



HOPKINS CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS

presents

Double Bill

**Ana Tijoux**  
**Flor de Toloache**

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*Funded in part by the Kenneth 1952 & Ellen Roman Fund in Support of the Hopkins Center Visiting Performing Artists Program and the Donna Bascom 1973 and Paul Biddelman Fund*

**Fri • Jan 18 • 8 pm**

2019 • Spaulding Auditorium • Dartmouth College

# Program

*Titles to be announced from the stage*

## Ana Tijoux

### Flor de Toloache

Shae Fiol, vihuela, vocals

Mireya Ramos, violin, vocals

Julie Acosta, trumpet, vocals

Eunice Aparicio, guitarron, vocals

## About the Artists

One of the most respected MCs in any language, **Ana Tijoux** has been winning over fans around the world since her debut *1977* bubbled up from an underground sensation into mainstream recognition after being featured on the hit TV show *Breaking Bad* and favored by Radiohead's Thom Yorke.

The daughter of Chilean exiles, Tijoux was born and raised in France, where she accompanied her social worker-mother on her rounds to immigrant families in the outlying neighborhoods of Paris, playing with the kids while her mother met with the parents. After Pinochet was thrown out of Chile in 1993, she had her family returned to their native nation. Tijoux first made her mark as a performer in rap, delivering searing political lyrics about colonialism, feminism, and other social issues against tracks charged by panpipe flutes, charangos, and other Latin American folk instruments. The *New York Times* called her “South America’s answer to Lauryn Hill.”

In the past five years, however, she has moved in a direction that’s musically softer, although just as fierce, politically. A sonorous, persuasive balladeer, she performs with a pair of acoustic guitarists, mixing

the classic Latin American songbook with originals. The *New York Times* praised her combination of a “righteous agenda and a tart, jazzy voice.” The project and resulting recordings are called *Roja y Negro* (Red and Black).

Says NPR: “Ana Tijoux has more than made her mark in the music she grew up with. But in a way she comes of age with this music. These are the kinds of songs that—after you’ve lived, loved and lost a bit—have the potential to mean much more, both to the performer and the listener.”

Latin Grammy winner **Flor de Toloache** makes New York City history as the city’s first and only all-female mariachi group. Founded in 2008, Flor de Toloache is led by singers Mireya I. Ramos and Shae Fiol. Reminiscent of the early days of mariachi, the group started as a trio of harp, violin and vihuela. Today, Flor de Toloache performs mostly as a four-piece mariachi ensemble. The members hail from diverse national backgrounds such as Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Colombia, Germany, Italy and the United States. This defines their unique flavor and sound.

# About the Artists *continued*

The result of this cultural bouquet is an edgy, versatile and fresh take on traditional Mexican music. They coalesce as would a band of sisters, with a grace and vibrant beauty that casts a spell over their audiences not unlike the legendary toloache flower still being used in Mexico as a love potion. While working to preserve centuries-old traditions of mariachi, they also push the boundaries of the genre and bring mariachi music to new audiences.

Over the past few years, Flor de Toloache's performances have illuminated world-renowned stages in Europe and Asia. In 2015 and 2016, the group embarked on an extensive European and US tour as the opening act of Black Keys' singer Dan Auerbach's new band, The Arcs. After performances to sold-out audiences in the UK, Germany, Holland, Italy and France, they continued to captivate crowds in the US at such legendary venues as First Avenue in Minneapolis, The Vic in Chicago, Terminal 5 in New York, DC 930 Club and Nashville's Ryman Theater (The Grand Ole Opry) and Coachella. In 2017 Flor de Toloache also completed a beautiful US tour with Mexican Icons Cafe Tacvba as well as a celebratory Day of the Dead tour with Grammy-winning act La Santa Cecilia and Mexrrissey and a fundraiser with Natalia Lafourcade, Mon Laferte, Carlos Rivera and Gaby Moreno at the House of Blues in Anaheim, California. Recent shows include ACL Festival in Austin, Texas, a stint in Alaska with Ozomatli and dates with Ana Tijoux.

Flor de Toloache's critically acclaimed self-titled debut album received a Latin Grammy nomination for "Best Ranchero/Mariachi Album" in 2015. Sharing the podium with legends Pedro Fernández and Aida Cuevas was an embrace from the Latin Music Community. In 2017 their latest album *Las Caras Lindas* won the Latin Grammy for Best Ranchero album; it features collaborations with Pedrito Martinez and Velcro and was produced by Felipe Fournier. The group's live performances have been praised by *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *GQ Magazine* and the *New York Times*. Following a highly praised NPR "Tiny Desk Concert"

their collaboration with rock supergroup The Arcs landed them on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and BBC 2's *Later with Jools Holland*. Run by New York City sala powerhouse and Los Hacheros leader Jacob Plasse, Chulo Records, the home of the band's new record *Las Caras Lindas*, was also the bridge between Flor de Toloache and The Arcs, with whom Flor de Toloache recorded *Yours, Dreamily*, released in the fall of 2015. Also recently released were collaborations and featured appearances of Flor de Toloache on Chicano Batman's new album *Freedom is Free*, No Te Va Gustar's new album *Suenan Las Alarmas*, the band's special arrangement of *That's What I Want for Christmas* on Paul McCartney's production *Holiday Rules*, Vol. 2, which also features acts such as The Roots, Norah Jones and The Decemberists, and Luba Mason's new record *Mixtura*, produced by Jimmy Haslip and Luba Mason. More releases included three collaborations with Fania Records recorded and filmed live for the legendary label.

**Julie 'Jewels' Acosta** was born in New Jersey into a Dominican family and was raised in Miami, Florida. Trained as a classical trumpeter, she was surrounded by Caribbean culture, a style she took to very naturally. She has embraced the many "dialects" of the trumpet while playing in New York City, from Latin, to mariachi, to soul, to jazz, rock and pop. She has performed with Celia Cruz, La India, Jose Alberto "El Canario," Pedrito Martinez, Ismael Miranda, Cheo Feliciano, Rey Ruiz, Los Hermanos Lebron and many more.

**Eunice 'Lilo' Aparicio**, a guitarrón protege who has been playing the instrument from the age of seven, provides the solid and acrobatic bass frequencies in this ambitious group. Many new guitarron/Aparicio fans are created after every single Flor de Toloache concert. Laying a heavy groove on the cumbias and lacing arpeggios throughout the traditional and the fusion numbers, she provides much more than 25 percent of the sound and melody of this quartet, and the sum is much greater than the parts.

# About the Artists *continued*

**Shae Fiol**, a founding member of Flor de Toloache, was born into a family of music makers. This self-taught artist, with a fierce determination to play music by ear, has become a breathtaking live and in-studio performer. Likely influenced by her culturally mixed background of Cuban and American heritage, Fiol possesses the limitless ability to create and transcend the stereotypical genres of music. Instead, she fuses them, as a result of her incredible vocal talent, songwriting and arranging skills.

**Mireya I. Ramos**, violinist, vocalist, composer and arranger, is of Dominican and Mexican descent and was raised in Puerto Rico. She embodies musical influences from mariachi to salsa, jazz to hip-hop, always creating a warm and refreshing new sound. She has performed with Chucho Valdez, El Prodigio, Café Tacvba, Mariachi El Bronx and more. In 2008, she co-founded Flor de Toloache.

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