



Siento y Vivo

Flamenco in the Flint Hills

Sunday, Sep 12, 2021

Melinda Hedgecorth – flamenco dance
Beau Bledsoe – flamenco guitar
Antonio Rojas – voice and palmas
Rich Wheeler – saxophone
John Currey – percussion

Program

Set 1 4:30-5:30

- 1- Sevillanas: La Puerta de Toledo
- 2- Homecoming
- 3- Sabor a Mi
- 4- Malagueñas
- 5- Alegrías
- 6- A Mandeli
- 7- Me Quedo en Sevilla
- 8- Mercedes Blanco
- 9- Farruca

Set 2 6:00-6:45

- 1- María La Portuguesa
- 2- Inolvidable
- 3- María Magdalena
- 4- Bésame Mucho
- 5- Lágrimas Negras
- 6- Guajiras
- 7- Lince Ramón

ELEMENTS OF FLAMENCO

“The roots of flamenco are in the songs - *cantes* - with names like *soleares*, *tarantos*, *seguirilla*, *tientos*, and many more. These names refer to a musical *pattern*; flamenco is basically a set of songs and corresponding dances which are identified by their patterns: patterns of rhythm, of harmony and you could even say also emotional patterns. . . The song patterns, along with *El Baile* - flamenco dance - and *La Guitarra*, form the foundation pillars of the art of flamenco . . .” — from *Flamenco...All You Wanted to Know* by Emma Martinez (Mel Bay Publications, 2003)

- **El Cante** (Song) traditional flamenco style of singing from the Andalucía region of Spain, sung by a *cantaor/a*
- **El Baile** (Dance) composed of patterns of movements (e.g., *escobilla*, *desplante*, *llamada*) echoed in the guitar.
- **La Guitarra** (Guitar) flamenco performance may be solo or as accompaniment to *el cante* and *el baile*
- **Compás** (rhythmic pattern) a recurring rhythmic cycle (e.g., 12 beats) with special accents in certain places. Listen for it!

THE PERFORMERS

Melinda Hedgecorth lived from 2004-2018 in one of the capital cities of flamenco dance: Sevilla, Spain. Surrounded by artists and experts, she studied, performed and taught flamenco, gaining experience onstage with local musicians in performances at flamenco clubs such as *Peña Flamenca Pies de Plomo* or cultural centers such as the *Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo*. Newly returned to her native Kansas City, Melinda has been invited as a lecturer to teach flamenco dance at Kansas University and has formed her own LLC *45° Flamenco* which focuses on bringing culture to KC from sister city Sevilla through tours, classes and performances. She often performs as a guest artist with *Ensemble Iberica* as well as her own company *FlamenKcmo* and *Siento y Vivo Flamenco* formed with musical partner Beau Bledsoe.

Beau Bledsoe performs and records classical music, jazz and folkloric music from around the world as he seeks to integrate different musical cultures with diverse audiences. Through his many varied projects and ensembles, Beau has toured extensively throughout Europe, Russia, South America and North America in addition to producing fifteen recordings under his recording label *Tzigane*. Beau is currently artistic director and founder of *Ensemble Iberica* which explores the music of Spain, Portugal and the colonial Americas. His Southern roots have recently led him to begin performing the Country and Western music that he grew up with in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Antonio Rojas is a singer and electric guitar player who has been a performer since his early teen years touring Andalucía, Spain playing Blues, Soul and Rock covers in English and Spanish, as well as his own compositions. Since moving to the USA in 2018 Antonio has widened his focus to include flamenco singing as a way to maintain contact with his roots in Sevilla. He has been a guest artist with *Ensemble Iberica* and is a founding member of group *FlamenKcmo* with Melinda Hedgecorth. He performs regularly in his dual roles as Flamenco Singer and Rock/Blues guitarist and singer with his band *Outlaw Redemption*.

Rich Wheeler has been a very active professional saxophonist and saxophone teacher in the Kansas City area for the past 20 years. He studied saxophone at the University of Kansas, where he earned a BA in Saxophone Performance. He has performed and recorded across the US and Europe, and can be heard locally with the Rich Wheeler Quartet, Brandon Draper New Quintet, Jeff Harshbarger Trio, Bill McKemy Quartet, People's Liberation Big Band, Marcus Lewis Big Band, Relativity Brass, Alaturka, and the Brad Cox Octet. Rich can be heard on a number of recordings including multiple albums by the Peoples Liberation Big Band, Alaturka, Marcus Lewis Big Band and the Brandon Draper Quintet.

John Currey's diverse musical interests and explorations have resulted in an eclectic mix of performance credits including with the Kansas City Symphony, *Ensemble Iberica*, *Czech National Orchestra*, *New Ear contemporary chamber ensemble*, *American Ballet Theater*, *Caribbean Steel pan band*, and the *Kansas City Brass*. John's Flamenco performances include with Flamenco Guitar virtuosos Antonio Andrade and Miguel Sotelo, and, in a variety of Flamenco dance and music ensembles including *FlamenKcmo*, *Siento y Vivo Flamenco*, *Flamenco Mío*, *Flamenco de los Barrios*, and *Olé Music and Dance of Spain*.

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www.manhattanarts.org

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LEARN MORE

Melinda Hedgecorth flamenco group and performance samples

<https://www.45gradosflamenco.com/>

Soledad means Solitude

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

Learning Jaleo

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