

MANSION
STRATHMORE
Music in the Mansion

PIPO ROMERO

Thursday, February 27, 2025, 7:30pm



PROGRAM

Obertura

Tangos del Atlántico (Spanish tango)

Sentimento (zapateado)

Gaélica (rumba folk)

Bailando en el Tsunami (Spanish classical music)

Alborada (bulerías)

El Pasito (abandolao/Mexican folk)

Por el Camino (Argentinian tango/bulerías)

Por una Cabeza (Argentinian tango)

De las Cosas que Nunca Dije (pasodoble)

Note: All compositions by Pipo Romero except *Por una Cabeza* (composed by Carlos Gardel)

ABOUT PIPO ROMERO

Pipo Romero is a composer and guitarist from Cádiz whose music captures the essence of his hometown blended with influences and folk traditions from different parts of the world. For years, Pipo was one of Spain's most prominent session and studio guitarists. However, his true passion blossomed when he developed a unique way of playing the acoustic guitar, integrating styles such as classical, flamenco, and jazz into his own musical language.

In September 2017, his first album, *Folklórico*, was released by Legacy Records and entered directly into the top 10 of the WMCE (World Music Charts Europe, Nov. 2017). By the end of 2018, he presented his second album, *Ideario*, selling out two consecutive nights in his hometown of Cádiz and performing at prestigious jazz festivals such as those in Barcelona and Madrid.

In 2019, Pipo brought his music to numerous international stages, including Canada, the United States, Italy, and Portugal.

His third album, *Ikigai*, released in 2022, took him to explore new horizons, with performances in South Korea, China, and Taiwan, in addition to solidifying his presence on European and North American stages.

In 2025, Pipo Romero presents his highly anticipated fourth album, *Alborada*, a work symbolizing a new artistic dawn, where tradition and modernity intertwine in a unique sonic journey that cements his position as one of the most revolutionary figures in acoustic guitar.

NOTES TO THE PROGRAM

Great musicians, by definition, are restless. But some live in constant movement, while others manage to always, somehow mysteriously, find their place. Pipo Romero belongs to the latter. Not because he is an indolent or sedentary spirit—on the contrary: since the beginning of his career, Romero has traversed more styles and ways of playing than can be counted on two hands. Yet, this artist from Cádiz somehow always finds his place wherever he goes.

Romero undoubtedly found his place with his dazzling solo debut album, ironically titled *Folklórico*, where he fully embraced acoustic guitar to broaden his horizons and put to rest any irrelevant discussions about fusion.

After studying the styles of Tommy Emmanuel, Chet Atkins, and the percussive acoustic guitar of Andy McKee, Don Ross, and John Gomm, Pipo Romero patented his own label—Spanish ‘fingerstyle’—one of the highest honors a creator can aspire to. However,

labels are often conventions that interest critics, industry executives, and record store clerks more than artists. The day after founding them, you have to keep making music.

Romero has continued to make music, and what music it is. This new work displays a profound example of being in a place. A way of belonging proudly to a location—in this case, the ancient city of Cádiz—but without chauvinistic boasts. Instead, it is peaceful and serene, unburdened by roots: the sounds of southern Andalusia are naturally embedded in his sentimental baggage, but Pipo also knows that to reach distant horizons, it’s better to travel light. Experience is evident, not as a resting place, but as a springboard for new challenges.

Walk slowly, go far, return home, leave again, until the path is inside you, until you become the path itself: this is the journey proposed by this remarkable *Ideario*.

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