

Flamenco Con Gusto

is a theatrical performance reaching out to the art form flamenco and its audience, with the pleasure and pain of dancing, singing and playing flamenco. It wishes to give you a taste of the joy we feel on stage, a flavor of the passion that is embracing us, and the captive love that keeps us attached to it for ever. Flamenco is nothing you ask for. It will ask you ~ and only you have the answer to how, when, where, why....

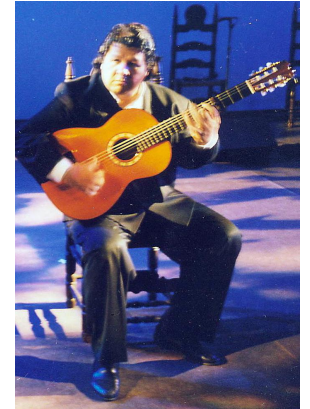
Ulrika Frank – flamenco dancer, teacher and choreographer – a native of Lapland, Sweden. Ulrika studied dance at the University College of Dance in Stockholm. Flamenco and several scholarships took Ulrika to Spain, where she studied with famous flamenco artists such as Manolete, Carmen Cortes and Cristóbal Reyes. Other master teachers have been Andrés Marín, Eva la Yerbabuena and Mercedes Amaya. Ulrika performed and taught throughout Europe before moving to Atlanta in 1999. Ulrika is currently teaching flamenco dance at the Emory University Dance Program and at Casita Flamenca, her own dance studio, and is performing with various artists in the Atlanta area. Ulrika is also the Director of Perla Flamenca Dance Company, which was founded in 2001. Ulrika Frank offers flamenco classes and performances in Atlanta and throughout the United States.



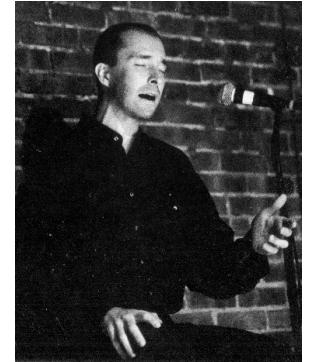
Chayíto Champión – flamenco singer - was born into a family of flamenco artists in San Antonio, Texas. She began singing at an early age and has captivated her audiences worldwide for such artists as José Greco Sr., Nana Lorca, Teo Morca, Luís Montero, Chuni Amaya, Andrea del Conte and Pilar Rioja, to mention a few. She has performed at various venues, such as the Lincoln Center Stage with Danzas Españolas and at Bellas Artes in San Juan, Puerto Rico, with Danza Activa. She has had the great honor to perform for the most Holy Pope John Paul II on his visit to San Antonio and the Minister of Colombo in London and Sri Lanka. She wants to thank her parents for the wonderful gift of flamenco, and will always remember her father's words; "Live flamenco" - and so she does.



Arturo Martínez – flamenco guitarist and composer - a native of Chicago with a Mexican/Italian heritage. He began playing the electric guitar at the age of 13 in the tradition of Afro American music, and was then drawn to flamenco, "the black music" of Spain, because of its Gypsy, Arab and Jewish influences. Arturo has accompanied such renowned Gypsy dancers as Chuni Amaya, Joaquín Fajardo, Concha Vargas, María Alba, Pilar Rioja and Andrea del Conte. Arturo has also produced the New York Flamenco Festivals, where he accompanied over 30 flamenco singers and dancers. Arturo has also been a consultant and co-producer for World Music Institute's concerts of Traditional Flamenco Music with famous artists El Torombo and Concha Vargas. He is frequently asked to accompany and teach guitar. His current project is to develop a dance theatre piece, "Córdoba 1492 – (Spanish Inquisition) and "Sarajevo 1992" – (500 years of Genocide).



Alfonso Cid – flamenco singer and flautist - a native of Seville, Spain. His mother, a singer from the flamenco enclave Triana, and his grandfather, an aficionado of flamenco, were his earliest influences. The experience of his grandfather's death made him realize the depth and beauty of flamenco, and the importance of preserving this art form for future generations. In 1990, he enrolled at the Seville Conservatory to study flute and music theory, where he received five years of classical training. He also appeared at Peña Flamenca Torres-Macarena, a significant flamenco club in Andalusia. In 1997, Alfonso moved to New York where he has worked with many important flamenco artists and has made guest appearances at Carnegie Hall and London's Royal Albert Hall, to mention a few. Alfonso is currently working with "Gazpacho Andalú", his flamenco/world fusion band.



Jerry Fields - percussionist - has a Bachelor of Music in Percussion, Summa cum Laude, from Kennesaw State University, GA. He has studied percussive instruments with great artists, such as marimba with Gordon Stout and Nancy Zeltsman, timpani with Mark Yancich and tabla with Colin Walcott, Badal Roy, Radhe Shyam Sharma and Alope Dutta, to mention a few. The 1999 National Flute Convention in Atlanta gave him the opportunity to accompany popular jazz saxophonist Nelson Rangell, Brian Dunning of Night Noise and Peruvian flute phenomena, Pablo Acosta. In addition to serving as a timbalero and Music Director for Vecinos del Mundo, his own Latin jazz band, Jerry performs regularly as a drum set artist and is frequently asked to accompany and teach at various venues and colleges.

