

Jan Bate was introduced to Flamenco when living in Tofino in the late 90's. Flamenco's 12-count rhythm intrigued her and the gorgeous melodies drew her in. She has studied cante with many patient and wonderful teachers, including: Harry Owen and Veronica Maguire, Oscar Nieto, Miguel Rosendo, Matias López El Mati, Ezequiel Benitez, Vicente Griego and most recently Coral de los Reyes.

Carolyn Crampton can't remember life without flamenco. The guitar music and cante captured her soul over twenty years ago and have since moved her to communicate through flamenco dance. Flamenco is her lifelong study and Veronica Maguire and Harry Owen have been her principle teachers. She has studied at the Festival in Jerez (2011, 2012, 2018), studying most recently with Olga Pericet.

Guitarist **Jake Lee** began training as an accompanist for dancers in 1997 under Harry Owen and Veronica Maguire. Jake has played for many of BC's flamenco ensembles including the Kasandra Flamenco Ensemble, Rueda, Mozaico Flamenco, Monique Salez, Alma de Espana and Luna Flamenco. He has also accompanied singers such as Vicente Griego, Oscar Nieto, Stephanie Pedraza, Jafelin Helten and Maria Avila. Jake has played for previous editions of the Victoria Flamenco Festival and in the 2015 edition of the Vancouver International Flamenco Festival.

Since beginning Flamenco with Alma de Espana in 2000, **Gwyneth McIntosh** has studied with artists from North America and Spain including Veronica Maguire, Harry Owen, Oscar Nieto, Domingo Ortega, Maria Bermudez, Vicente Griego, and Rafaela Carrasco. The process of intimate and intense artistic collaboration pulls Gwyneth to flamenco. Every moment is an opportunity to express and create something dynamic, but it takes the sensitivity, knowledge, and passion of each participant to make those moments come alive.

Drawn to the raw emotions expressed in flamenco, **Mary Storzer** has been studying flamenco since 1997. During that time, she has had the good fortune to learn from many incredible artists from North America and Spain, including Olga Pericet, Ezequiel Benitez, Veronica Maguire, Angel Munoz, Oscar Nieto, Domingo Ortega, and Harry Owen.

Tonya Winton began dancing flamenco in 1998 under Paula Moreno and Dorothy Pfeiffer in Toronto. Upon moving to Victoria in 2008, she was thrilled to join the Alma de Espana community with Veronica Maguire and Harry and Gareth Owen. She draws inspiration from her trips to Spain, working with Mercedes Ruiz, Domingo Ortega, Maria Bermudez and Isabel Bayon. The creative expression of emotions through dance, cante and guitar, is what makes flamenco such a passion for Tonya.

Jamie Winton started studying flamenco dance in 2006 with Dorothy Pfeiffer in Toronto. After moving to Victoria a couple of years later, he was amazed at the vibrant flamenco community that surrounded Alma de Espana and was delighted to be a part of it, and to continue his pursuit of baile with Veronica Maguire and Amity Skala. Since 2015, he has also had the pleasure of studying guitar with Gareth Owen. It is the art of weaving together the cante, guitar, rhythms and dance that attracts Jamie to flamenco – the very same elements that make it equally exhilarating and challenging.