

Concert for the Spanish Civil War, Logroño, Spain

Concierto con las Brigadas Internacionales

On April 30th 2013 a concert is being held in the Logroño Auditorium in Spain's Rioja region, featuring collaborations between UK and Spanish folk musicians. The theme and purpose of the concert is to commemorate the people from both countries who fought fascism during the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939.

The idea for this special event began in July 2012 during the annual commemoration on London's South Bank of the volunteers from the British Isles who fought the fascists in the Spanish Civil War. Along with wreath-lying by Britain's last surviving International Brigader, David Lomon, this event also heard musical performances by na-mara, Paco Marin and Ewan McLennan. It went so well it was decided by the organisers and musicians to hold a concert the following year, but this time in Spain.

The Logroño concert is being sponsored by the British-based International Brigade Memorial Trust (www.international-brigades.org.uk) and the La Barranca association, the organisation in La Rioja which campaigns for official recognition for those who were killed in the Francoist repression. After the dictator died in 1975 and democracy was restored in Spain, in La Rioja the family members and descendents built a memorial to the dead next to one of the mass graves outside Logroño. A ceremony of remembrance is held there on every May Day, hence the special date of this concert.

Ewan McLennan is an emerging Scottish folk musician who has won numerous awards for his music, including the BBC Radio 2 Horizon Award. Recent projects include the filming of the latest series of the hugely popular Transatlantic Sessions, to be broadcast around the world later this year. As well as traditional material, Ewan's music and his songwriting have a sharp political angle and a focus on people's struggles past and present.

na-mara , Rob Garcia and Paul McNamara, are a UK folk duo who have gained much radio and press coverage and who perform concerts and festivals across the UK and Europe. They perform traditional music from across the Celtic world and self-penned songs written in traditional style. There is also a strong personal connection for na-mara with this event, as Rob is the son of one of the thousands of children evacuated from war-torn Bilbao to Southampton in May 1937 during the Spanish Civil. This, among many others, is a topic they movingly write and powerfully sing about.

Paco Marín is a singer-songwriter from Logroño, in the northern Spanish region of La Rioja. He has penned his own tribute to the International Brigades, called 'Brigadas Internacionales'.

For this one-off event the three acts will each perform their own sets in a mixture of Spanish and English, featuring songs about the Spanish Civil War and the struggles of that period. But they will also get the chance to collaborate with one another, sharing their traditions, histories and stories together with the audience.

This concert will mark and bring to life the memory of the Spanish Civil War and the truly international character of this struggle. From the music to the stories, it is bound to be a powerful and moving event.

(Please see concert poster below. For further information on this event, please contact Jim Jump, IBMT Secretary, email : , secretary@international-brigades.org.uk)