



Niño de Elche in concert: Colombiana



MUSIC
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Fri, March 13, 2020

Venue

Former Residence of the Ambassadors of Spain, 2801 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20009

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Admission

Free, [RSVP required](#)

Credits

Presented by the Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain in Washington, D.C.
Photo by José Caldeira

“Colombiana,” the new album by Niño de Elche, explores the relation between colonialism, spices, the economy and the transoceanic exchanges within Flamenco and Latin American rhythms.

“Flamenco is about a journey, it’s about leaving and returning.” This expression refers to specific Flamenco songs that “returned” to Spain from Latin America. African rhythms travelled along with African slaves and Native Americans and were then introduced into Spain, where they found themselves adding *sabor* and *ritmo* to *flamenca guajiras*, *milongas*, the *soleá* and the *seguiriya*. *Romances*, *cabales*, *peteneras* and *pregones* were developed in the wide Afro-Andalusian Caribbean. And, by all means, the *fandango*. This was the same route taken by sugar, coffee, cacao, rum and cane.

Colombiana, by Niño de Elche, is thus a continuation of the fascinating journey between these two worlds. The album originated from a travel that Francisco Contreras (Niño de Elche) did to Colombia to meet Eblis Álvarez, alma mater of the South American folklore renovation project and founder of the wildly eclectic Meridian Brothers.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Niño de Elche is an unusual *cantaor* or flamenco singer (“ex-flamenco,” as he calls himself). His practice moved away from the traditional Flamenco sphere into contemporary practices such as performances, poetry, improvisation, minimalism, singer-songwriting, rock or electronics. His albums *Sí*, *a Miguel Hernández*, *Voces del Extremo* or *Antología del Cante Flamenco Heterodoxo* coexist with performing arts collaborations with dancers such as Israel Galván or performative



interventions such as *La farsa monea* at Documenta 14 in Kassel.

Niño de Elche also participated in projects with the rock band Toundra, the meta-band Exquirra, Los Planetas, Fuerza Nueva and C. Tangana, with whom he released the song *Un veneno*.

Watch Exquirra (Toundra and Niño del Elche) perform *Destruidnos juntos*.