

MUSIC CENTER
STRATHMORE

Strathmore Presents

FARRUQUITO

Thursday, February 21, 2019, 8pm

PROGRAM

Soleá
Soleá por bulerías
Seguidilla Alegría
Taranto Zapateo
Sevillanas

CAST

Juan Manuel Fernandez Montoya “Farruquito” <i>Bailaor</i>	Ezequiel Montoya Jimenez “El Chanito” <i>Cantaor</i>	Juan Fernández Gálvez “Juan Parrilla” <i>Flute</i>
Gemma Moneo <i>Bailaora</i>	Mari Vizarraga <i>Cantaora</i>	Manuel Lozano “Lolo” <i>Percussion</i>
Juan Antonio Fernández Montoya “Barullo” <i>Bailaor and Hand-Clapping</i>	Maria Mezcle <i>Cantaora</i>	Gaspar Leal <i>Sound Engineer</i>
Antonio Moreno Fernández “Polito” <i>Bailaor and Cajón</i>	Yerai Cortés <i>Guitar</i>	Angel Luis Cascón <i>Lighting Design</i>
	Melchor Borja <i>Bass Guitar and Keyboard</i>	

BIOGRAPHY



Farruquito (Juan Manuel Fernández Montoya), heir to the most renowned Gypsy flamenco dynasty, is the “greatest flamenco dancer of this new century” (*The New York Times*). Son of flamenco singer Juan Fernández Flores “El Moreno” and

dancer Rosario Montoya Manzano “La Farruca,” and the eldest of four brothers, Juan Antonio Fernández Montoya “El Farru,” Manuel Fernández Montoya “El Carpeta,” and Alegría Fernández Montoya, Farruquito grew up immersed in the purest form of flamenco founded by his grandfather, “El Farruco,” one of the greatest dancers in the history of flamenco.

His first international stage appearance was at the age of four on Broadway in New York City alongside his grandfather in the hit show *Flamenco Puro*. At 11, he was featured in the film *Flamenco*, produced by the legendary film director Carlos Saura, which launched Farruquito’s career and positioned him amongst the most elite flamenco artists in the world. That same year, together with the flamenco legends in his family, he created and choreographed *Bodas de Gloria*. In 1992, he had the honor of sharing the stage with his grandfather at the inauguration of the Paralympic Games of Barcelona. When Farruquito was 15, El Farruco—the current patriarch of this flamenco dynasty—passed and Farruquito became the heir to the Farruco flamenco lineage.

The same year he created his first show, *Raíces Flamencas* (*Flamenco Roots*), which not only distinguished his mastery as a dancer but also gave him the opportunity to showcase the traditions of his prodigious flamenco line. *Raíces Flamencas* debuted in the Royal Festival Hall in London and toured around the world to high acclaim. In 2001, he was named the best artist to have set foot in the Big Apple (*The New York Times*) after his performance of *La Len Varo* at the Flamenco Festival in the United States.

The following year, Farruquito triumphed in his native city, Seville, spending a full season at the Central Theater. After his wildly successful performance at the third season of the flamenco festival, he embarked on a cross-country tour of the United States where

critics hailed not only his talent as a dancer, but also his incredible personality as an artist. Shortly after, Farruquito was voted one of the World’s 50 Most Beautiful People by *People* magazine. In 2003, the Academy of Music in Spain honored him for his lyrics on *Dulce Canela* in the María de Niña Pastori album and for his *zapateo* accompaniment on the homage album to Jeros.

In the meantime, Farruquito continued to lead his dance academy, which is located in Seville and founded on the precepts of the Farruco school. The popularity of his following premiere, *Alma Vieja*, at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville, led to a very successful European tour.

Due to tragic events in his personal life, Farruquito was absent from the performance stage for awhile, but returned in summer of 2008 with his new production, *Puro*. Fans and critics alike proclaimed, “Farruquito has returned to his reign!” In 2010, he premiered *Sonerías* at the Bienal de Flamenco of Seville, where his audiences experienced the raw roots of flamenco with a theatrical flair that they had never seen from him. Invited by the prestigious fashion label, Louis Vuitton, Farruquito starred in *Mirror of Passion*. Farruquito triumphed in the premiere of *Baile Flamenco* (*El Mundo*) after a sold-out season of this show with costumes designed by Vuitton and Berlutti. In 2013, Farruquito created *Improvisao*, a show returning to his roots and demonstrating what he had learned throughout many years in this profession. It was a fusion of singing, guitar, and dance at the highest level, with the quest of creating something new every day.

In 2015, Farruquito was invited to dance with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in four sold-out gala concerts of an adapted version of *Amor Brujo*, directed by Gustavo Dudamel at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Farruquito returned to the United States for a coast-to-coast tour in 2016. As the principal inheritor of the greatest Gypsy flamenco bloodline, Farruquito has made it his life’s mission to portray the purest form of flamenco on stages around the world, while further broadening his influence by collaborating with the most paramount film directors, conductors and artists of our time.