



LORCA'S GUITAR:

MUSIC AND DANCE IN THE THEATER OF
FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA

SAMUEL DIZ, GUITAR

ANNA TONNA, MEZZO-SOPRANO

ALICE BLUMENFELD, SPANISH DANCER



A recital for voice, dance and guitar, that explores the music and dance in the theatrical works of poet and playwright, Federico García Lorca.

ABOUT THE RECITAL

Specialist in music related to the so-called Spanish artists and intellectuals of the **Generation of '27**, Spanish **guitarist Samuel Diz** narrates a fascinating story via a recital of songs, solo guitar works and dance. Teaming up with **mezzo Anna Tonna** and **Spanish dance artist Alice Blumenfeld** they showcase music, dance and texts related to the theatre of poet and playwright, **Federico García Lorca** (1898–1936). A dialogue between dance, music and spoken theatrical texts, the recital will express Lorca's ties to Golden Age Spanish theatre, transformed into a wholly modern archetypal expression in a live performance for guitar, voice and Spanish dance.

Beginning with “Hommage sur Le Tombeau de Debussy” by **Manuel de Falla** which Lorca himself studied on his guitar, the recital showcases the oft forgotten **“Canciones del teatro de Federico García Lorca”**, a musical edition edited posthumously by Lorca's colleague **Gustavo Pittaluga** in 1961; these songs and solo guitar works exposes Lorca's little known facet as musician, and the role that music played in his theater. Other works include: “Romancillo” for solo guitar by **Adolfo Salazar**, dedicated to Lorca's younger sister Isabelita; and the rarely heard song cycle “Metamorfosis del clavel” by Gustavo Pittaluga, with texts by Lorca's friend, the Spanish poet **Rafael Alberti**.

Exploring the role that dance and rhythm play in the theatrical works of Lorca, along with his trailblazing essays on *duende*, flamenco and dance artist Alice Blumenfeld will create choreography that honors both the Andalusian ambience of his works and the Spanish avant-garde. Inspired by figures such as the dancers Antonia Mercé and Encarna López Júlvez (both known to Lorca personally, the later a close friend), Blumenfeld embodies the complex inner worlds of the characters from ***La zapatera prodigiosa*** and ***Bodas de sangre***; concluding this extraordinary and original recital are excerpts of the modernist and lesser known Spanish ballet ***Romería de los cornudos***, with libretto redacted by Lorca with music by Gustavo Pittaluga.

MUSICAL PROGRAM

(program subject to change)

“Hommage sur Le Tombeau de Debussy” for solo guitar

Manuel de Falla (1876–1946)

Samuel Diz

“Seguidillas de la noche de San Juan” for voice and guitar

Lyrics by Lope de Vega (XVI),

Gustavo Durán (1906–1969)

Anna Tonna and Samuel Diz

Metamorfosis del clavel

Lyrics by Rafael Alberti (1902–1999)

Gustavo Pittaluga (1906–1975)

Anna Tonna and Samuel Diz

“Romancillo” for solo guitar

Adolfo Salazar (1890–1958)

Samuel Diz and Alice Blumenfeld

“Española” for solo guitar

Rosita García Ascot (1902–2002)

Samuel Diz

Songs from the Theater of **Federico García Lorca** (1898–1936)

A selection of theatrical readings, as well as songs and dances,

conceived by Garcia Lorca’s for his theatre,

edited posthumously by **Gustavo Pittaluga**

Anna Tonna, Alice Blumenfeld and Samuel Diz

“Romance de Solita” from the ballet *La romería de los cornudos*

argument by Federico Garcia Lorca and Cipriano de Rivas Cherif

Gustavo Pittaluga

Anna Tonna, Alice Blumenfeld and Samuel Diz

ANNA TONNA MEZZO SOPRANO



“Review of Ponchielli’s La Gioconda: “Anna Tonna’s fine Laura proved most elegant in deportment, line and authentic proto-veristic style.”

David Shengold - Opera Magazine (London)

The American mezzo soprano Anna Tonna completed her music studies at Eckerd College in Florida and at the Mannes College of Music in New York City. Her operatic repertoire includes Carmen, Dorabella (Cosí fan tutte), Angelina (La Cenerentola), Rosina (Il barbiere di Siviglia), Cherubino (Le nozze di Figaro), Adalgisa (Norma) and Laura Adorno (La Gioconda).

Her artistry has been recognized by the Liederkrantz Foundation, The Gerda Lissner Foundation, National Opera Association, Opera at Florham/Violeta Dupont Vocal Competition, and a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in and perform Spanish Art Song in Spain, where she has established a thriving career.

In 2017 she bowed in the role of Laura in Ponchielli’s La Gioconda for the Brno State Opera in Czech Republic. In 2018 she was heard as Clarina in Rossini’s Cambiale de Matrimonio with LittleOpera Zamora in Spain, a zarzuela concert at the ElbPhilharmonie in Hamburg, and as the alto soloist in Songfest for the Bernstein Centennial at Maverick Concerts in New York. She bowed in a recital debut in Portugal at the Palácio Nacional de Ajuda, followed by a concert with orchestra at the Teatro Nacional de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.

Her 2019 season included recitals at the Circolo Lirico in Bologna and Museo Glauco Lombardi in Parma; Museo del Romanticismo, the Festival Internacional Navas del Marqués, and a German Lied duet recital with pianist Babette Hierhozler and baritone Alfredo García for the Festival ASISA in Madrid; her comic role in the zarzuela El barbero de Sevilla with New Camerata Opera was well received by OperaWire and The New Yorker Magazine. Other performances this past fall were a concert of Italian verismo opera excerpts for Teatro Grattacielo in New York City and an opera and zarzuela recital at the Auditorio Nacional de España.

Anna Tonna’s performances have been documented in live radio broadcasts, as well as on several CD’s: The songs of Julio Gómez (Verso), España alla Rossini (iTinerant Classics) and Marga Richter’s opera Riders to the Sea (Leonarda label).

SAMUEL DIZ, GUITAR



“Diz gifted many delicious moments to the public with his well-groomed sound and extreme sensibility, whether he was communicating with us verbally or musically.”

Josep Barcons, Revista Musical Catalana

Spanish guitarist Samuel Diz researches and performs the role played by the guitar as an instrument in Lorca’s generation, through the music of Manuel de Falla, Rosita García Ascot, Salvador Bacarisse, Jesús Bal y Gay, Gustavo Durán, Robert Gerhard, and other figures who were part of the so-called “Silver” Renaissance of Spanish arts and culture at the beginning of the XX century.

Samuel Diz has performed in numerous halls and festivals around Europe, America and Africa. Particularly remarkable are his performances at the Palace of Catalan Music and Juan March Foundation (Spain), University College Cork (Ireland), Ljubljana Modri Salon (Slovenia), Cucugnan Chamber Music Festival (France), Benito Fred Theatre (Puerto Rico), Harare International Festival of the Arts (Zimbabwe), The Council of Latin American and Iberian Studies in the University of Yale and Boston University (USA).

A graduate of the Seville Conservatory of Music, his studies were supervised by Gaelle Solal; Samuel Diz also broadened his artistic training with guitarists Alen Garagic and Daekun Jang, as well as José Luis Rodrigo in music courses at “Música en Compostela”, where he received the Andrés Segovia – J.M. Ruiz Morales Award.

His discography includes “Memoria de la melancolía” (first album recorded with Lorca’s original guitar) with Poliédrica, 2020; “Impresiones y paisajes”, Poliédrica, 2015; “Danzas puertorriqueña”, in 2012; “Guitarra clásica galega” with Ouvirmos label, 2012 and “On the Road” with Puerto Rico Digital EP, 2012. Samuel Diz is currently the artistic director of the festival Música no Claustro in Tui’s Cathedral (Galicia – Spain).

Samuel Diz plays a copy of Federico Garcia Lorca’s original 1906, guitar constructed by José Ortega in 1906. The copy was made by Francisco Manuel Díaz in Granada in 2020.

www.samueldiz.com

ALICE BLUMENFELD SPANISH DANCE ARTIST



“Sharp and exhilarating”

Philadelphia Inquirer

Alice Blumenfeld choreographer. She studied flamenco at the National Institute of Flamenco (Albuquerque, NM) and continued her studies in New York City with Nélica Tirado. Receiving a Fulbright Grant in 2012 to Spain, she studied with Andrés Marín, Manuela Ríos, Concha Jareño, Cristina Hall, Juana Amaya, Adela Campallo, among others. Upon returning to the U.S., Blumenfeld toured nationally with Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana and was a soloist in their New York based company from 2010–2015.

In 2016, Blumenfeld founded ABREPASO flamenco, a project-based flamenco company that has premiered three evening length works at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Her choreography has been commissioned by The Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage, The National YoungArts Foundation, and several universities. Her artistry has most recently been recognized by the Ohio Arts Council, receiving an Individual Excellence Award in Choreography (FY20). She is also a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts and a YoungArts Silver Awardee for world dance.

Blumenfeld studied Comparative Literature with an emphasis in Spanish Literature at New York University, graduating summa cum laude. Her thesis, which analyzed Fernando Romero León’s flamenco masterpiece based on The Divine Comedy, won the Comparative Literature Thesis Prize. In 2017, Blumenfeld graduated from Hollins University with an MFA in dance. Her research and performance focused on theories of translation, creating a site-specific dance piece for libraries that embodied several works of Jorge Luis Borges and Federico García Lorca, and has been performed at Oberlin College and Case Western Reserve University.

Most recently, Blumenfeld held the position of Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at Oberlin College, where she taught flamenco, contemporary dance, dance administration, and critical inquiry classes, and pursued research on the intersections of Japanese Butoh dance and flamenco with funding from the college.

www.aliceblumenfeld.com

www.abrepaso.org



Federico García Lorca



Margarita Xirgu



"La Argentinita" Encarnación López Júlvez

*“You can’t imagine how much I remember you when I play the guitar, and I want to extract by force, your wonderful “Homage to Debussy”, of which I can only play the first notes. Its really very funny!
My mother gets desperate and hides the guitar in the most remote place of the house.”*

Letter of Garcia Lorca to Manuel de Falla



Generation of '27

ARTISTS VIDEOS

Samuel Diz, guitar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5pbMTjuWS0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mjpkm3d2NOU>

Anna Tonna, mezzo soprano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwsCpksRAZg>

Alice Blumenfeld, Spanish dance artist

Excerpts from (Des)Encaracolarse :

<https://youtu.be/C-ylj09p7ts>



For more information:

anna@classicalmusicpartners.com

www.classicalmusicpartners.com

Phone: 917 680-1582

