

MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP  
CONCERT SERIES



2017  
2018  
SEASON

◆ PRESENTS ◆

# SOLERO FLAMENCO



soulful song | enchanting guitar | exhilarating dance

**IRMA LA PALOMA** *vocalist*

**JEREMÍAS GARCÍA** *guitarist*

*and special guests*

Ana María Barceló Suria

Solangel Lali Calix

Almudena Navarro Romero

**Saturday**  
**February 10, 2018**  
**7:30 pm**

St. Philip Presbyterian Church  
4807 San Felipe St | Houston

## SOLERO FLAMENCO

**Solero Flamenco**, Houston's premier flamenco performance company, has brought flamenco to Houston audiences since 2009 in performances brimming with artistic integrity and characteristic passion. Soulful song, enchanting guitar and exhilarating dance converge in this highly improvised art form to present traditional, contemporary and original works. Under the founding artistic direction of **Irma La Paloma** (cante) and **Jeremías García** (guitarra), Solero Flamenco maintains an active performance and production calendar often sharing the stage with local and international artists. Whether in the theater, concert hall, or other venues, audiences experience the heart, soul and skill of professional flamenco artists.

"We love this art and heritage and give our heart and soul in each performance. We want our audiences to enjoy flamenco in the tradition of live **song, guitar and dance** through the unique expression and skill of Solero Flamenco artists."

## ABOUT FLAMENCO

**Flamenco** is a mixture of musical influences from Indian, Byzantine, Arabic, Jewish, and Andalusian cultures present in the south of Spain before and after the Reconquista (718-1492). People of varied origins, many from the Punjab region, traveled across the Asian, European, and African continents before settling in Andalucía. They brought their musical cultures as well as those experiences collected through their migratory plight. First in song, then in dance, and later with the incorporation of the guitar, flamenco gave expression to the outcry and hope of a subjugated people. It was not until its Golden Era, (1869-1910) when flamenco was presented in *Café Cantantes*, that it became an accepted and established cultural and musical art form.

Flamenco stirs the senses with passion and rhythm. The cante (song) tells the story and is at the core of the art form. The guitar accompanies the song and the baile (dance) in rhythmic harmony. The dance is a unique expression in movement with its characteristic form. Improvisation plays a key role in the seamless communication between song, guitar and dance. Flamenco has transcended time and frontiers. The folklore of the Andalusian gypsies is a living art of global appeal. In November, 2010, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized flamenco as a World Heritage Treasure and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

— Irma La Paloma

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**IRMA LA PALOMA** delivers cante with great integrity, elegance and sincerity. Her heritage and musical intuition are present in her phrasing, rhythmic dexterity and repertoire of flamenco, traditional Spanish folk songs, and original compositions. Born of Spanish descent in Havana, Cuba, Irma began her flamenco journey at the Escuela de Baile Monterroso y Antas de Ulla under the direction of Spain's María Asela Bermúdez. She performed flamenco and Spanish regional dances in Havana's Centro Gallego and Teatro García Lorca. In 1970 her family established residence in Madrid, Spain, where she was further embraced by her heritage. They later came to the US, where she continued to receive dance instruction. Her father's love of poetry and her passion for song and lyrics led her to concentrated study of cante and flamenco dance accompaniment.

She has performed and collaborated with renowned artists in the flamenco genre as well as in theatrical and symphonic performances. In March 2017 she was invited to sing various pieces from De Falla's *El amor brujo* with the Helena Symphony Orchestra in Montana under the direction of Maestro Allan R. Scott, and she recently appeared in the opening of *Lorca and You: The Year of Federico García Lorca* here in Houston.

In March 2013 Irma was honored by *Sucesos* newspaper and *Solo Mujeres* magazine as one of the 24 most influential Hispanic women in Houston and was recognized as Hispanic Woman of the Year in the Arts. Drawing on her professional experience and Bachelor's Degree in International Finance and Marketing from the University of Miami, Florida, Irma is Co-Director of the Houston Spanish and Flamenco Festival in collaboration with San Jacinto College and the Consulate General of Spain in Houston. The festival has garnered recognition from Houston mayors, the Texas House and Senate, and was awarded funding from the National Endowment for the Arts for six years. Future projects include recording of an album and publication of her poetic works.

**JEREMÍAS GARCÍA** is a classically trained guitarist and composer who has made a successful transition to flamenco. Originally self-taught, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Classical Guitar Performance at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi under the mentorship of Philip Hii, and a Master's degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he studied with Robert Guthrie. His debut as a classical concert artist at Texas A & M — televised by ABC — led to memorable professional collaborations and performances. As a soloist, he performed Joaquín Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* in 2006 with the Fort Bend Symphony, and in 2007 with the Brazosport Symphony. This was also the debut performance of his original concerto for two guitars and orchestra *Concierto Nuevo Flamenco*. In March 2017 Jeremy García and Solero Flamenco were featured artists of the Helena Symphony Orchestra in Montana under the direction of conductor Allan R. Scott, for whom García composed and arranged his *Suite Andaluz* for cante, guitarra, baile and full orchestra.

Complementing his classical education and love of the music of Spain, Jeremy received training from master flamenco guitarist Juan Serrano and other renowned tocoales. Jeremy accompanies cante and dance with the sensitivity and dynamics that are integral to the tradition of flamenco. He has enjoyed accompanying flamenco artists such as Antonio Hidalgo, Timo Lozano, Antonio Arrebola, Teo Morca and Pilar Andújar in performances, and artists such as La Tania, Jesús Montoya, Omayra Amaya and Domingo Ortega in workshops.

Jeremy has released two albums: García y Reyna's *Baile del Sol* and *Café Khytaro's Distancia*, featuring his original compositions in collaboration with other artists. With García y Reyna, which he co-founded, he has performed in California, New Mexico, New York City, the Vail, Colorado International Dance Festival, and in Las Vegas. In 2013 Jeremy accompanied soprano Ann Moss in two pieces for her debut album *Currents*, recorded at Skywalker Studios, California.

In 2011 Jeremy García and Irma La Paloma co-founded the Houston Spanish and Flamenco Festival in collaboration with San Jacinto College and the Consulate General of Spain in Houston with funding awarded from the National Endowment for the Arts. The festival provides educational, artistic and cultural opportunities for art students, aficionados and the general public.

Jeremy García is Professor of Music and Director of Guitar Studies at San Jacinto College, Central Campus, in Pasadena, Texas. He also teaches private lessons and guitar workshops while keeping an active performance schedule both as soloist and with Solero Flamenco.

# PROGRAM

## **Amanacer (Siguiriyas)**

Jeremías García ❖ Guitar

## **Anda Jaleo**

Irma La Paloma ❖ Cante

## **Las Azucenas (Sevillanas)**

### **Soleá por Bulerías**

Ana María Barceló Suria ❖ Baile

### **Los Cuatro Muleros**

Jeremías García ❖ Guitar

### **Alegrías de Cádiz**

Solangel Lali Calix ❖ Baile

## **Esta Noche Mando Yo (Bulerías)**

Irma La Paloma

## **Tientos**

Almudena Navarro Romero ❖ Baile

## **Bulerías**



IRMA LA PALOMA



JEREMÍAS GARCÍA



**Please join us for a reception in the Gathering Area following the program.**

**A freewill offering in support of  
the Music at St Philip Concert Series  
will be received at the Sanctuary exits.  
Your presence and generosity are welcome.**

**Donations may be made by cash, check or credit card.**

# MUSIC AT ST. PHILIP CONCERT SERIES



2017  
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The Music at St. Philip Concert Series strives to provide vibrant and beautiful music of high quality that engages, enriches, and educates our community. All concerts are free and open to the public. Free will offerings are accepted, and we appreciate your support, which enables us to offer this series year after year. All concerts are held in the acoustically resonant sanctuary of St. Philip Presbyterian Church, and everyone is welcome. Remaining concerts this season:

## Child Piano Prodigies



**SUNDAY | MARCH 18, 2018 | 4:00 p.m.**

**FREE CONCERT** (donations welcome)

In conjunction with Houston Tuesday Music Club, we present the winners of the **2018 Rochelle Liebling Kahan Memorial Fund Competition for Child Piano Prodigies**. Established in 2005 by the Liebling Kahan family under the auspices of HTMC, the contest is open to Houston area children between the ages of six and nine, and the level of talent shown by participants is astonishingly high.

## — SUMMER ORGAN CONCERTS —

**Patrick Parker** • Houston, Texas



**SUNDAY | JUNE 24, 2018 | 2:00 p.m.**

**FREE CONCERT** (donations welcome)

**Patrick Parker** "steals the show by demonstrating his formidable prowess as an organist" (*Early Music America*), and he was recognized in *The Diapason's* Class of 2017 "Twenty Under Thirty" as one of the young artists setting the pace for the next generation of organ and church music. From 2014 to 2017 Patrick was the founding Artistic Director of Houston Baroque, which performed over twenty concerts throughout Houston.

**Nicole Simental** • Columbus, Ohio



**SUNDAY | JULY 22, 2018 | 2:00 p.m.**

**FREE CONCERT** (donations welcome)

Currently Assistant Director of Music and Principal Organist at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio, **Nicole Simental** is a candidate for the Doctor of Music degree in organ performance at Indiana University, following earlier studies at the University of Notre Dame (MSM), Wheaton College (BM), and additional undergraduate work at Oberlin Conservatory. Nicole is the winner of numerous awards in organ playing.

**Christopher Holman** • Basel, Switzerland



**SUNDAY | AUGUST 26, 2018 | 2:00 p.m.**

**FREE CONCERT** (donations welcome)

**Christopher Holman** is an American organist and harpsichordist specializing in music of the 17th and 18th centuries. He has performed as a soloist throughout North America and Europe, released two recordings, been published in Oxford University's journal *Early Music*, and is the Editor of the journal *Vox Humana*. Chris is currently researching and performing throughout Europe while based at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis.

St. Philip Presbyterian Church ♦ 4807 San Felipe Street ♦ Houston, Texas 77056



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