

## ALFONSO SALMERÓN

Vocals: Alfonso Salmerón  
Guitarist: Rafael Andujar  
*Cajón*: Óscar Salmerón

Song

LA CABRERA  
CENTRO DE HUMANIDADES CARDENAL GONZAGA SIERRA NORTE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 21

### PURO FLAMENCO

On 22 January 2010, the Auditorium of the Colegio Mayor San Juan Evangelista was the venue chosen for a deserved tribute to the Almeria singer Alfonso Salmerón. The reason was to celebrate the fifty years in flamenco of *an artist who is rigorous in the more orthodox songs and at the same time open to the 'new nuances' that enrich his musical world, the reason for which he has collaborated with, for example, José Carreras and Herbert von Karajan* (Marcos Escánez).

Despite having achieved a certain professional stability and always brimming over with life, his restless spirit pushes him to investigate new musical formulas, away from the deepest orthodoxy, and with the sole aim of giving greater importance to the meaning and presentation of *cante jondo*. He is outstanding in songs with beat, such as *alegrías*, *bulerías* and *tangos*, and in the songs from his land, fundamentally the *taranto*, which he performs with great emotion, offering them to his audience impregnated with all the love he still feels for his native land. We can also appreciate his fondness for *seguiriya* and *soleá*, songs in which he feels particularly comfortable.

The artist is coming to this year's edition of *Suma Flamenca* as *Puro Flamenco*, in the styles that are most representative of his singing. In addition to the *palos* already mentioned, there are *tonás*, *fandangos*, *caracoles* and *martinetes*. With them, and accompanied by guitar and box, he will complete a recital that summarizes that career of fifty years, the anthology of an artist who looks back now on all he has done just as when he recorded his latest disc *50 años de flamenco*.

Alfonso Salmerón Salmerón, was born in 1944 in the city of Almería in a neighborhood that was then known as Barranco del Caballar. He is of humble origin and felt the call to sing at a very early age; he had just turned seven when he won his first contest on Radio Juventud.

Alfonso's parents loved flamenco and their home was a meeting place for local fans, as his parents were very friendly and hospitable.

At age 14, Salmerón moved to Barcelona as part of the group Los Jilgueros, with whom he recorded two singles published by Belter. Upon returning to Almería two years later, Salmerón opened a restaurant but continued

performing in *tablaos* around the city, where he met the Habichuela brothers. Soon afterward, Alfonso was forced to Madrid in order to complete his military service, yet he managed to get permission to perform every day at the Tablao Arco de Cuchilleros, where he again met up with Juan Habichuela. It is at this point that Salmerón's career, which is marked by consistency and regularity, really began to take off. From that point on, he was hired by every *tablao* in Madrid: Las Brujas, Zambra, Cuevas de Nemesio, Los Canasteros and El Café de Chinitas, among others.

His teachers include Fosforito, Antonio Mairena, Tomas Pavón, La Niña de los

## Dossier de prensa

Peines and Manolo Caracol. Salmerón worked with Manolo Caracol at Los Canasteros and, for 25 years, he worked at Torres Bermejas with the greatest of the great, including Camarón, Paco de Lucía, La Paquera, Porrina de Badajoz, etc...

In 1985, Salmerón won the *Por Taranto* Award at the National Competition in Córdoba. That same year, he faced one of the most difficult challenges of his career; participating in a novel and highly complex fusion that combined classical music and flamenco. The project was a version of the opera *Carmen* featuring José Carreras and Von Karajan. This experience marked a milestone in this *cantaor's* career. As he became more familiar with the discipline of classical music, Salmerón's sense of responsibility and commitment to his own art deepened.

After hearing Salmerón perform, Plácido Domingo went up to him and said: "*Lyrical music has missed out on a great tenor...*" Any sensible fan would have added that this loss was to the greater glory of flamenco.

In his prolific career as a performer, Salmerón has explored different facets of flamenco. He has cultivated singing "*p'alante*" (where the singer is the main attraction) at major festivals such as Alcorcón alongside Enrique de Melchor, El Cabrero and El Lebrijano; the Festival del Taranto, at the Colegio Mayor San Juan Evangelista, along with Carmen Linares, José de la Mercé, Fosforito, Chano Lobato and Rancapino; and Madrid's Festival Flamenco, at the Alcalá Palace, with other first-rate performers. Salmerón has also sung "*p'atrás*" (accompanying other

performers) working along side such prestigious dancers as María Rosa, Antonio Gades, Matilde Coral, Mario Maya, El Güito, Sara Lezama, Carmen Mora, and even with Antonio in the National Ballet.

For 15 years, Salmerón taught flamenco singing, or *cante*, at Madrid's Real Conservatorio and worked as a *cantaor* accompanying dancers during Spanish dance performances, an experience he assures was very gratifying and on which he looks back on with fondness. Salmerón recently retired from this position and has expressed a desire to continue singing wherever he is invited to sing now that he has more free time and his voice is deeper and more mature.

In the last few years, he has sung extensively at different *peñas* (social clubs) and performed in several theaters throughout the country. His latest adventure has been directing a large-scale production with ten musicians. This project was presented at the Teatro José Saramago in Madrid and was a great success.

Alfonso Salmerón's voice has been recorded on a total of twelve albums. The latest of these include *De la tradición al duende* ("From Tradition to Sprite", 2002); *Flamenco en el Alcazaba* ("Flamenco at the Alcazaba", 2003); *La voz* ("The Voice", 2005); *Confluencias* ("Junctions", 2008); and *50 años de flamenco* ("50 Years of Flamenco", 2009), an anthology of Salmerón's entire repertoire that is the album supplement to homage organized in his honor in January 2010 at the Colegio Mayor San Juan Evangelista in Madrid.