

# España alla Rossini

**Recital for mezzo soprano, tenor, piano, with dancer**

**Anna Tonna • mezzo soprano**

**Emilio González Sanz • pianist**

tenor (optional)

Spanish classical female dancer with castanets (optional)



# España alla Rossini

## Vocal Recital

### ACCLAIM

*Immediately, the mezzo-soprano Anna Tonna transports us to a sunny Andalusian city with clarity and directness of her warm mezzo sound, and an impeccable vernacular enunciation of the text. **Rossini in America***

*Anna Tonna is a mezzo of powerful resources, with a voice of considerable volume and timbre of great beauty, wide, profound and silky, with a well resolved passaggio and penetrating high notes. From the point of view of her expressive capabilities, one can speak of her elegant legato and phrasing full of intention and emotion. **Diario de Sevilla***

*The North American mezzo soprano Anna Tonna possesses a beautiful voice with a stupendous timbre, with musicality and coloratura more than adequate for this rossinian repertoire of salon.*

### Melónamo Digital

*Anna Tonna with her clear mezzo soprano of uniform registers, musical and committed, of fresh and youthful timbre and of immediate simpatico to the listener; Emilio González Sanz, a pianist full of rhythm (in this case an item of the utmost importance) with rich and piercing sonority, that comes together and accompanies as an infallible compliment to the stylistic play of his partner. **El Arte de la Fuga***

### WHAT

*España alla Rossini* is a thematic vocal and Spanish dance recital that explores the relationship and connections the Italian composer **Gioachino Rossini** (1792-1868) enjoyed with Spain.

### HOW

This theatrical music concert is for mezzo soprano, tenor (optional), female Spanish classical dancer (optional) and pianist.

Mezzo soprano **Anna Tonna** and pianist **Emilio González Sanz** offer a recital of chamber music songs composed by Rossini; the concert proposal offers the option of the participation of a tenor, and female classical Spanish dancer who performs the 19th century the style known as "Escuela bolera".<sup>1</sup>

The recital is performed in costumes that are in the style of the 1830's, and aims to re create the musical soirees that took place in the 19th century bourgeois residences in Madrid.

### WHY

*España alla Rossini* is fruit of an investigation by **Reto Müller** of the *Rossini Gesellschaft* in Switzerland, and **José Luis Téllez** of the *Teatro Real de Madrid*. The repertoire gathers chamber music songs for voice and piano by Rossini with texts by Pietro Metastasio, Ventura de la Vega and other authors in Castilian, French and Italian. In addition, it has aesthetic and musical elements that are intimately related to Spain: rythms from the "Escuela bolera" dance tradition of the XIX century such as the *tirana*, the *seguidilla* and the *bolero liso*. Numerous songs in the program are dedicated to Spanish friends of Rossini: the Queens María Cristina and Isabel II, and the Duchess of Alba and Berwick to name a few.

The program highlights Rossini's friendships with various Spanish composers, the relationship that the Italian composer enjoyed with his great friend and protector, "Marqués de las Marismas" Alejandro Aguado, as well as his close relationships with the circle of ex patriat Spaniards in France via his wife, the Spanish diva Isabella Colbran, the García familia and the first Spanish interpreters of his operas.

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1 A New York based cast is available upon request for *España alla Rossini*

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To be noted is the little known fact that Rossini traveled to Madrid in 1831 with Alejandro Aguado, at the invitation of Queen María Cristina to inaugurate The Royal Conservatory of Madrid.

The **importance of the project** is that for the first time, a live concert with its own discographic project is presented which highlights the influence of Spanish culture thru the prism of music, dance, the castanets as well as showcasing the relationship between the classical musics of Spain and the incipient aesthetics that precede flamenco style.

*España alla Rossini* is the subject of a new commercial disc release by *iTinerat Classic* label, available on streaming on Spotify and Youtube, and available for purchase on iTunes, Arkiv Music and Naxos.



*España alla Rossini*

**Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)**

**Chamber music songs for voice and piano**

Aragonesa (1857-1868)

Les amants de Séville, Tirana pour deux voix for alto, tenor and piano (1864)

Beltá crudele (Madrid version, 1831)

Bolero (1850)

Bolero (1832)

Canzonetta spagnuola or Arietta Spagnuola (1821)

Fac ut portem, from *Stabat Mater* (1832)

A Granada (1863)

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L'invito, bolero (1831-1835)  
Nizza, canzonetta spagnolesca (1836)  
La passeggiata (Anacreontica) (1831)  
La promessa (1831-35)  
Sorzico (1855-1868)  
Tirana alla spagnola (rossinizzata) (1866)  
La viuda del náufrago, canzone spagnuola (1863)

Estimated duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes, including intermission

Program subject to change

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

**ANNA TONNA** [www.annatonna.com](http://www.annatonna.com)

"Anna Tonna wielded a firmly-projected, oaken mezzo sound that made one wish Zandonai had written more for her character..." *Opera News*

Mezzo Soprano **Anna Tonna** has been described as "a mezzo heroine who knows how to sing Rossini" by the *Rossini Gessellschaft* and as "showing off her warm, secure mezzo-soprano to maximum advantage" by *New York Magazine*; accolades such as these explain her constant demand as a recitalist and opera singer in both Europe and the Americas. The combination of a highly developed coloratura with a full, balanced, flexible lower register have guaranteed her acclaim as a lyric mezzo, both in familiar roles Rosina, Carmen, Dorabella, as well as in the more rare repertoire by Paisiello, Vivaldi, Mascagni, Zandonai and Giordano.

Additionally, Ms. Tonna's passion for excellence in the recital genre have garnered her increasing acclaim in both the U.S. and Europe, particularly her path breaking explorations of the repertoire by composers of Spain and the Americas. Ms. Tonna's recitals are a source of constant expectation and excitement in New York City, where she has performed at the **Alice Tully Hall** and **Rose Center** of **Lincoln Center**, **Bargemusic**, **Merkin Hall**, **New York's Town Hall**, **Weil Recital Hall** as well as at the Hispanic Society of America, Museum of the History of New York, Italian Cultural Institute and Goethe Haus. The same excitement greets her appearances in Spain, with performances at the **Auditorio Nacional de España**, Palacio de Longorio, Fundación Juan March among others. She has been featured at the **Casals Festival of Puerto Rico**, Festival Iberoamericano de las Artes in Puerto Rico, Música de Cámara of NY, Joy in Singing, Festival de Segovia among others. Her recital "Songs of post Civil War Spain" at the Fundación Juan March of Madrid was broadcast on Radio Nacional de España and hailed as "a tour de force" by the Spanish newspaper *ABC*.

Her recent appearances in the United States includes the North American premiere of *Il Re* (Giordano) at **Lincoln Center**, a concert at The Americas Society, her portrayal Laura Adorno in *La Gioconda* with New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera, and concerts both at the Hispanic Society of America in New York City and at "El Escorial" in Spain dedicated to the composer Enrique Granados.

As a Fulbright Scholar to Spain, she realized a study of mid 20th century Spanish art song. Subsequently, she recorded "The Songs of Julio Gómez" with pianist Jorge Robaina for the label Verso en 2011.

Recently in Spain she has bowed at the **Auditorio Nacional de España** both in the opera *The Magic Opal* by Albéniz and the recital *Amor en Travesti*, the Manuel de Falla recital hall (SGAE), Botín Foundation, Museo de Romanticismo and Casa de América in Madrid. Her disc "**España alla Rossini**" with pianist Emilio González Sanz with *iTinerant Classics* label was released world wide in April of 2016.

**EMILIO GONZÁLEZ SANZ** [www.emiliogonzalezsan.com](http://www.emiliogonzalezsan.com)

Creator, musician, pedagogue, interpreter of great versatility, and one of the most brilliant Spanish pianists of his generation, **Emilio González Sanz** brings to light works for solo piano by unjustly forgotten composers such as Antonio José, Juan Arriaga and Santiago Masarnau. A product of constant musical investigation, his programs contribute to the concert hall new visions through the prism of interpretation, by presenting original recital programs of great beauty, interest and quality.

Born in the city of Soria (Spain), Emilio González Sanz is a graduate of the Escuela Superior de Música "Reina Sofía", where he worked with Dmitri Bashkirov, Galina Egyazarova and Marta Gulyas. He subsequently completed his studies with Josep Colom in the "Aula de Música" at the University of Alcalá de Henares, where he obtained first prize upon graduation in the specialties of Piano -with Fernando Puchol- and chamber music at the Royal Conservatory of Madrid, as well as at the Conservatorio Superior of Málaga respectively. He combines his career as a concert pianist with teaching: he is a Professor of chamber music at the Royal Conservatory of Music of Madrid.

He has bowed as solo concert pianist with the most important orchestras in Spain as well as appearing as a featured soloist in various halls in Europe such as the **Salle Cortot** in Paris. He has played world premieres of works by Xavier Montsalvatge, M. A. Palacios and Alejandro Yagüe, as well as various chamber music performances broadcasted live on Radio Nacional de España.

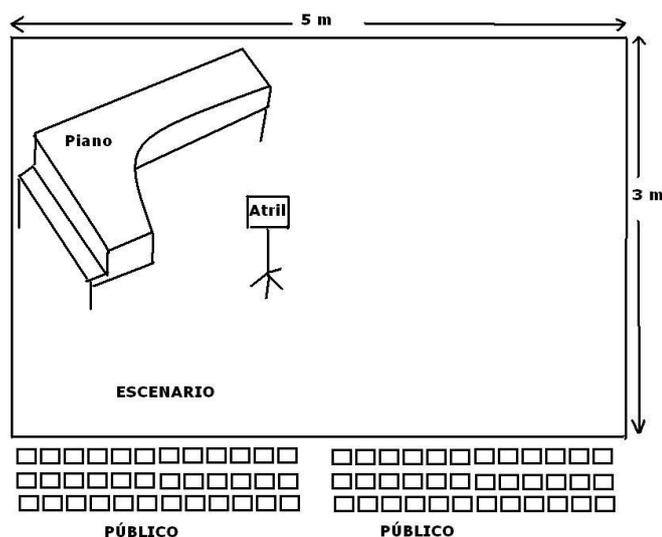
His interests in chamber music has led him to long term collaborations with pianist Sofya Melikyan, the clarinetist Mónica Campillo, baritone José Julián Frontal, mezzo Anna Tonna and tenors Miguel Bernal and Angelo Marchese, as well as with Quartet Mainake and the Ysaÿe Quartet. In addition, he has collaborated with internationally renowned musicians such as cellist Asier Polo, violinist Silvia Marcovici, flutist Nicole Espósito, composer and singer Claude Lefebvre and flutist Stefan Höskuldsson.

Among his recent multidisciplinary projects are *KLIMT, Artist of the Soul, y Marianna Martines, between Spain and Austria* (November 2012), concerts in Spain and Vienna with the Austrian string quartet *Adamas* (January 2013), recitals *Towards Wagner*, for duo pianos with Sofya Melikyan throughout 2013 in the occasion of the Wagner Centennial year, the creation and artistic direction of the Festival *GAMMA HEART, Music and Art for a New Era* at the Teatro El Sol de York of Madrid, and the recording of the CD *La Melodía Encantada* for label iTinerant Classics with clarinetist Mónica Campillo, with whom he forms the duo MoEBius. He made his New York City debut at the Hispanic Society of America with *Music in the times of Joaquin Sorolla: towards a new Spain* in 2014. He recorded the CD "**España alla Rossini**" for label iTinerant Classics, both projects with the mezzo Anna Tonna.

## Tech Rider

### Concert Space

The PRESENTER will put at the disposition of the artists an acoustic concert space for the recital, a performance grand piano that is conditioned and tuned near to the date of the performance, as well as a concerted date for a dress rehearsal in the actual performance space, or in a space that emulates the conditions of the concert hall.



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**Size of performance space and technical requirements**

Approximately 15 x 9 feet, conveniently illuminated with a basic lighting plot, with soloist spotlight for each one of the interpreters. If dancer is contracted, a fully sprung or semi sprung floor surface is required for the stage performance.

**Dressing room or Green Room**

The PRESENTER will put at the disposition of the MUSICIANS a dressing room independent from the public, near the concert and with easy access to amenities usual to an artists dressing room.

**Links to videos**

Video Promo of concert *España alla Rossini*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-bjDyA13qk>

**Videos of the Making of the disc *España alla Rossini***

**CD video teaser:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2QUflhBons>

**Rossini and Spain:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoZT651Hnvc&t=132s>

**The Spanish Touch:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2-tfKeDHvk>