

CLARA SÁNCHEZ, ESTRELLA MORENTE

Poetry: Clara Sánchez

Flamenco Singing: Estrella Morente

Poetry and song

MADRID

Complejo El Águila (El Águila Complex)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23RD AT 22:00

LA MÚSICA DE LOS ESPEJOS (THE MUSIC OF MIRRORS)

Take a few risks in life, realize that nothing in this life is free, don't be completely naive, understand that it's OK to dare to dream, to have aspirations: to turn life into something poetic. All of this takes a huge effort, you have to be very dedicated and you'll experience a lot of disappointment along the way. But, even so, you take some risks, because you have to take risks in life, you can't just let life pass you by as if it were no big deal.

Clara Sánchez

When it comes to creating, when it comes to pain and laughter, there is no ethnicity, no race, and no gender. It's true that this crowd is a fairly touchy, it has always been dominated by men. Only men were supposed to have the right to be ambitious. Women, on the other hand, have had to work much harder. But this problem is, unfortunately, universal.

Estrella Morente

They are an outburst of energy, overflowing beyond the usual boundaries. They have a keen vision of things. They explore long-abandoned paths, opening new and unusual roads. And both of them will touch your heart, each in her own way. Today, two different art forms, *cante* (flamenco song) and poetry, are embodied by these two women.

Clara Sánchez. Writer Clara Sánchez (Guadalajara, 1955) published her first novel in 1989, when she was thirty-five. She won the 2010 Nadal Award for *Lo que esconde tu nombre* (What Lies Behind Your Name), a psychological thriller whose protagonists are a Mauthausen concentration camp survivor and a lost young woman who run into an old Nazi couple. *Piedras preciosas* (Gems) won the praise of critics for its, "use an intimate and detailed prose at the service of a disenchanted humor that is a sign of how unsatisfactory today's world is." These themes have been a constant in her work ever since. *Piedras preciosas* (Gems) was followed by other works such as *No es distinta la noche* (Night is No Different) published in 1990, *El palacio varado* (The Stranded Palace) in 1993, and five more books published by Alfaguara: *Desde el mirador* (From the Lookout) in 1996; *El misterio de todos los días* (The Everyday Mystery) in 1999; *Últimas noticias del paraíso* (Some News from Paradise) in 2000, a social commentary on the misunderstanding and disillusionment the youth of today face, for which Sánchez won the Alfaguara Novel Award; *Un millón de luces* (A Million Lights) in 2004; and *Presentimientos* (Forebodings) published in 2008.

Her entire body of work was honored with the ILHC award in 1999. Her work has been reissued both in Spain and in Latin America and translated into French, German, Russian, Portuguese and Greek.

Clara Sánchez is a graduate of the Complutense University in Madrid, where she obtained a degree in Spanish Philology. She has taught at secondary schools and in Spain's National Distance Learning University (UNED). Sánchez gives conferences about Language and Literature at schools, universities, and different branches of the Instituto Cervantes both in Spain and abroad.

In addition to writing literature, for the past five years Sánchez has also worked on TVE's program *Qué grande es el cine* and she frequently writes in specialized publications such as *El Urogallo* and the newspaper *El País*. In 2006, this last publication granted her the Germán Sánchez Ruy Pérez Best Article About Reading Award for her column *Pasión lectora* (Reading Passion).

Estrella Morente. Estrella arouses passions. She represents hope and renewal. This great artist is not content to be the typical apple that hasn't fallen far from one of the most innovative, daring and brilliant "trees" in today's music scene (her father is Enrique Morente). Instead, Estrella's sweet and talented voice has the gift of touching those who hear it and moving them to tears. This is precisely what happened to guitar master Sabicas when he asked her to sing a *taranta* for him when she was just eight years old. Even while she was still in the crib, Estrella is said to have cried to the rhythm of her grandfather Montoyita's guitar whenever he went up to soothe her. Estrella has a profound understanding of the roots of *cante* (flamenco singing). She is one of the chosen few destined to make *cante* grow and to completely renovate it. "Estrella" means, "star", and her parents could not possibly have chosen a more appropriate and revealing name for her. Estrella is truly a star. Estrella was born under a lucky star.