A little History

The ancient communities of Spanish Jews (Sephardim) were expelled from Spain with the Spanish Order of Expulsion in 1492 and resettled throughout the world, particularly in the Ottoman territories around the Mediterranean Sea, where remnants of their culture and musical tradition survived. In the 20th, Sephardic Jews continued to migrate in search of peace and security particularly to Israel, Spain, France, Canada and the West Coast of the US. Culminating nearly a century of efforts of reconciliation, in 2015 Spain approved a Law granting Spanish Citizenship to Sephardic Jews of Spanish origin.

Matter of the songs

“Sung mainly by women, most of the Sephardic romances offer a realistic portrait of intimate Jewish life in medieval Christian Spain. The songs and stories reflect Jewish principles and moral values, pervaded by a powerful sense of justice”.

Sephardic Treasures

**Ensemble RUIMONTE** offers a program of Sephardic Treasures, selected from the Sephardic Romancero, collections of songs originating in 12th to 15th Century Spain. During the 20th Century these songs were transcribed by ethnomusicologists from the women’s oral tradition in Sephardic Communities around the Mediterranean in Morocco, Palestine, the Balkans and elsewhere.

**Classical - Jazz - Flamenco**

**Ensemble RUIMONTE** incorporates elements of Classical, Jazz, Flamenco and Arabic Music in their original interpretations of these songs from Jewish Medieval Spain.
**Musical Sources**

Ethnomusicologists collected music from Sephardic Jewish women in their original setting in the 20th century, for example:

- Alberto Hemsi in Salonica, Rhodes, Istanbul and Alexandria.
- Henrietta Yurchenco in Morocco: Tetuan and Tangier.
- Susana Weich-Shahak in Fez, Tangier, Arcilla, Alcazarquivir and Larache.

**Sample Program**

- Vido venir Tres a Caballo
- Las Cumadres Fechiceras
- Cantiga de Cuna
- Blanca y Linda
- Tristes Nuevas
- Días de la Semana
- Infanticida: Era un Pobre Lucero
- Al pasar por Casablanca
- Triste está el Rey David
- Maldiciendo el Rey va la Vientre
- El Rey cuando Amadrugaba
- En Casa del Rey León
- Estaba el señor Don Gato
- Las Morillas de Jaén
- La Tarara
- Anda Jaleo

**Ensemble RUIMONTE** features the singing of Ana María Ruimonte of Madrid, known as “The Spanish Mezzo&Soprano” with the arrangements of music director American jazz bassist Alan Lewine, generally accompanied by guitar, percussion and others.

They have performed throughout the world, including in Spain at the Sephardic History Museum Palacio de Los Olvidados in Granada, Teatro Auditorio El Pósito in Sigüenza, Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, at the National Opera Center in New York, in Philadelphia at the theater of the Art Alliance and in Holy Trinity Church on Rittenhouse Square, at the Instituto Cervantes and Felicja Blumental Center in Tel Aviv in Israel and in Belgium, Holland and recently in the Gran Teatro de La Habana in Cuba.

*Booking now!*  sephardic@owlsong.com  202.251.3622

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www.ruimonte.us  To book: sephardic@owlsong.com

"Ana María Ruimonte, her voice is both powerful and sweet"

"Lewine is a composer and a scholar of Jazz"