

Veronica Maguire

Dancer, singer, teacher and choreographer, Veronica Maguire, is the artistic director and co-founder of Alma de España Flamenco Dance Company and School, established in 1991 in Victoria B.C. In a career spanning over 45 years she has shared the stage in Canada with Spanish international flamenco artists María Bermúdez, Domingo Ortega, Jesus Álvarez, Coral de los Reyes, Miguel Rosendo, Luis de laTota, Antonio de Jerez, Inmaculada Ortega, Sonia Berbel and Matias Lopez Exposito. North American artists include Oscar Nieto, Gerardo Alcalá, Esmeralda Enrique, Paco Pedrosa “Jiménez Carancha”, Carmen Romero, Chuscales Jose Valle, Vicente Griego, to name a few. Her longest artistic partnership was with her late husband and acclaimed guitarist, Harry Owen.

Veronica continues to stay connected with her adopted hometown of Jerez de la Frontera in Spain, a touchstone for continued growth and inspiration. As a result she has produced and directed world-class productions in Victoria such as Recuerdos in 2011, and more recently, Pasajes, in 2014. Veronica has had the honour of performing in the Vancouver International Flamenco Festival, Dawson City Music Festival, Victoria Flamenco Festival, as well as a featured guest artist with the Victoria Symphony under the baton of Kees Bakels, and many other major performances throughout Western Canada. In 2013, Veronica received a Canada Council grant for Professionals and was chosen by peer assessment to win the prestigious Jacqueline Lemieux Award for her contribution to Dance in Canada.

Juan de Marias

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Juan trained in classical, flamenco guitar and cante with renowned teachers in Barcelona, Madrid, Seville, and Jerez de la Frontera. He has worked as a singer, guitar soloist, accompanist and music arranger with numerous artists in flamenco, jazz, Latin-American folklore and Eastern music, performing in Spain, UK, Chile, Canada, and the US. His music has been performed in the prestigious Palau de la Musica in Barcelona. As musical director, founding member and principle guitarist for the troupe Flamenko's formerly known as Elias Vargas and Company, Juan arranged the production "Gypsy Soul" which was presented for 2 years in many locations throughout British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

A Canada Council award supported professional research and study in flamenco guitar and cante (singing) in Southern Spain, inspiring his first album Mimbres. He is a regular face in Canada's Flamenco circles. He lives in Victoria where he collaborates with Alma de España Flamenco Dance Company and School teaching cante and performing regularly.

Gareth Owen

Gareth Owen is a world-class flamenco guitarist based in Victoria, B.C. He has collaborated with many internationally renowned flamenco artists including guitarists Jesus Álvarez and Gaspar Rodríguez Roman, singers Coral de los Reyes and Miguel Rosendo, and dancers Domingo Ortega and María “Cha Cha” Bermúdez.

Gareth has recorded two solo albums, “Gareth Owen Flamenco Guitar” and “El Cobre”. He has also appeared on Alma de España’s CD, “Flamenco Live”. His third solo CD is currently in production and will be released later this year.

He has performed solo concerts in Calgary, Victoria and Haida Gwaii, as well as tablao performances in cities across Canada and at the “Tablao El Laga” in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. Gareth has had the honour of performing in the Toronto and Vancouver International Flamenco Festivals, Dawson City Music Festival, and Victoria Flamenco Festival. Theatre-scale flamenco productions have included Café de Chinitas in Vancouver, Alma de España’s Recuerdos and Pasajes in Victoria, La Palabra en el Tiempo in Victoria and Sonidos Gitanos’ “Convivencia” at El Portal Theatre in Los Angeles.

Denise Yeo

Denise Yeo is a flamenco dancer and palmera out of the Alma de España Flamenco Dance Company & School in Victoria, B.C. under the tutelage and mentorship of nationally acclaimed dancer/choreographer Veronica Maguire.

Denise has had the privilege of training with prestigious international flamenco artists such as Concha Jareño, Domingo Ortega, Maria Bermúdez, Inmaculada Ortega, Antonio El Farru, Carmen Herrera, Ana María Lopez, Esther Aranda, Manolo Marín, Emilio Ochando, Ricardo Lopez and Luis de la Tota. In North America, Denise has trained with award-winning dancers Carmen Romero and Oscar Nieto, as well as musical training under Vicente Griego.

By special invitation Denise has performed as a dance corps member in two major productions, Recuerdos and Pasajes. As a dance soloist she continues to be invited to perform in Vancouver tablaos as well as in many tablao productions around Vancouver Island. As a palmera, she has performed with Gareth Owen Flamenco in solo concerts, a recorded album and with special collaborations. She's also been invited as palmero for Kasandra Flamenco's theatre production, Encuentros.

In 2017 she successfully launched her first flamenco production, La Palabra en el Tiempo, as principal soloist and artistic director.