala and Jerry González dare predict the project's resounding success, point-blank and with complete honesty. Rubem Dantas, another staunch supporter, once said, "When I leave my music in his hands, I feel like I can die in peace." Last year Guerrero went on two tours of Australia, and sold out tickets to his concerts in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Gold Coast,

Hobart (Tasmania), Daylesford, and Kingston (Victoria). He has another Australian tour scheduled for March 2012, when he will open the continent's most important World Music festival: WOMADelaide.

Towards the end of 2010, Guerrero toured Spain with his band El Solar de Artistas. So far, 2011 has been especially prolific for this young artist. He is collaborating on Jorge Pardo's project *Huellas* ("Traces") and is producing the music for a new album by world-famous Israeli singer Idan Raichel. He also has shows scheduled with El Solar de Artistas at the *Masala Festival* in Germany, the *Sun Fest* in Canada, the *Faaj Festival* in Iran, and many other festivals and theaters in the peninsula and on the Canary Islands.