



**Dame Libby Komaiko, Founder**  
**Irma Suárez Ruiz, Artistic Director**  
**Jorge Pérez, Executive Director**

# **Holiday Concert / Concierto Navideño**

Friday, December 16, 2016 & Saturday, December 17, 2016

**Northeastern Illinois University Auditorium**

## **COMPANY DANCERS**

**Claudia Pizarro, José Torres, First Dancers**  
**Crystal Ruiz, Julia Hinojosa, Monica Saucedo, Principal Dancers**  
**Olivia Serrano, Juan Castellon, Soloists**  
**Nestor Corona, Abigail Ventura, Frida Medina, Amanda Saucedo, Luis Beltran, Company Dancers**  
**Jonathan Pacheco, Apprentice**  
**Michael Young, Scholarship Dancer**

## **ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL SPANISH DANCE YOUTH COMPANY**

**Julia Hinojosa, Associate Artistic Director**  
**José Torres, Crystal Ruiz, Monica Saucedo, Instructors**  
  
**Paola Argudo, Catherine Beza, Laila Galecki, Kamila Galecki, Matt Jalac,**  
**Samantha Micklewright, Nalanie Molina, Nadia Quinones, Esmeralda Robeldo, Heroly**  
**Rodriguez, Yisrael Spurgeon, Alyssa Teijeiro-Ficht, Tasiana Villalobos, Senior Division**  
  
**Anna Barrios, Katrina Bartels, Mayerli Collantes Cook, Alizey Diaz, Dyani Diaz,**  
**Samantha Diaz, Alexandra Gaviria, Fenix Gaviria, Sofia Melendez, Samantha Ortega,**  
**Yasmeen Quinones, Sofia Vidaurre, Grade School Division**

## **GUEST MUSICIANS**

**Luis Galvez, Tenor**  
**Javier Saume Mazzei, Percussionist,**  
**People's School of Music Children's Choir**

**Anna Czajun**  
*Ballet Mistress/  
Production  
Assistant*

**Martha Montes**  
*Pilates/Yoga  
Instructor*

**Sarah Lackner**  
*Production Mgr.  
Lighting Designer*

**Jake Reich**  
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## ARTISTIC LEADERS NOTES

Queridos Amigos/ Dear Friends:

Bienvenidos y gracias. Thank you for joining us for this special Season Family Holiday Concert.

Tonight our wonderful company of dancers, youth dancers, guest artists and musicians, staff, and parents committee, are dedicated to enriching your evening, sharing your passions, and embracing all that is ***Spain in America***.

On behalf of our Executive Board of Directors, muchisimas gracias to our University Board of Trustees, President Interim, Richard Helldobler of Northeastern Illinois University and Provost Interim Shayne Cofer, where the Ensemble Español has been in residence since our inception 41 years ago.

Thank you, to all of our wonderful passionate friends, donors, sponsors, partners, alumni, and volunteers. Special thank you to dear friend and Ensemble Español supporters and NEIU alumni's, Illinois Senator Iris Martinez, acting music department chair, Travis Heath, faculty and friend, Sasha & Eugene Gerritson Jarvis, Liesl Downey, NEIU's Director of Development, Damaris Tapia, NEIU's Director of Alumni Relations, Cherry Family Foundation, Caerus Foundation, Northeastern Illinois University Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, Prince Foundation through the MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture, City Arts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events and the Illinois Arts Council. And to our loyal audiences and students, Mil Gracias! We simply would not be celebrating 41 years if it were not for your support. ¡Ole!

In our 40 year history Ensemble Español has awarded over 2,600 scholarships, trained over 160 youth dancers and over 90 young apprentices to become professionals in the arts world. All of our dancers began on a scholarship. The Ensemble Español's impact is truly life changing. We would like to thank NEIU Professor Emeritus, Dr. Bernard Brommel and NEIU President Emerita, Salme Harju Steinberg, for their endowment scholarship support to the Ensemble Español. Their support is a testament to our ongoing mission of arts and education. ¡Muchisimas Gracias!

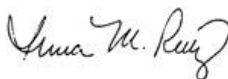
Please enjoy and become part of our historic new match campaign in the theater lobby, RAISED IN CHICAGO, READY FOR THE WORLD, honoring all of the dancers of the Ensemble Español thanks to the Caerus Foundation, Inc. The grant has the potential of raising \$1.5 million through a matching campaign over the next three years. The grant will enable the company to further expand its programming and educational outreach, and to begin the important transition to a dance company with full-time dancers and administrative personnel, and permanent part-time staff. For more information please review our attached newsletter or contact our director of development, Carolyn Aguila.

**And now**, travel with us to España ¡Ole!  
Please enjoy this concert. ¡Que lo disfruten!  
Happy Holidays!

Con cariño,



Founder



Artistic Director



Executive Director

## MISSION

The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater and Center's mission is the preservation, presentation and promotion of the classical, folkloric, flamenco and contemporary dance and music traditions of Spain. The Company and Center is the premiere Spanish dance institution in the United States to have in residence status at a university, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago.

## ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL SPANISH DANCE THEATER & CENTER

Founded in 1975 by Dame Libby Komaiko, and incorporated in 1976, the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater is the premier Spanish center in the United States to have in-residence status at a university under the artistic leadership of Irma Suárez Ruíz and executive director, Jorge Pérez. Through its relationship with Northeastern Illinois University, the Ensemble provides dance training to children, youth, teens, and adults, and currently serves 50,000 individuals in the Chicago area. In fact, the Ensemble's programs reached over 32,000 young students this past season alone.

The company's membership includes 40 dancers, singers, and musicians, who represent a mosaic of world cultures. Given its reputation for cultural authenticity, and critical acclaim, the Ensemble actively encourages collaborations, partnerships, and artistic exchanges that provide creative exploration, and the highest standard of professional presentation. The company recently celebrated its 40th anniversary season with an exciting and ambitious program of performances with over 100 concerts throughout Chicago, Illinois and nationally from New York to St. Louis to its premiere tour in Spain this past August to standing ovations in the cities of Madrid and Fuenlabrada in collaboration with Ficción Creative. On this premiere performance tour in Spain the company dancers studied and toured the Antonio Gades Foundation Studios under the artistic leadership of Stella Arauzo. The company presents over 750 classes annually and is widely praised by educators, journalists, national and international arts professionals, and American and international governments for its commitment to artistic excellence and cultural integrity. In 2011, President Barack Obama congratulated Ensemble Español for its extraordinary work via the performing arts in Spanish dance, education and performance.

With an extraordinary repertoire of over 135 works, the Ensemble continues to give opportunities to dancers, choreographers, musicians and composers who wish to explore the rich history of Spanish art and culture. As a result, traditional and original works are presented each year at the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival. Other programs and projects include the Paso a Paso Arts Education Initiatives, which brings Spanish dance instruction to Chicago-area children, as well as the annual Holiday Concerts, and a variety of collaborative projects that highlight the remarkable diversity of the city's arts and cultural communities. Notably, the Ensemble was recently endorsed by Urban Gateways for special education classes for K-12 students.

The Ensemble appears in a broad range of television, opera, film, and symphonic formats, and has collaborated with such leading organizations as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Old Town School of Folk Music, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the Chicago Chamber Opera, Dance for Life, Joffrey Ballet's and Ballet Chicago's Summer Programs, Instituto Cervantes, After School Matters, the Chicago High School for the Performing Arts, Urban Gateways, and the American Rhythm Center to name a few. Likewise, the Ensemble has performed at every major theater

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- 10 Colorado School of Mines

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and university in Chicago and Illinois, including the landmark Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, the Harris Theater, the Chicago Theater, the Athenaeum Theater, DePaul's Merle Reskin Theatre, the Pritzker Pavillion Stage in Millennium Park, the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, and Symphony Center. The Ensemble has appeared throughout the United States, the Midwest, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii, and in the countries of Mexico, Costa Rica, Poland, Australia, Canada, China and Spain. Last August, the Ensemble returned to the prestigious Jacob's Pillow International Dance Festival Inside/Out Series to eager audiences with over 830 in attendance marking that concert as the third highest attended this season.

PROGRAM

ACT 1  
ESCENCIA DE ESPAÑA

La Era Romántica

Portraying the *Romantic* period, this work is created to the music of La Zarzuela (Spain's light opera).

*Choreographer* (1989): **Dame Libby Komaiko**

*Music*: **Manuel de Falla** (1860-1909), "Fanfare Sobre el Nombre"

**Pablo Sorazabal** (1807-1988) "Los Burladores" (excerpt) Zarzuela 1948

**Amaden Vives** (1871-1932) "La Doña Francisquita"

*Costume Design & Production*: **Paco Alonso**

*Lighting Designer*: **Michael Mix** | *Dancers*: **Company**

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Reina Gitana (Gypsy Queen)

Reina Gitana is a work in the Danza Española style combining the sentiments of the Flamenco gypsy with classical technique accompanied by the rich rhythms of the castanets. Dedicated to her mother, Claudia wishes to portray in this work, the different stages that women encounter throughout ones lifetime.

*Choreographer, Dancer and Costume Designer* (2015): **Claudia Pizarro**, *First Dancer*

*Music*: **Rosario Montoya**, *Pianist* | **Javier Saume-Mazzei**, *Percussionist*

*Costume Production*: **Luz Creations** | *Lighting Designer*: **Sarah Lackner**

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El Baile de Luis Alonso

El Baile de Luis Alonso was based on a one act lyrical play written by Javier de Burgos. The play premiered in 1889 at the Teatro Español. Spanish composer Geronimo Gimenez saw the production and fell in love with it. On February 27, 1896 the play became a zarzuela (Spain's light opera) opening to great reviews in the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid.

*Choreographer & Costume Designer* (2010): **Irma Suárez Ruíz**, *Artistic Director*

*Music*: **Geronimo Gimenez** | *Costume Production*: **Luz Creations**

*Lighting Design*: **Margaret Nelson** | *Dancers*: **Company**

**Faralae (Malagueñas-Verdiales)**

*Choreographer (1998):* **Edo Sie**, *Guest Artist* | *Music:* **Traditional**

*Costume Design:* **Dame Libby Komaiko** | *Costume Production:* **Luz Creations**

*Dancers:* **Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company – Grade School Division**

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**Alma De Aragon**

**La Jota** is considered one of Spain's "national dances". Folkloric regional styled, this joyous and vigorous dance derives from the Northern Province of Aragon.

*Choreographer, Costume Designer and Production (1990):* **Paco Alonso**, *Guest Artist, Barcelona*

*Music:* **Tomás Breton** from the Zarzuela (Spain's light opera), *La Dolores*

*Tenor:* **Luis Antonio Galvez-Alcantara**, *Guest Artist* | *Lighting Design:* **Michael Mix**

*Dancers:* **Full Company**

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**15 MINUTE INTERMISSION**

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**ACT II**

**FLAMENCO PASSION**

**Zapateado**

A portrayal of the herders, herding the bulls to the fields on horseback - Dance of the Shoes.

*Choreographer (1976):* **Dame Libby Komaiko**

*Costume Design & Production:* **Paco Alonso & Dolores Decano**

*Lighting Design:* **Dame Libby Komaiko & Michael Mix** | *Dancers:* **Company**

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**Mi Deseo / My Desire**

(Premiered on September 29, 2016 at the Auditorium Theatre's  
Made in Chicago Dance Series)

*Choreographer:* **Carlos Rodriguez**, *Guest Artist, Madrid* | *Music:* **Estrella Morente**

*Dancer & Costume Designer:* **Irma Suárez Ruíz**, *Artistic Director*

*Lighting Design:* **Dustin Derry**

**Angeles** (Holiday Concert Premiere)  
(Premiered on October 5, 2016 as part of the Our Chance to  
Dance Youth Festival at NEIU Auditorium)

*Choreographer: José Torres, First Dancer*  
*Lighting Designer: Sarah Lackner | Music: Philip Wesley*  
*Dancers: Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company – Senior Division*

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**Nuestro Camino** (Our Path) Flamenco Alegrias (Company World Premiere)  
(Originally premiered at Jacobs Pillow Inside/Out International Dance Series August 7,  
2015 in Berkshire, Massachusetts as a duet with Irma Suárez Ruíz and Jorge Pérez)

*Choreographer and Costume Designer (2015/16): Irma Suárez Ruíz, Artistic Director*  
*Dancers: Company | Music: David Palomar El Junco*  
*Costume Production: Luz Creations | Lighting Designer: Sarah Lackner*

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### Granada

Granada is a song written in 1932 by Mexican composer Agustín Lara. The song is about the Spanish city of Granada and has become a standard in music repertoire. The most popular versions are: the original with Spanish lyrics by Lara, often sung operatically by great tenors such as Plácido Domingo; a version with English lyrics by Australian lyricist Dorothy Dodd; and instrumental versions in jazz, pop, flamenco and rock styles. Other versions in English also exist as well as in German and Italian.

*Tenor: Luis Antonio Galvez Alcantara, Guest Artist*

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### Iroko

Drawing inspiration from the fabled *Iroko* tree in Africa, this new ballet, choreographed by Ángel Rojas and Carlos Rodríguez celebrates the roots and branches of Spanish dance, and its relationship to the continents of Europe, Africa, and the Americas. In honor of the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, these master choreographers deeply interpret these cultural influences, and create a very contemporary reading of traditional Spanish dance and its reach across culture and country.

**This work is made possible thanks to the generous grant support from the Chicago Community Trust and the MacArthur Foundation International Grants Program.**

*Choreographers: Carlos Rodríguez and Ángel Rojas, Guest Artists*  
*Music: Juan Parrilla, Composer*  
*Costume Designs: Carlos Rodríguez, Rosa García Andujar, Emilio García, Inma Ortega*  
*Lighting Design: Luis Perdigueros | Dancers: Company*

**FIN**



Dame Libby's innovative, unique and visionary career has encompassed art, education and culture. Her passionate pioneering creations are respected and hailed throughout the Americas and internationally. In 1983 she became the first American artist in history to be decorated with Spain's highest honor, the "Lazo de Dama de Isabel la Católica" by Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, for her superlative work in spreading the cultural and artistic values of Spain throughout the U.S.

Dame Libby began her dance training and performance in classical ballet and character dance as a young child with Elisa Stigler at the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University. As a teen, she studied and performed Jazz, Modern and Musical Theater with Gus Giordano. At the age of 18, she auditioned for the

legendary José Greco and given the opportunity to learn and perform with his world famous Spanish Dance Company.

Her beloved journey into the Spanish dance world also led her to the company of Lola Montes. Dame Libby's career also includes musical theater, opera, television, film and orchestra, including guest performances with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops with the Ensemble Español as well as performances with the Detroit Symphony, the Evanston and Skokie Valley Symphonies, and repeated performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She has been the choreographer and coach for several Chamber Opera Chicago performances. She has studied in Spain and the United States with Elisa Stigler, Gus Giordano, Maria Alba, Nana Lorca, Lola Montes, José Greco, Edo, Manolo Vargas, Paul Haakon, María Magdalena, Pedro Azorin, Ciro, Pacita Tomás, and Roberto Lorca, with whom she partnered for several years.

In 1975 she created and founded the *Ensemble Español*, the premier Spanish Dance Center and Company in the United States to have "In Residence" status at a university, Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago. Today, what began with a company of seven, is now a full company of 40 dancers and musicians. She has choreographed many of the company's extensive 135 plus works and has produced their major international Flamenco ballets and dramas, folkloric suites and classic modern interpretations with guest artists from Spain and the Americas.

As Professor Emerita of Dance in the Department of Music and Dance at Northeastern Illinois University, where the *Ensemble Español* has been in residence for 41 years, she created and developed the first complete academic program for Classical, Folkloric and Flamenco dance and music in the U.S. now under the leadership of artistic director, Irma Suárez Ruíz.





**IRMA SUAREZ RUÍZ,**  
*Artistic Director,  
Instructor of Dance Dept.  
of Music & Dance NEIU,  
NEIU Alumni*



**JORGE PÉREZ,**  
*Executive Director,  
NEIU Alumni*



**JOSÉ TORRES,**  
*First Dancer,  
Rehearsal Assistant,  
University of Illinois  
at Chicago Alumni*



**CLAUDIA PIZARRO,**  
*First Dancer,  
Spanish Dance  
Teacher, NEIU  
Alumni*



**CRYSTAL RUIZ,**  
*Principal Dancer,  
Rehearsal Assistant,  
Northwestern  
University Alumni,  
Masters program at  
Erikson Institute*



**JULIA HINOJOSA,**  
*Principal Dancer,  
Columbia College  
Masters graduate &  
NEIU Alumni*



**OLIVIA SERRANO,**  
*Soloist, Rehearsal  
Assistant, University  
of Illinois at  
Chicago Alumni*



**MONICA SAUCEDO,**  
*Principal Dancer,  
Spanish Dance  
Teacher, MA  
from Concordia  
University Chicago,  
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**JUAN CASTELLON,**  
*Soloist, NEIU  
Alumni*



**NESTOR CORONA,**  
*Company Dancer,  
Masters graduate,  
Chicago State  
University,  
NEIU Alumni*

**COMPANY CONT.**



**ABIGAIL VENTURA,**  
*Company Dancer,  
Spanish Dance  
Teacher, NEIU  
Alumni*



**FRIDA MEDINA,**  
*Company Dancer,  
St. Augustine  
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Spanish Dance  
Teacher, NEIU  
student*



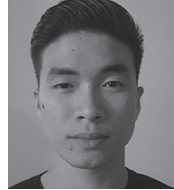
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**JONATHAN PACHECO,**  
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**MICHAEL YOUNG,**  
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## GUEST MUSICIANS



**LUIS GALVEZ**, Tenor, is one of the most sought after tenors in the Chicago area and was recently invited to perform at the Vatican in Rome, Italy. His

operatic roles have included Don José in *Carmen*, Rodolfo in *La Boheme*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Alfred in *Die Fledermaus* sung throughout the United States from California to New York. Mr. Galvez is a graduate of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University where he is on the voice faculty in the Theatre Conservatory. He is also a faculty member of Sherwood Conservatory of Music.



**JAVIER SAUME MAZZEI**, Percussionist, BA in Music from Roosevelt University. Mr. Mazzei is currently working with Sones de Mexico Ensemble and

has worked as guest artist with Rhonda Richmond, Reginald Veal, Herlin Riley, Cassandra Wilson, and the Symphony Orchestra "Sistema de Orquestas Juveniles de Venezuela". Theaters include Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Auditorium Theatre, Pritzker Pavillion, Harris Theater and in Beijing, China, to name a few.

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Photo by: Joel Maisonet

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### **Endowment Founding Members**

Co-chairs

Dr. Salme Harju Steinberg, President Emerita, NEIU

Dr. Bernard Brommel, Professor of Communication Emeriti, NEIU

Please visit our website for complete listing of founding members

We are very grateful to all of our donors who have helped to support the many programs of the Ensemble Español over the past forty years. Omissions to this list are not intentional.

\*Donations are reflective of 11/5/15 – 11/23/16



## ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL DONATION PROGRAMS

### DONOR

Our extensive educational and community outreach programs continue at the forefront of our mission. Please help us to support the current and upcoming generations of dancers.

Your generous gift as **Amigo/a, Heritage Circle, Contributor** and/or **Individual Sponsor**, will help us to continue with excellence into the future; to preserve our concerts, classes, school residencies, workshops and festivals that have educated and inspired children, teens and adults of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities for over 40 years.

Full houses cover only half the costs of producing these extraordinary concerts. Please help to keep our cultural treasure alive.

The Ensemble Español's continued growth and success is a tribute to our audience members and contributors. ¡Gracias!

### ZELDA KOLBER SENIOR PROGRAM - "Zelda's Fund"

Our program honoring the memory of Zelda Kolber, our loving dedicated supporter, grandmother of Principal Dancer, Sara Samuels and dance aficionado, who passed away on May 29, 2009 at nearly 102 years old.

"Zelda's Fund" will expose underserved seniors to the arts, build a connection with senior communities and the Ensemble Español, provide significant health benefits via dance instruction and engage youth and senior citizens in a culturally artistic enriching environment with friends and families. **We gratefully accept your generous checks payable to Ensemble Español**

Ensemble Español  
Northeastern Illinois University  
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### ENDOWMENT

#### Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Secure the Future

Your gift to the Ensemble Español Endowment Fund will support and preserve the concerts, classes, residencies, workshops, scholarships and Festivals that have made us the premier Center for Spanish dance and Music in the United States for forty years.

Please send your check, payable to the NEIU Foundation (note **Ensemble Español Endowment** on the memo line) to:

The Development Office  
Northeastern Illinois University  
5500 N. St Louis Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625

## Weekly Children's Flamenco Dance Classes for the community

Northeastern Illinois University Dance Studio, J Building

Next class session Tuesdays, January 17 - May 9, 2017 | **Recital on May 9**

Ages 4-6 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm

Ages 7-12 6:00pm – 7:00pm Beginners

Ages 7-12 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Intermediate

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## Weekly Adult's Flamenco Dance Classes for the community

Northeastern Illinois University Dance Studio, J Building

Next class session Tuesdays, January 17 - May 9, 2017 | **Recital on May 9**

Adult 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

To register and for exact dates, please contact Giuseppa DiCesare, Manager of Operations at 773-442-5916

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## After School Matters – Spanish Dance Theater Experience

Do you know a teen that would like to learn Spanish dance and earn money for the winter/spring? The Ensemble Español has partnered with After School Matters and is offering Apprenticeship opportunities for teens. The program meets for four days a week after school here at NEIU; teens earn a stipend for their participation.

Requirements:

Must be between the ages of 14-19

Attend a Chicago Public School Resident of the City of Chicago

For More information please contact Julia Hinojosa

773-442-5940 or [julia@ensembleEspañol.org](mailto:julia@ensembleEspañol.org)

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## 2017 American Spanish Dance & Music Festival with Guest Artists from Spain

For more information please visit [www.EnsembleEspañol.org](http://www.EnsembleEspañol.org) or call 773-442-5916.





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We are proud to support the Ensemble Espanol Dance Company. Thank you for promoting Hispanic culture and history through musical arts. Enjoy the Show!

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