

Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca:

Searching for Goya

Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 3pm and 8pm

These are the 1,494th and 1,495th concerts in Koerner Hall

Juan Ogalla, dance

Marina Elana, dance

Gabriel Matias, dance

Manuel Gago, vocals

Carmina Cortés, vocals

Salva de María, guitar

Eugenio Iglesias, guitar

Soledad Barrio & Martín Santangelo, choreography

PROGRAM

The Daring of Martincho in the Ring at Saragossa

Rain of Bulls

The Parasol

And Still They Don't Go

Beds of Death

Matrimony

Luminous Door

Music by Salva de María, Eugenio Iglesias, David "Chupete" Rodríguez & Martín Santangelo

Vocal arrangements by Manuel Gago, Emilio Florido & Carmina Cortés

Conceived and directed by artistic director Martín Santangelo, and choreographed by Bessie Award-winning principal dancer Soledad Barrio and Martín Santangelo, *Searching for Goya* brings to life the extraordinary art of Francisco de Goya. The production reveals Goya's scorching political criticisms and his penetrating examinations of the human condition.

"The timeless themes, emotions, and conditions that emerge are key to Goya's enduring relevance. Like the world in which Goya lived, our own is rent by ignorance and fear and ripped apart by conflict and suffering that have taken on new dimensions in the face of a pandemic. Now and into the future, Goya's art will continue to engage those who seek the essence of human being" (excerpt from *Goya's Graphic Imagination* by Mark McDonald, Curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art).

Inspired by *Goya's Graphic Imagination*, Santangelo has brought to life Goya's work through the language of flamenco. Featuring a company of dancers, singers, and musicians whose mastery of flamenco stretches the

boundaries of the art form, Noche Flamenca is, as Brian Seibert from *The New York Times* stated, “Raising the dead with Goya.”

The show began development in 2022 at The Joyce Theater, The 62' Center at Williams College, Pittsburgh Playhouse, and Field Hall, among other prestigious cultural institutions. *Searching for Goya* is inspired by Francisco de Goya's paintings, featuring original music, wardrobe, and lighting design as well as original mask design by world-renowned artist Mary Frank.

The world premiere took place in November 2023 at The University of Washington's Meany Center for The Performing Arts, where *The Seattle Times* called it “a dance performance you won't want to miss.” The show has since toured to the Savannah Music Festival, the Irvine Barclay Theatre, and the Joyce Theater in 2024.

Mark MacDonald, curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Goya expert, is the artistic consultant for this project, helping us explore Goya's legacy and deepening our understanding of his art. Goya's work explores the human condition in ways that resonate deeply within the flamenco world, unveiling the complexities and contradictions that exist within us and captures the beauty and horrors that make us who we are.

Searching for Goya includes interpretations of works such as *Los Ensacados*, *Disparate Desordenado*, *Disparate Ridículo*, *Disparate Pobre*, *El Quitasol*, *Disparate Puntual*, *Lluvia de Toros*, *Las Camas de la Muerte*, *Temeridad de Martincho en la Plaza de Zaragoza*, *El Diestrisimo Estudiante de Falces*, *Embozado Burla al Toro con sus Quiebras*, *Duelo a Garrotazos*, *La Romería de San Isidro*, *El Entierro de la Sardina*, *Perro Semihundido*, and *Dos Personajes Asomándose a una Salida Luminosa*, among others.

Noche Flamenca

Under the direction and choreography of Martin Santangelo, the award-winning Noche Flamenca is recognized as one of the world's premier touring companies. Formed in 1993 by Santangelo and his award-winning wife and principal dancer, Soledad Barrio, the company has toured throughout the globe, including regular seasons in New York City, and performances in North and South America, Europe, and Australia. Hailed by critics for its transcendent and deeply emotional performances, Noche Flamenca has successfully brought to the stage the essence, purity, and integrity of one of the world's most complex and mysterious art forms, through a diverse theatrical body of work that expresses a rigorous, spell-binding aesthetic that exceeds the highest artistic expectations. All aspects of flamenco – dance, song, and music – are interrelated and given equal weight, creating a true communal spirit within the company – the very heart and soul of flamenco. Through its live performances, the company strives to captivate its audiences and to evoke in them the vivid and expansive sea of passion and emotion that is flamenco. Through its educational outreach and residency programs, the company seeks to educate and enlighten persons of all ages, races, and economic backgrounds regarding the authentic form of flamenco – a form born of ancestral cultural repression and racial expulsion. Noche Flamenca has been recognized with awards from the National Dance Project, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the MAP Fund, the Bessies, and the Lucille Lortel Award for Special Theatrical Experience, among many others.

Soledad Barrio

Founding Member & Choreographer

Soledad Barrio was born in Madrid. She is a founding member of Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca alongside her husband Martín Santangelo and the principal dancer starring in the critically acclaimed Noche Flamenca show *Antígona*. Ms. Barrio has appeared as a soloist with Manuela Vargas, Blanca del Rey, Luisillo, El Gúito, Manolete, Cristóbal Reyes, El Toleo, Ballet Español, de Paco Romero, Festival Flamenco, and many other companies. She has performed throughout Europe, Japan, and North and South America with such artists as Alejandro Granados, El Torombo, Isabel Bayón, Jesús Torres, Miguel Pérez, Belén Maya, Manolo Marín, Javier Barón, Merce Esmeralda, and Rafael Campallo. She has also been a resident teaching artist at NYU Tisch School of the Arts and Drama and a guest teacher at The Julliard School of Dance. Barrio has won awards from over 15 countries for her excellence in dance, including a Bessie Award for Outstanding Creative Achievement, a 2015 Dance Magazine Exceptional Artist Award, the 2022 Vilcek Prize in Dance, and a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer.

Martín Santangelo

Founding Member, Artistic Director & Choreographer

Martín Santangelo founded Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca with Soledad Barrio. He studied flamenco dance after moving to Madrid from New York City, where he studied jazz, tap dance, and theatre. Martín's teachers included "Ciro," Paco Romero, "El Güito," and "Manolete," among others. He has performed as a dancer throughout Spain, Japan, and North and South America, appearing with María Benítez's Teatro Flamenco, the Lincoln Center Festival of the Arts, and Paco Romero's Ballet Español. He also appeared in Julie Taymor's *Juan Darien* at Lincoln Center. He choreographed and performed in Eduardo Machado's *Deep Song*, directed by Lynne Taylor-Corbett as well as a production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Denver Theater Center. He has directed and choreographed *Bodas de Sangre*, *The Lower Depths*, *La Celestina*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Antígona*, amongst other international productions. He has collaborated with many artists, but his most fulfilling collaboration has been with his wife and his two daughters.

Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca made their Royal Conservatory debuts on January 30, 2010, during Koerner Hall's inaugural concert season. This is their fourth return to the Conservatory.