

AGUSTÍN CARBONELL "EL BOLA"

Dance and Choreography: Karen Lugo, Tamar González

Vocals: Saray Muñoz, El Piculabe

Guitarist: Agustín Carbonell "El Bola", Claudio Villanueva

Bass: Javier Colina

Artistic Direction and Music: Agustín Carbonell "El Bola"

Scenery: Carlos Pérez de Bustamante

Costume: Lorenzo Caprile

Lighting: Dominique You

Guitar, song, dance

MADRID

CENTRO CULTURAL PACO RABAL PALOMERAS BAJAS

SATURDAY, JULY 2ND AT 20

ROJO Y ROSA

Rojo y Rosa has flamenco, classic, jazz... it's an idea of Agustín Carbonell "El Bola".

Grandnephew of Sabicas and heir to two of the great artistic gypsy lineages of Spain, he is part of the history of contemporary flamenco. One of the most prestigious guitarists, he has collaborated in emblematic spectacles such as *Flamenco Puro* or *Cumbre Flamenca*. As a composer, he has recorded three historic discs: *Bola*, *Vuelo flamenco* and *Desvaríos*, the latter edited in 2007 on the RTVE Música label.

Rojo y Rosa includes dancing from Karen Lugo and Karime Amaya, the former with an avant garde style, full of a special aesthetic and beauty; the latter, grandniece of the leading figure in the history of flamenco dancing, Carmen Amaya. Two virtuosos of dance, both born in Mexico. The two with different styles but full of freshness and force, destined to shine in that great space called art.

The double bass is the internationally known Javier Colina, one of the best on the European scene and a pillar of the disc *Lágrimas Negras*.

The voices are those of two great flamenco artists, Saray Muñoz, daughter of the unforgettable Tina de las Grecas and that of the wonderful El Piculabe. The guitarist are Agustín Carbonell "El Bola" and José Romero.

This flamenco show has been carefully prepared, with costumes designed by Lorenzo Caprile and stage presentation by Juan Carlos Díaz de Bustamante, creator of dreamlike spaces. Dominique You, fellow traveller of Antonio Gades. and Juan Miguel Cobos, are responsible for the lighting and sound respectively. *Rojo y Rosa* is an integral flamenco show that goes beyond the clichés.

I love you in red, in pink I give you my being
Carlos Díaz de Bustamante

Agustín Carbonell "El Bola" is a guitarist and composer. "El Bola" has played a key role in flamenco's recent history. He was born in Madrid in 1967 to a family with a

long-standing flamenco tradition including *maestros* such as Sabicas, his father Agustín Montoya, and his uncle El Güito. Carbonell soon showed a keen interest in

flamenco music and guitar; he began playing in small local companies and flamenco *tablaos* in Madrid when he was just thirteen years old. Soon afterward he started accompanying El Güito on his international tours and participated in such memorable shows as *Cumbre Flamenca* ("Flamenco Summit") and *Flamenco Puro* ("Pure Flamenco"), on Broadway and in Hollywood, with major stars such as Fernanda de Utrera, Adela "La Chaqueta", Manuela Carrasco, Chocolate, Farruco and the Habichuelas, among others.

Carbonell's vast professional experience is complemented by his formal training at the Taller de Músicos school in Madrid. When he was just 18 years old, El Bola created his own group with its own distinctive sound, quite like what, in the 1980's, would come to be known as New Flamenco.

Along with Jorge Pardo, Carles Benavent, Pedro Ojesto, Chano Domínguez and José Antonio Galicia, El Bola managed to create a new language by combining the different styles and expressions of flamenco and jazz. Today this type of fusion is quite common in music, but at the time it was revolutionary. Agustín Carbonell is thoroughly familiar with the flamenco tradition, yet he has always been drawn to new forms. Short of digressing, he has a deep respect, dedication and a complete understanding of the work at hand.

At age 22, he recorded his first album, *Bola*, distributed in over forty countries by German Latin-Jazz label Messidor. With this first album, El Bola earned a reputation for his ability to interpret sounds that are not originally flamenco yet, in his hands, easily become flamenco.

It would be another six years before El Bola's next album, *Vuelo Flamenco* ("Flamenco Flight", 1996), came out. The record has been classified as brave and honest, further proof of this musician's enormous talent. Rubem Dantas, Pedro Ojesto, Javier Colina, and members of Ketama and Barbería del Sur participated in the album.

A year after the record was released, El Bola traveled to Brazil, where he spent the

next eight years soaking up Latin American culture and collaborating with local artists. This experience further enriched his creativity, and in 2007 El Bola recorded his third album under the RTVE Música label in collaboration with brilliant saxophonist Jorge Pardo. The album was called *Desvaríos* ("Ramblings"), though the last thing this artist does on the album is ramble, instead he stays focused on a creative moment during which his mind wanders to those far-off and unknown places that only the key of art can open, as José Ramón Ripoll would say.

El Bola has also collaborated with Paco de Lucía's band, with which he recorded three albums, as well as with many other flamenco groups, pop and jazz bands and dance companies. One example is his work on albums such as *Misa flamenca* ("Flamenco Mass"), *Fantasia flamenca para voz y orquesta* ("Flamenco Fantasy for Voice and Orchestra), *Negra, si tú supieras* ("Darling, If You Only Knew"), all with Enrique Morente; *Los gitanos de la plaza* ("The Gypsies in the Square") with Ramón "El Portugués"; *Las cigarras son quizá sordas* ("Cicadas Might Be Deaf"), *Veloz hacia su sino* ("Quick Toward Their Fate"), and *2332* with Jorge Pardo; and *Chano* with Chano Domínguez, among many others.

As a guitarist, El Bola has accompanied outstanding performers such as Enrique Morente, Pepe de Lucia, José Mercé, Chano Lobato, Rafael Romero "El Gallina", El Torta de Jerez, El Cigala, Ramón "El portugués", Guadiana, Juan José Amador, Remedios Amaya, Montse Cortés and La Macanita.

And some of the many outstanding dancers he has accompanied on guitar include: El Güito, Farruco, Mario Maya, Manolete, Antonio Canales, Joaquín Cortés, Joaquín Grilo, Javier Barón, Juan Andrés Maya, Rafael Aguilar, Manuela Carrasco, Angelita Vargas, La Farruquita, La Tati, Carmen Cortés, Carmela and Lola Greco, Blanca del Rey, Sara Baras, etc. This charismatic performer is beyond a doubt one of the most distinguished young guitarists of our time.