

Mario Sota - Flamenco Singer and Percussionist

Mario, who is originally from Mexico, grew up surrounded by a family of musicians and listening to all kinds of music including flamenco. He started playing piano, guitar, bass, and percussion as well as singing as a child and he began performing professionally at the age of 19. After developing a successful career in Puebla, Mexico as a solo singer and guitarist, he moved to Vancouver where he has focused on flamenco music, singing, percussion (cajón) and guitar. In a few years Mario has become one of the main artists in the Vancouver music scene performing in major venues and events around Greater Vancouver, Victoria, Okanagan and Toronto. During his years in Mexico and his time in Seville and Jerez (Spain) he has perfected his flamenco skills with amazing flamencos such as: "El Oruco", "El Tequila de Jerez", José Barrul, Paco "Gasolina" chico, "La Boterita", Juan Moneo, "El Carbonero" and Ramón Martínez to name a few. Mario is also a music teacher and can be found performing regularly at the Kino Café in Vancouver and other venues with the bands Toque Flamenco, Calle Verde or by himself.

Pedro Mole - Flamenco Guitarist

Pedro Mole has been performing flamenco for more than twenty years. He has performed across Canada and in every major venue in Vancouver including the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, the Chan Centre and the main stage at the Vancouver Folk Festival. He introduced Flamenco to the Kino Cafe in 1994 where he continues to perform today. His musical training started at McGill University followed by Sevilla (Spain) and Jerez de la Frontera (Spain) to embrace flamenco, his latest trips being funded by the Canada Council for the Arts. In Spain he trained with world-renowned flamenco guitarists including: Diego de Morao, Carlos Heredia, Juan Moneo, Miguel Aragon, Fyty, Jesus Alvarez and Paco Fernandez. His focus is now with Calle Verde and Toque Flamenco.

Marilú "La Peque"- Flamenco Dancer

Marilú was born into a family of Spanish origin and grew up listening to Spanish music and flamenco. She started her professional flamenco training at the very young age of ten. Everyone in her family calls her 'Peque' or 'Pequeña' thus her stage name 'La Peque'. Marilú has performed in the main stages of Acapulco, Mexico City and now Vancouver. During her time in Mexico City and Andalucía, she has trained with some of the most celebrated flamenco dancers including: 'La Lupi', Juana Amaya, Mercedes Ruiz, 'El Oruco', María Bermudez, Soledad Barrio, Fiona Malena, Manuela Ríos, Cristina Benítez and many others. Marilú has collaborated with great Vancouver artists such as pianist Oriana White and the world music band Tambura Rasa to create unique shows. She performs regularly at the Kino Café in Vancouver as a soloist with her band Toque Flamenco.

Maria Avila – Flamenco Dancer and Singer

Maria Avila has established herself as an independent dancer, choreographer, and teacher. Recent achievements include being awarded a mentorship to study with Myriam Allard, receiving professional development grants to study in Sevilla, Spain, as well as performing in the 2016 Coetaní Experimental Flamenco Festival in Athens, Greece. Locally she has trained at Al Mozaico Flamenco Dance Academy, Karen Flamenco, and completed Centro Flamenco's professional two-year dance program. Maria Avila currently performs with Calle Verde, Raices y Alas and La Triana.

Michelle Harding - Flamenco Dancer

Since Michelle began her flamenco training in 2001 with Oscar Nieto in Vancouver, she has developed into one of the most experienced and sought-after local tablao performers. Beyond this traditional style of flamenco, she has collaborated with artists from outside the form to experiment, innovate and challenge expectations. Michelle has danced in dozens of professional presentations including performances at the Vancouver International Flamenco Festival and the Victoria Flamenco Festival. She currently performs with the Raíces y Alas Flamenco project, Mozaico Flamenco Dance Theatre, Calle Verde, Toque Flamenco and Aire Flamenco. Michelle has studied flamenco and classical Spanish dance in Spain, Greece, Canada and the USA with funding from the Canada Council and the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists. She teaches at Al Mozaico Flamenco Dance Academy.