



Academia Europaea | Barcelona Knowledge Hub
International Women's Day Activities, 2015

Women's Sephardic Songs

March 5th

PROGRAMME

Olga Miracle, soprano
Noemí M. Agell, tiorba and citola
Pere Olivé, psaltiri and percussions

*La mujer de Terah
Ay señor, ay novia
Poco le daj la mi consuegra
Con mucha licencia
Ya salió de la mar
Durme, durme*

*A la una yo nací
Una matica de ruda
Tres clavinas en un tiesto
Scalerica de oro
Ay kalelumar
Buena semana*

Time: 7.30 pm – 9 pm
Royal Academy of Medicine
(Carme 47, Barcelona)

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the *Academia Europaea* is joining the celebration of the International Women's Day 2015 organising several activities on March 4, 5 & 6. Today's concert of "Women's Sephardic Songs" is being held in the historical Anatomical Amphitheatre of the 18th Century building of the Royal Academy of Medicine.



<http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/>

The Sephardic Jews were members of the Jewish community installed in the Iberian Peninsula before the Spanish Catholic Kings expelled them (Alhambra Decree, March 31, 1492). The same year, on August 3, Christopher Columbus, probably himself a Jew, embarked for the Unknown from the small port of Palos, not from Cadiz or Seville, as these famous jetties were presently occupied by thousands of Sephardim. It was a real exodus, surely larger than the First One. In 1492, 160,000 Sephardim chose to leave their country rather than give up their faith. Only 50,000 accepted to become Christians. The majority of the exiles (90,000) went to the neighbouring Mediterranean countries, bringing with them their feelings, their traditions, and their songs. Their language and songs have lasted to the present day through oral transmission and because Sephardim maintained their traditions over the years as a sign of identity. These songs conserve the Spanish pronunciation used at that time in the Peninsula. The subjects of the songs reflect the way of living and thinking of a people and an era. Some are about biblical topics; some are about significant facts of life, birth, engagement and marriage, absence of love, etc. In all of them, women play a prominent role: the relationship between mother and daughter, between wife and husband, between lovers, between family members, especially, indeed, mother-in-laws (*la suegra*). Sung by soprano **Olga Miracle** and accompanied by the string instruments of **Noemí M. Agell** and by percussionist **Pere Olivé**, the concert will be held in the 18th Century building of the Royal Academy of Medicine. Let us enter into the fascinating world of old songs and old family relationships, but also into the ever-lasting worlds of feelings and folklore. (R. Guerrero)



Olga Miracle, born in Sacramento, CA, maintains an intense activity as a soloist of the genres Opera, oratorio, *lieder* and early music in local scenarios and international festivals around the world. Interested in musicological research, she founded several groups of early music with historical interpretation criteria. Creator of projects, she manages her own music production company.

Lynn Margulis, née Lynn Petra Alexander, was born in Chicago, IL, on March 5, 1938. From a Ashkenazi family, second-generation American, she died in Amherst, MA, on Nov. 22, 2011. The founder of the endosymbiotic theory, her ideas revolutioned the biological thinking of the second half of the 20th century. She loved Spanish and Spanish-speaking people. Her ashes are scattered in the waters of her cherished Puffer Pond, but her memory is with us for ever. As Francisco de Quevedo wrote:
"Polvo serán, mas polvo enamorado."



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