

MARÍA TOLEDO

Vocals and Piano: María Toledo
Flamenco Guitar: Jesús del Rosario
Cajón: Lucky Losada
Bass: Yelsy Heredia
Violin: David Moreira

Song

MADRID
TEATRO DE LA ABADÍA – SALA SAN JUAN DE LA CRUZ
SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH AT 20:30

VANILLA AND CHOCOLATE

An explosive mixture, a taste for exquisite palates: vanilla and chocolate, wisdom and knowledge. *Lole Montoya*, since the seventies a gypsy goddess of flamenco singing, the tenderest and most sensitive quejío, with a very young artist full of wisdom, fight and love: *María Toledo*... Women singing, great, two worlds singing on one evening.

DEL ORIGEN A LA UNIÓN

Flamenco in its purest state... the memory of La Niña de los Peines, of singers who left us their legacy to learn from them, of different flamenco styles...

Now more than ever we are in times of union, not fusion... Union with other deep rooted music, an encounter with the other usual and unusual instruments of flamenco... a violin, the sound of a piano.

María Toledo's piano and her unmistakable cracked voice will make it obvious to us that flamenco is more alive than ever and can be presented in many ways, without forgetting the past that always returns.

María Toledo is a performer with a powerful voice, a great mastery of technique and a great understanding of music. She was born in the city of Toledo 28 years ago and, although she does not come from a family of singers, her musical talent was evident from a very young age when she began studying music and piano. María has a Certificate in Piano from the Jacinto Guerrero Conservatory in Toledo and she sometimes accompanies her own singing on the piano bench, making her the first woman in the history of flamenco to accompany herself on the piano.

Pastora Pavón "La Niña de los Peines" and Carmen Linares are the main inspirations for María. She has a potent voice with enormous potential, a voice that has already been recognized with such prizes as the Cante de las Minas Novel, the Rhythm Award at Mairena del Alcor (Sevilla), First Prize at the Cadiz Biennial, First Prize for *Saetas* at Utrera (Sevilla), First Prize for Performers Under 25 in Carmona (Sevilla), First Prize for Performers Under 25 in Osuna (Sevilla).

In 2003 Toledo toured Japan singing with the Spanish National Ballet. She was also

Dossier de prensa

under María Jiménez's wing on RTVE and sang flamenco back up for Rocío Jurado's last television show *Rocío Siempre* ("Rocío Forever").

Toledo has shared the stage with great artists such as Chano Lobato, El Pele, José Menese, Carmen Linares, Arcángel, Miguel Poveda, Chato de la Isla, Pansequito, La Macanita, José de la Tomasa, Terremoto, El Cigala, and Edith Salazar. And she also sang in Manolo Sanlúcar's show *Tres momentos para un concierto* ("Three Moments for a Concert").

She often participates in festivals such as Los Veranos de la Villa, Flamenco Viene del Sur, Flamenco Joven, Malaga's Biennial and Jerez's Festival. Toledo has also graced the stages of several prestigious flamenco *peñas* and illustrated conferences by Félix Grande. She also sings *cantiñas* (*alegrías*, *romeras*, *mirabrás* and *caracoles*) on the

educational videos produced by guitarist Oscar Herrero. María Toledo's voice is the signature tune for Jesús Quintero's show *El Sol, la Sal, el Son* ("Sun, Salt and Son").

In 2009, she released her first album, *María Toledo*, a record full of nuances and details, in which she gets carried away by her piano and reels off pop style tunes accompanied by a jazz trio (bass, piano and drums). RTVE's audience chose it Best New Album of the Year. At the moment, María is preparing her second album, *Uñas rojas* ("Red Nails"), which is due out on the market in the fall of 2011 and, like her previous record, will be released by Warner Music.

In addition to being a pianist, composer, singer and *cantaora*, María also has a degree in Law.