

(Flamenco in Brief, continued)

Today, Flamenco is nothing short of an international phenomenon. The Andalusian cities in which the first cries of Flamenco were heard now host annual festivals that attract thousands of visitors from across the globe. Flamenco is now, more than ever, an art form that inspires, educates and entertains people the world over.

At its core, flamenco consists of three artistic elements: singing (*cante*), dance (*baile*) and guitar (*toque*). In addition, there are often members of a flamenco group playing *palmas* (hand-clapping) and providing *jaleo* (shouting to encourage one another). The relationship between the artists is similar to that of jazz—there is a basic structure that one must follow, but flamenco is essentially an improvised form. Singers, guitarists, and dancers each take turns “leading” and are supported in their artistic expression by the rest of the group. Thanks to the rich, centuries old traditions that nourish flamenco music and dance, the results of this collaboration can be as diverse as flamenco itself: a flamenco performance can range from carefree and festive to profound and deeply moving, touching on myriad shades of emotion along the way.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Zamani Flamenco is available for private, civic, and corporate events, celebrations, fundraisers, and festivals.

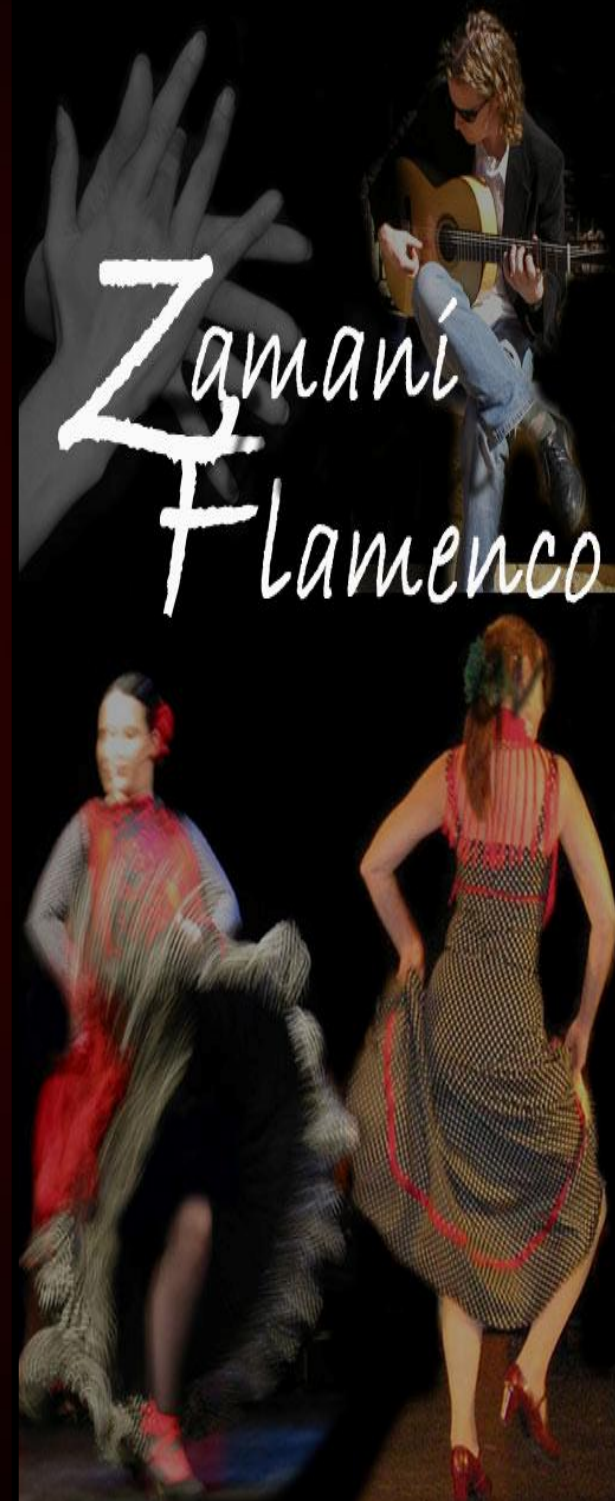
Performances can be tailored from a small, intimate cafe setting to large stage productions. For booking inquiries

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ZAMANI FLAMENCO

Over the past several decades, the popularity of Flamenco has rapidly transcended the borders of its Andalusian birthplace and has become a truly global art form. "Zamani," derived from the Arabic root "Zaman," means all at once "past," "bygone," and "contemporary."

It is in this sometimes paradoxical (and sometimes perhaps profound) spirit of ephemera and foundation that Zamani Flamenco taps both Andalusian tradition and cross cultural innovation to bring an energetic and living flamenco to contemporary audiences.

Based in Seattle, WA, this ensemble of musicians and dancers has trained with Marcos and Rubina Carmona, of the Pacific Northwest's beloved Carmona Flamenco.

THE PERFORMERS

La Zànbaka - Baile

A lifelong dancer, Zambaka (whose sobriquet comes from an Arabic word meaning "white flower") began studying Flamenco in 2000 with her primary instructor, Rubina Carmona. In 2001, she was invited to join La Peña Flamenca de Seattle, which is comprised of the advanced students of Marcos and Rubina Carmona. In addition to Zambaka's dedication to La Peña for the past six years, she's had the opportunity to study with Oscar Nieto, Kasandra Lea, Maria "Cha Cha" Bermudez, and Timo Lozano through workshops and recently completed a weeklong course with Antonio El Pipa at the 2007 Festival de Jerez in Spain. Besides her passion for Flamenco, she is also a performer, choreographer, and instructor of Middle Eastern dance.



Daniela Serrano "La Alfarera" - Baile

A long time interest in Spanish art and culture combined with a background in competitive figure skating was the foundation for Daniela's initial enthusiasm for flamenco. This has led to a dedicated study and appreciation for all aspects of the art. She has studied with Rubina Carmona since 2001 and began performing with La Peña Flamenca de Seattle in 2002. Other influential teachers in the U.S and Spain have been: Oscar Nieto, Maria Bermudez, Marisol Moreno, Antonio El Pipa and Belén Cabanes. She has also performed with La Jarana and appeared at Seattle's Folklife Festival in 2007 with Carmona Flamenco.



Andy Fitzgerald - Toque

Although he has been playing guitar for longer than he cares to admit, Andy's passion for flamenco began with a tour through Andalucía in 2001. Since then he has studied and played with musicians in Jerez, Granada, Paris, and in his hometown Seattle. Most recently he has been a student of Marcos Carmona and has had the fortunate opportunity to play for Rubina Carmona's flamenco dance classes and La Peña Flamenca de Seattle. Andy has given performances at myriad venues, throughout the Puget Sound region, ranging from international festivals to intimate private events.



FLAMENCO IN BRIEF

Born from the expression of a persecuted people, flamenco is a unique blend of influences and musical complexity. Flamenco's origin can be traced back at least as far as the Spanish Inquisition. As Gypsies, Muslims, and Jews living in Spain at the time were ordered to convert to Catholicism, it is believed that the Inquisition was the catalyst that brought these diverse ethnic groups together in mutual support. It is within this melding of cultures that Flamenco was born.

Flamenco went through many changes in the 18th and 19th centuries, but it is ironically the appreciation—and performance—of the form by non-Gypsies which ensured its vitality. The influx of expatriate aficionados and rise of flamenco festivals beginning in the 1960s created an artistic revival in what had become an impoverished, languishing art.

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