

## ARCÁNGEL

Vocals: Arcángel

Guitarist: Miguel Ángel Cortés

Back Up Vocals and *Palmas*: Los Mellis

Percussion: Agustín Diassera

Song

MADRID

TEATROS DEL CANAL – SALA ROJA

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 20:30

## YOUNG MAESTROS

*Juan Valderrama*, a wise young singer, with an illustrious flamenco surname, shares the stage with one of the greatest figures in singing to come from Huelva, *Arcángel*. Youth and tradition, a love of the art, thanks to both of them this is going to be an historic night.

## OLOR A TIERRA

*Restore the historic truth and give free rein to the growth of his imagination are the credentials of ARCÁNGEL, the most optimistic and hopeful voice of the young flamenco artists, the most novel expression of this time, in whom the fans have deposited all their hopes.*

*Everyone is aware that in singing flamenco the first thing that must be borne in mind is to know what one is singing and, from there, build a proposal that allows a glimpse not only of the essential questions that sustain it, but the two unquestionable virtues of the great models: rigour and imagination.*

Manuel Martín Martín

*An imaginative journey between two shores that are distant but not conflicting, tradition and avant garde. That is the proposal of a singer like Arcángel, forged with the conviction that, for him, comes from the pillars of flamenco art: a deep knowledge and respect for the roots and a ceaseless interest in finding new paths as a way to develop flamenco and thus express his particular vision of this beautiful art. A mixture of different sensations during the journey that will leave no one indifferent, that is his aim, risky but true, it is not a pose.*

*Nonconformist and tireless in the search for new nuances, he feels comfortable showing his two extremes, his transgressing soul and his absolute respect for the most ancestral legacy of flamenco. That is how he is and only in this way is it possible to understand his participation in such different projects as *De Oscura llama*, a show created by the contemporary music composer Mauricio Sotelo and the preparation of the classic style show that pays tribute to one of the greatest figures in flamenco, Manolo Caracol, called *Zambra 5.1*.*

*That's what I'm like (Arcángel)*

Arcángel, is Francisco José Arcángel Ramos. He was born in Huelva in 1977 and debuted at the tender age of ten in the La Orden *peña* (social club), where he won first prize in a children's *fandangos de Huelva*

singing contest. Arcángel repeated this triumph in the competition's next two editions.

Word of his talent caught on, and he was soon sought after by great artists of the time

such as Niño de Pura and his brother *bailaor* José Joaquín; Jesús Cayuela and José Roca, for *La Parrala* (1996); Mario Maya, for *Los Flamencos cantan y bailan a Lorca* ("Flamenco Artists Sing and Dance to Lorca" 1997); and Manuel Soler, for a performance of *Por aquí te quiero ver* ("I'd Like to See You Around Here" 1998).

1998 was a decisive year for Arcángel, especially thanks to his participation in Sevilla's 10<sup>th</sup> Bienal, in shows such as Mario Maya's *De Cádiz a Cuba* ("From Cádiz to Cuba"); Juan Carlos Romero's *Abanaó*; Pepa Montes and Ricardo Miño's *Seis movimientos de baile flamenco* ("Six Flamenco Dance Movements"); José Joaquín's *Sansueña*, and Manolo Franco and Niño de Pura's *Compadres*.

Arcángel's singing talent was highly praised by both critics and audiences, so much so that he went on to accompany dancers such as Javier Barón, Eva La Yerbabuena and Israel Galván.

His voice has been recorded on albums such as *Solo Compás* ("Just Compás"), *Historia antológica del Fandango de Huelva* ("An Anthological History of *Fandangos de Huelva*"), and *Territorio Flamenco* ("Flamenco Territory"). But his first solo album, *Arcángel*, was not released until 2001. The record won him the Premio Nacional Flamenco Activo at Úbeda, a Giraldillo to the Best *Cante* Performer at Sevilla's 2002 Bienal, and the Venecia Flamenca at Los Palacios.

In 2004, after being named Huelva's Man of the Year, Arcángel recorded his second solo album, alongside guitarist Juan Carlos Romero. *La calle perdía* ("The Lost Street") is an album charged with singular aesthetic proposals and strewn with Arcángel's melodic sensibility.

Between 2003 and 2004, Arcángel's work and effort were rewarded with his

participation in the world's best and most prestigious flamenco festivals, including, among others, Nimes, Flamenco Festival USA and London, where he won great critical and public acclaim. During that time, Arcángel continued to collaborate with *maestro* Mauricio Sotelo at the Dutch National Opera, where he participated as a soloist, performing before a full house for an entire month. He also collaborated with Frankfurt's Radio Orchestra, and with Radio Televisión Española's Orchestra, singing Mauricio Sotelo's score with texts from José Ángel Valente's *Si después de morir* ("If After Death"). Arcángel performed on such stages as Florence's Maggio Musicale, and also gave concerts with the Artemis Quartet at Berlin's Philharmonie and at the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid and with the Diotima Quartet in Paris, Oporto, Granada and Valencia. This vast experience in classical music venues has distinctly influenced Arcángel's stage presence.

His latest album, *Ropavieja*, was released in 2007. The record got great reviews from both professional critics and fans. It soon became an album of reference. In it, Arcángel let loose, improvising and steering clear of conventionalisms and traditional patterns. The purpose of all this was to get closer to his audience through his live performances. In 2007 Arcángel presented a show called *Zambra 5.1* in which the young flamenco singer paid homage to Manolo Caracol and managed to pack in a full house everywhere he went.

In September 2009, Arcángel dared set the works of Huelva poet Juan Cobos Wilkins to music, confronting poetry and flamenco "face to face".

Arcángel is currently preparing a new album that will soon be out on the market.