



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
announces**

Iberian Suite: arts remix across continents

**Three-Week International Festival of
Dance, Theater, Music, Visual Arts, Literature, Design, and Film**

**In Dozens of Performances, Exhibitions, and Events
Throughout the Kennedy Center
March 2–24, 2015**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—Over the course of three weeks in venues throughout the building, the Kennedy Center presents *Iberian Suite: arts remix across continents*, a major festival highlighting the cultures of Portugal and Spain and the impact they have had around the world, as well as the vast influence this region has embraced from other cultures. The festival includes dozens of performances by some of the region’s best contemporary music, dance, and theater artists—many of whom are making their United States or Washington, D.C. debuts—as well as companies from around the world. Visual arts in works big and small, old and new will be highlighted in exhibitions around the building, and additional events will focus on film, literature, design, architecture, and cuisine. The festival will take place March 2–24, 2015

“This festival will offer an extensive and vibrant panorama of contemporary cultural traditions whose roots are more than a millennium ago,” stated Alicia Adams, Kennedy Center vice president of international programming and dance. “The intersections of arts across continents show the movement and metaphor, the quality, plurality, and creativeness of the various genres and trends that have emerged from contact and collaboration between artists that share the Spanish and Portuguese languages.”

A selection of the festival highlights follows. A complete listing of festival participants and additional programming—including exhibitions, additional performances, and performance dates—will be announced in the coming months.

DANCE

Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras (Spain)

Voces, Suite Flamenca

March 2015

Eisenhower Theater

Washington, D.C. Premiere

One of Spain's most popular flamenco stars, Sara Baras is celebrated for her brilliant footwork and captivating stage presence. She has become internationally famous in a career that has spanned more than 20 years, and won dozens of awards. Her performances capture the emotion, drama, and passion of traditional flamenco, with a vibrant contemporary edge. She makes her Kennedy Center debut with *Voces, Suite Flamenca*, a new work that will premiere in Paris in December 2014 featuring Baras, guest artist Jose Serrano, and nine other dancers.

Ángel Corella (Spain)

March 2015

Eisenhower Theater

Ángel Corella will perform as part of the *Iberian Suite: arts remix across continents* opening event. He was a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre for sixteen years. As a ballet dancer, Mr. Corella toured the world with the Royal Ballet in London, the La Scala Ballet in Milan, the Australian Ballet, the Ballet of Tokyo, Ballet Contemporáneo de Caracas, the National Ballet of Chile, and the Mariinsky Ballet in St. Petersburg. He is the recipient of the Prix Benois de la Danse (2000), the National Award of Spain (2003), the Leonid Massine Award (2008), and the Spanish International Medal of Arts (2009). In 2008, he founded Corella Ballet, Castilla Y León, the first classical ballet company in Spain in 20 years. After moving to Barcelona in 2012, the company was renamed Barcelona Ballet. Around that time, Corella retired from ABT in order to focus on the Barcelona Ballet as Artistic Director and principal dancer.

Compañía María Pagés (Spain)

Utopía

March 2015

Eisenhower Theater

United States Premiere

María Pagés is internationally renowned for her personal aesthetic concept of the art of flamenco. After starting her career in the Antonio Gades Company, she went on to form her own company. She has collaborated with a number of artists, including Plácido Domingo, Ángel Corella, and others. Her piece *Utopía* represents her admiration for Portuguese writer José Saramago and Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer. This flamenco dance is staged in a scenario inspired by the curved lines of Oscar Niemeyer's drawings, and features an original score played by live musicians.

María Muñoz, Mal Pelo (Spain)

Bach

March 2015

Theater Terrace

United States Premiere

María Muñoz is a dancer and co-founder of the Mal Pelo dance company with Pep Ramis. Since 1989, she has performed with Mal Pelo across Europe, the United States, and Latin America in over 15 works, including her well-known solo piece *Bach*. With *Bach*, in an interiorized dedication to pure movement, she has embraced Johann Sebastian Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* to bring together body, dance and music.

Companhia Portuguesa de Bailando Contemporâneo (Portugal)

Fado

March 2015

Terrace Theater

Washington, D.C. Premiere

One of the largest contemporary dance companies in Portugal, Companhia Portuguesa de Bailando Contemporâneo was founded in 1997 by Vasco Wellenkamp (formerly choreographer for the Gulbenkian Ballet) and Graça Barroso. Over the last 15 years, under the artistic direction of Wellenkamp, the company premiered more than 50 works and toured Brazil, Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, the United States, China, and Israel. Jan Linkens, artistic director for the Netherlands-based International DansTheater, invited Vasco Wellenkamp to choreograph this work about fado, the national music genre of Portugal. The beautiful voice of Carla Pires and the poetry of the fado that she sings inspires to abandonment and emotion, a ritual without time or defined characters.

Sofia Dias and Vítor Roriz (Portugal)

March 2015

Millennium Stage

United States Debut

Portuguese choreographers and dancers Sofia Dias and Vítor Roriz have been collaborating since 2006 and have created 12 works together. They have presented their work in countries across Europe, including Spain, Switzerland, France, Germany, Romania, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Cyprus, Poland, and Finland. Their 2011 work *A gesture that is nothing but a threat* received the Prix Jardin d'Europe. They will make their United States debut on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage.

Grupo Corpo (Brazil)

Sem Mim

March 2015

Eisenhower Theater

Grupo Corpo is a popular dance ensemble from the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais and has been a strong international representative of Brazilian contemporary dance since its founding in 1975. With its trademark combination of classical technique and a contemporary re-reading of popular Brazilian dance forms, Grupo Corpo has created over 35 major works and more than 2,300 pieces under its founding brothers, Paulo Pederneiras and main choreographer Rodrigo Pederneiras. Their work *Sem Mim* features an original score composed by Carlos Nuñez and José Miguel Wisnik and is based on the “Sea of Vigo” song cycle by Martín Codax, a set of seven songs dating from the 13th century. Grupo Corpo has performed around the world in Iceland, South Korea, Lebanon, Canada, Italy, Singapore, the Netherlands, Israel, France, Japan, Mexico, and the United States. The company was last seen at the Kennedy Center in 2002, presenting *Parabello* along with *Seven or Eight Pieces for a Ballet*.

Tania Pérez-Salas Compañía de Danza (Mexico)

March 2015

Terrace Theater

Tania Pérez-Salas is one of Mexico’s most accomplished contemporary dancers and choreographers. Founded in 1994, the company is known for its visual imagery, often making use of props and dramatic lighting. The company made their Kennedy Center debut in 2008 with *The Hours* and *Anabiosis*, and returned in 2010 with *3.Fourteen Sixteen*, *The Waters of Forgetfulness* and *Ex-stasis*.

THEATER

Mala Voadora (Portugal)

March 2015

Terrace Theater

United States Debut

Mala Voadora is a Lisbon-based theater company founded in 2003 by co-Artistic Directors Jorge Andrade and José Capela. Its work focuses on contemporary social issues as well as the nature of theatricality and spectacle. With a repertory of almost 30 productions, Mala Voadora has given performances in England and Greece. The company makes its Kennedy Center premiere in the Terrace Theater.

Mundo Perfeito (Portugal)

Three fingers below the knee and *By Heart*

March 2015

Family Theater

United States Debut

Founded in 2003, Mundo Perfeito was organized around the work of co-Artistic Director Tiago Rodrigues. Mundo Perfeito also produces new playwrights and collaborates with Portuguese and international artists. Several of Mundo Perfeito’s productions have received critical attention, including *If*

a window would open (nominated for the Performance of the Year Prize by the Portuguese Authors Society) and *Three fingers below the knee* (awarded the Best Theatre Show of 2012 by the Portuguese Author's Society and a Portuguese Golden Globe for Best Theatre Performance of 2012 by the television channel SIC). *Three fingers below the knee* features texts from the reports written by theater inspectors during the fascist regime that ruled Portugal for nearly 50 years; the reports that forced the censorship of theatrical performances have themselves become a spectacle. In *By Heart*, 10 audience members are invited to memorize a poem, with the show only ending when all 10 can recite the lines by heart. Mundo Perfeito has presented work in countries such as France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Lebanon, Brazil, and Singapore.

Teatro Meridional (Portugal)

Contos em Viagem – Cabo Verde

March 2015

United States Premiere

Since its founding in 1992, Portuguese theater company Teatro Meridional has staged 45 productions in 19 countries. Teatro Meridional presents a variety of original theatrical texts and staged adaptations of non-theatrical pieces. The company has won numerous awards, most notably the Prize for New European Theatrical Realities in 2010. Teatro Meridional has toured internationally to five continents. For the festival, Teatro Meridional presents *Contos em Viagem – Cabo Verde* (Stories on a Journey – Cape Verde), a show based on texts that, despite having a particular context and geography, speak of the universality of emotions. The show specifically speaks of Cape Verde through the words of Cape Verdean authors in both Portuguese and the native Cape Verdean Creole.

MUSIC

Camané (Portugal)

Concert Hall

March 2015

Fado

Since the release of his first album in 1995, Camané has been considered by many to be the leading man in the new generation of Portugal's fado singers. He has toured extensively across the world, throughout Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Holland, Argentina, Chile, and elsewhere. He has released 10 studio albums, several of which went gold, and has also been nominated for the Portuguese Golden Globes.

An Homage to Pablo Casals

Concert Hall

March 2015

Classical Music

Catalan cellist Pablo Casals (1876-1973) was a respected figure for his exceptional artistry and his

impassioned protest of dictatorships and of restraints on human liberty. As part of *Iberian Suite: arts remix around the world*, the Kennedy Center will honor Mr. Casals service to the world with a special concert featuring a group of cellists from around the world performing music by Spanish and Latin American composers. Additional information for this performance will be announced at a later date.

Carminho (Portugal)

Concert Hall

March 2015

Fado

Carminho is considered to be one of the most talented and innovative fado singers of her generation. The daughter of Teresa Siqueira, a famous fado singer in her own right, Carminho is a consummate crossover artist, displaying alacrity in traditional and contemporary fado, as well as other genres including Portuguese folk music, Brazilian popular music, jazz, pop, and rock. Carminho made her debut in 2003 on *Saudades do Fado: Tertúlia de Fado Tradicional*, a collaborative album produced by guitarist Luis Penedo on which she is featured as a vocalist. She won the Prémio Amália Revelação award in 2005 and was later featured prominently in the Carlos Saura film *Fados* (2007). Carminho earned stardom in Spain after being featured on Pablo Alborán's *Perdóname*, a number-one single on the Spanish charts. A household name in Portugal, Carminho's best-selling *Fado* and *Alma* albums have achieved platinum and gold status in her native country.

Eugenia León (Mexico)

March 2015

Fusion

Over the course of her illustrious career spanning more than three decades, Eugenia León has become a Mexican cultural icon. She has produced nearly 30 original studio albums and has toured in such countries as France, Japan, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Morocco, Egypt, China, and the United States. In 2003, she debuted as the presenter of the popular television program *Acústico* in Mexico City, conducting interviews and performing duets with Ibero-American music celebrities as Daniela Romo, José Feliciano, Lila Downs, Regina Orozco, Susana Zabaleta, La Sonora Santanera, Chavela Vargas, La Maldita Vecindad, and Amaury Pérez among others.

National Symphony Orchestra

Concert Hall

March 5-14, 2015

Classical Music

The National Symphony Orchestra will take part in the Kennedy Center's *Iberian Suite: arts remix across continents* with both Music Director Christoph Eschenbach and Spain's preeminent conductor, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, leading performances. Frühbeck de Burgos, a Washington favorite, served as the NSO's Principal Guest Conductor in the 1980s. He leads a performance of what is perhaps Spain's greatest opera, *La vida breve*, by Manuel de Falla, a composer of whose works Maestro Frühbeck has been a career-long advocate. The NSO's music director explores the music of Spain as experienced through the eyes and ears of French composers: Debussy, Ravel,

Chabrier, and Lalo. In the latter's *Symphonie espagnole*, the NSO welcomes Spanish violinist Leticia Moreno in her NSO debut.

Manhattan Camerata (Argentina, Brazil)

Tango-Fado Project

Millennium Stage

March 2015

Classical Music

Manhattan Camerata is a New York-based world music chamber orchestra whose performances integrate Western classical chamber orchestra with several instruments from around the world (including Portuguese guitar, sitar, koto, darbuka, bandoneón, among others), in a wide variety of musical styles (including tango, fado, flamenco, among others). The Camerata was founded in 2009 by Argentine composer and pianist Lucía Caruso and Portuguese composer and guitarist Pedro H. da Silva (also a member of the Department of Music faculty at New York University). The Camerata has performed at major venues across the New York area and internationally in Portugal, France, and Italy. Exploring the connections between Argentine tango and Portuguese fado, *Tango-Fado Project* blends the traditional sounds of the two instruments that are at the very heart of both styles: bandoneón and Portuguese guitar. Although tango and fado originate in two distant countries, they are closely related in harmony, melody, and lyrical theme, while differing in rhythm and instrumentation. These unique concerts feature the music of Carlos Gardel, Astor Piazzolla, Amália Rodrigues, as well as original compositions by Lucía Caruso and Pedro da Silva.

Sharon Isbin and Isabel Leonard (United States)

Terrace Theater

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 7:30pm

Classical Music

American classical guitarist Sharon Isbin and mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, an American of Argentine heritage, will perform an intimate recital in the Terrace Theater as part of the Fortas Chamber Music Series. The recital program includes music by Spanish and Paraguayan composers including García-Lorca, Tárrega, Albéniz, Rodrigo, Madriguera, Morante, Mangoré, and Falla.

PostClassical Ensemble (Spain, United States)

Iberian Mystics: The Confluence of Faiths

March 2015

Classical Music

Founded in 2003 by music director Angel Gil-Ordóñez and artistic director Joseph Horowitz, PostClassical Ensemble (PCE) is an experimental orchestral laboratory based in Washington, D.C. Specializing in 20th century music from the Americas and Spain, PCE programming is thematic and cross-disciplinary, usually linking to educational institutions, including educational partner Georgetown University and film programs at the National Gallery of Art, and often incorporating dance or theater. The PostClassical Ensemble presents *Iberian Mystics: The Confluence of Faiths*, an evening of music,

visual art, dance, and the spoken word. Distinctive to Iberian culture was the inspirational confluence of Arab, Catholic, and Jewish influences prior to the end of the Reconquista (Reconquest) in 1492. PCE's program will include music of all three faiths displaying the confluence of cultures in the region.

Additional Events

As with several recent international festivals at the Kennedy Center, *Iberian Suite: arts remix across continents* will host several visual art exhibitions, film screenings, and literature events, as well as panels, lectures, and forums about the Iberian cultures. Cuisine from across the continents will be featured in the Center's restaurants. A full roster of performances and events, along with ticketing information, will be announced in the coming months.

Artists and performances are subject to change.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

For more than 40 years, the Kennedy Center has presented diverse festivals of international arts and culture. From March 10-30, 2014, the Center presents *WORLD STAGES: International Theater Festival 2014*, featuring theatrical offerings from 20 countries. Other recent international festivals include *Nordic Cool 2013*, highlighting the different cultures of the Nordic region, *The Music of Budapest, Prague, and Vienna* (2012), which highlighted the rich musical heritage of three European cities with dozens of performances, lectures, and events; *maximum INDIA* (2011), an unprecedented celebration of Indian arts and culture that included nearly 100 performances, events, and exhibitions; *Arabesque: Arts of the Arab World* (2009), a wide-reaching celebration of Arab arts and culture that presented more than 800 artists from 22 Arab countries; *JAPAN! culture + hyperculture* (2008), which showcased the richness and diversity of the arts of Japan by bringing the traditional and classical together with the contemporary and cutting-edge; *Festival of China* (2005), which comprised four weeks of unprecedented performances and exhibitions, featuring more than 900 Chinese artists, and was the single largest celebration of Chinese performing arts in American history; *Festival of France* (2004), a large-scale celebration in recognition of the global impact of French art, culture, and history; *AmericArtes* (2001-2004), a multi-year festival exploring Latin American art and culture; and *African Odyssey* (1997-2000), a four-year festival celebrating the arts and culture of Africa.

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