

ENRIQUE MORENTE

Song Enrique Morente

Song

BUITRAGO DE LOZOYA
PLAZA DEL CASTILLO
FRIDAY, JULY 2ND AT 22:00

EL BARBERO DE PICASSO (PICASSO'S BARBER)

"I was impressed by the sense of freedom and abandon intrinsic to his lack of pretension as a writer. His every line was written with love and poise, a sensibility that he, as a native of Málaga, had not lost. He constantly recalled Málaga's light, flavors and smells."

Enrique Morente

The genius painter's poems, texts and writings are used to add melody and voice to memories of Picasso's native Málaga: the smell of casseroles, the flavor of home, the memories of his childhood, all of which Morente turns into drops of art, breaths full of sound that are ahead of their own time.

Eugenio Arias met Picasso while he was in exile. He was Picasso's barber, his confidant, his friend and his companion on afternoons spent at the bullring. As a result of this friendship, Picasso gave Eugenio many of his works, which Arias later gave to the Community of Madrid so that these pieces could be seen in his hometown, Buitrago del Lozoya. The works of art were used to found the Picasso Museum-Eugenio Arias Collection, the first museum to belong to the Community of Madrid. The museum is now celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Suma Flamenca is again reuniting the painter and the *cantaor* (flamenco singer) in the birthplace of the man who spent all that time with Pablo Picasso. This is one of a series of events that the General Directorate of Archives, Museums and Libraries has planned to commemorate the museum's anniversary.

Enrique Morente. He claims to love orthodoxy, a basic tenet of flamenco. However, he also affirms that orthodoxy should help flamenco evolve and explore new musical avenues, "because flamenco is an art form that is alive," and is therefore in continual movement. If it weren't alive, "it never would have expanded beyond the cave dwellings... or the countryside." "Flamenco is associated with all sorts of clichés, dogmas, and misunderstandings that won't let the ears listen freely, when all you have to do to understand flamenco is to be receptive and listen."

Morente has repeated words similar to these throughout his career, as he has long been the victim of a sort of witch-hunt against him and has often had to defend himself with these sorts of interventions. Today he is undoubtedly the most influential person in the professional flamenco world. Morente finds it boring to sing the same repertoire over and over again. That is why he wrings every last drop of wisdom out of the concept of orthodox in order to look for inspiration and develop new works of art. From the early days of his career, Enrique Morente's talent has drawn the attention of critics and scholars. He is very interested in understanding and performing the most complex *cantes* (flamenco songs). That and his hope to become "a wide-ranging *cantaor*, without any distinct school or region," have led him to create a unique personality that leaves little room for clichés. The key, for Morente, is sincere and honest work, using both the heart and the head, in a delicate balance that is palpable in every one of his works.

He has traveled the world with his art. Some of the most noteworthy stages he has performed on include: Madrid's Teatro Real, Mexico's Palacio de Bellas Artes, Paris' Olympia Theater, New York's Lincoln Center, Granada's International Festival, the Roman Theater in Merida, Barcelona's Palau de la Música, Buenos Aires' Teatro Colon, etc. He has also toured all over the world: France, Holland, Germany, Japan, the United States, Latin America, Russia, etc.

He has received countless awards and prizes. In 1994 he was the first *cantaor* (flamenco singer) to receive the National Music Award and, a year later, he was given a Gold Medal by Jerez's Cátedra de Flamencología and a Compás del Cante Award in Seville. In 1998 he won the Premios de la Música Honor Award and, in 1999, he won the Calle de Alcalá Flamenco Award. He won the Medalla de Andalucía in 2005, in recognition of his formidable flamenco career and his receptivity to other types of music, as well as his role in promoting of flamenco all over the world. The Junta de Andalucía also awarded him the Biennial's Culture Award and he won Extremadura's Premio de la Creación. In 2006, he was awarded a Gold Merit in Fine Arts.