



FLAMENCO **VIVO** CARLOTA SANTANA  
presents



# FLAMENCO CERTAMEN USA

Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center  
NY Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Friday, October 15, 2021**  
**7:00pm**

This program is supported in part by:



Council on  
the Arts





# PROGRAM

Guitarra	Pedro Cortes
Cante	José Moreno
Palmas	Fanny Ara & Briseyda Zárate

## ESTUDIO LEVEL

Elan Marchinko	Alegrías
Lisa Nazli	Tientos Tangos
Elena Barrantes	Soleá por Bulerías

## TABLAO LEVEL

Tamia Moore	Alegrías
Molly Kay Stoltz	Soleá
Leslie Carmen Irizarry	Alegrías
Joanna Magdalena	Soleá por Bulerías
Ana Maria Cornejo Silva	Alegrías

--INTERMISSION--

**Awards Ceremony**

## *MEET THE FINALISTS*

**Elena Barrantes** was raised in southern Maine and began her dance career shortly after a high school trip to Costa Rica where she first learned salsa. While attending the University of Southern California, she joined the Ballroom and Latin Dance Team and competed in numerous collegiate competitions in the area. She moved to New York City in 2006 and extensively danced and taught salsa until 2010 when she took her first flamenco class, and promptly fell in love. She began studying flamenco in earnest after a two-year stint in New Zealand and has been studying and performing continuously since 2013. As a national finalist in the 2018 Flamenco Certamen USA, Elena had the honor of dancing at Lincoln Center and continues to seek the thrill of live performance.

**Elan Marchinko** is an artist-scholar from Winnipeg, Canada who began formal Flamenco studies at the Esmeralda Enrique Academy of Spanish Dance in 2017. Since then, she has studied with Angela Deiséach and Alison MacDonald (Toronto), Xianix Barrera (New York City), and taken online workshops with Isaac Tovar, Patricia Guerrero, Rosario Toledo, and Carmen Ledesma. Currently, Elan is a participating artist in the 2020-21 Artist Development Series with Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana (NYC) where she continues to deepen her practice with esteemed artists such as Leslie Roybal, Elisabet Torres, Briseyda Zarate, and mentor Emilio Ochando. She is also a Ph.D. Candidate in Performance Studies at York University. Her award-winning dissertation project examines Canadian colonial violence staged through Indigenous-led dance, theatre, and opera. She is an embedded researcher with Toronto's Signal Theatre, a physical theatre company founded by Michael Greyeyes (Plains Cree).

**Lisa Nazli**, Long Island, NY, began dancing at an early age with ballet, tap, and jazz. She has also performed, studied, and taught modern, African, Latin, ballroom, Middle Eastern, Spanish dance, and flamenco. In flamenco and Spanish dance, Lisa has studied with Sonia Olla, Ismael Fernandez, Jose Molina, Nelida Tirado, Omayra Amaya, and Maria Loreta. Currently, she is studying with Xianix Barrera and Alfonso Cid. Lisa performed for eleven years with Eva Lucena's Alborada Spanish Dance Theater of New Jersey in various venues. She has performed in and taught around New York City and Long Island, independently. Lisa has also appeared in musicals, variety shows, and other dance companies, as a featured dancer and singer. Lisa is a public school (ENL) English as a New Language teacher, a New York State certified dance teacher, and Dancing Mindfulness Facilitator, working daily to bring dance and flamenco to children's and various other audiences.

**Tamia Moore** began a formal study in dance and performance while attending the University of California at Berkeley. Tamia began with training in Graham Technique and earned a Minor in Dramatic Arts, under such teachers as Marni Thomas and Christopher Dolder. After college, Tamia moved to NYC in the mid-2000s to become a public school teacher. Tamia then traveled to Spain for a brief study abroad in Madrid. Tamia was able to take her first class at Amor de Dios with a small group of students for three weeks. Upon return to NYC, she began to study with various NYC teachers, until Omayra Amaya established residency in NY. Since 2009, Tamia has studied under the guidance of Omayra Amaya and has had the privilege of being selected for intensive study and performance training. Tamia performed with OADC's student repertory group, Amalgama at the Thalia theater in 2015. In 2016, Tamia was asked to become part of Danza Espana and performed in their 2016 season. Currently, Tamia is a participant in the Artist Development Series with Flamenco Vivo.

# MEET THE FINALISTS

**Leslie Carmen Irizarry**, a Brooklyn-raised Nuyorican, was introduced to flamenco by the late great José Molina. What began as a hobby taking classes with him and other NYC-based flamenco artists, ultimately turned into a passion. After visiting Spain in 2011, Leslie decided to deepen her flamenco training by taking consistent classes in NYC with Omayra Amaya, and then with Sonia Olla and Ismael Fernandez. She furthered her study and took workshops with Spain-based artists at the annual flamenco festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2017. In 2019 Leslie was accepted into The School at Jacob's Pillow Flamenco & Spanish Dance Program where she took master classes with Carmela Greco and Carmen Ledesma. Presently, she continues mentorship with Xianix Barrera (a Jacob Pillow alum). Closer to home in Long Island, Leslie performs with Maria Loreta Celitan of Sol y Sombra Spanish Dance Company at community-based events and arts-in-education programs.

**Molly Kay Stoltz** is a dance performer, choreographer, and teacher specializing in rhythmic dance forms and music and dance collaborations, based in Minneapolis and south-central Minnesota. She is a company member with Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theater, Flying Foot Forum, and Kaleena Miller Dance. She has danced in choreographies by Susana DiPalma, Belen Maya, Fanny Ara, Omayra Maya, La Conja, Antonio Arrebola, Juana de Arco, and Jesus Munoz, and studied in Spain during the Festival de Jerez in 2020. She was chosen as a 2020 Hinge Artist in Residence in Fergus Falls, MN, and participated in the Artist Development Program through Flamenco Vivo in NYC in 2020-21. A University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Dance Program graduate, she now teaches tap at her alma mater. She also works at Shalom Home West in St. Louis Park, MN in the transitional care unit as a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

**Joanna Magdalena** was born and raised in Bochum, Germany. Her flamenco journey began in 1995 with Regina Martinez and in Madrid at Amor de Dios with El Ciro and Carmela Greco. In 2014, she immigrated to Great Barrington, MA, and established a flamenco program at her local dance studio teaching adults and children. After a twelve-year break in her training, Joanne set out to rekindle her passion by seeking a flamenco teacher and mentor, which she found in Xianix Barrera. Under her mentorship, they worked on technique, solo choreographies, stage presence, and expression. Joanne has performed solos at Xianix's annual showcase and at her monthly tablao. Most recently, Joanne was accepted to the Spanish Dance and Flamenco Program at Jacob's Pillow (2019) and the Artist Development Series with Flamenco Vivo (2020-2021). Joanne continues her own dance training with Xianix Barrera and Raquel Heredia while cultivating her students in MA.

**Ana Maria Cornejo Silva** originally hails from Denver, CO. Her Mexican and Chilean parents inspired a love for folkloric music and dance from an early age, which, after sampling various styles, led her to flamenco. She began her flamenco studies with Maria Vazquez, a transplanted Sevillana living in Denver, and has complemented her studies with artists like Belen Lopez, Pedro Cordoba, Agueda Saavedra, El Oruco, Guadalupe Torres, and Alicia Marquez, among others. She's been lucky enough to share the stage with artists like Jose Cortes, Chuscales, Manuel Gutierrez, Meagan Chandler, and Vicente Griego. In 2018, she performed with the Flamenco Denver Company in "Raices IV" and continued with the company until leaving for college. She is currently studying comparative literature at Stanford University and has recently collaborated with other artists of her generation (guitarist Eloy Gonzalez and dancer Mia Angela de Lourdes) on small projects during the pandemic.

## *MEET THE MUSICIANS*

**Pedro Cortes** was born into a family of Spanish Gypsy guitarists and began his studies with his father and Flamenco guitarist Sabicas. At 17 he began touring professionally and is internationally recognized as a soloist and composer. He has composed works for Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, The Cohen Brothers (Paris Je T'Aime) and toured with Jose Greco, María Benítez, La Conja and has performed with Farrucita, La Tati, Merche Esmeralda, Manolete and Lola Flores. Mr. Cortes is artistic director of his own flamenco group, and Musical Director of A Palo Seco.

**José Moreno**, born into a family of flamenco artists, has performed with artists such as: Manolete, Pastora Galván, Pedro Cortés, Omayra Amaya, Roberto Castellón, Chuscales, Jose Luis De La Paz, Carmen Ledesma, Jesús Montoya, Curro Cueto, Amparo Heredia, Raquel Heredia, Adrián Galia, Ángel Muñoz, Belén Maya, Chano Domínguez and Jorge Pardo. José choreographed for and/or performed with the New World Symphony Orquesta and the Boston Flamenco Ballet, the Panama Jazz Festival, Carnegie Hall, Zorongo Flamenco, Zorro, The Musical, Flamenco Vivo, The Metropolitan Opera, and Kennedy Center/Washington National Opera. He also participated in a TV series called Los Descendientes de Andalucía, produced by Canal Sur (Spain).

## *FLAMENCO CERTAMEN JUDGES*

**Alberto Sellés** is a dancer and choreographer from Cádiz, Spain. In addition to collaborations with Arcángel, Jesus Guerrero, Niño de Pura, he has worked with Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía, in the Sevilla and Madrid tablaos. Alberto is the 2020 winner of the Flamenco Vivo Prize for the Certamen de Coreografía de Danza Española y Flamenco.

**La Conja** is a flamenco singer, dancer and choreographer who has toured nationally and internationally as a solo artist with Jose Molina and Jose Greco. She has also shared the stage with Savion Glover at the Joyce Theater, with Sartia Montiel at Lincoln Center, and collaborated with World Music Institute for the prestigious Guggenheim Work and Process. Born of Egyptian parents with a Turkish surname, La Conja melds Arab, Spanish and Indian musical influences into her work.

**Sara Erde** is a director and choreographer for opera, theatre, and film, and a longtime member of the Metropolitan Opera's directing staff. She has toured internationally with dance companies including Maria Benítez Teatro Flamenco, Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, and with choreographer Martha Clarke. In Seville, Spain, she founded and directed the flamenco/theatre company Abolengo and was a principal dancer for many years at the Met in productions of Carmen and La Traviata.

**Jonathan Hollander** is the founder and Artistic Director of Battery Dance in Lower Manhattan in 1976. Six years later he founded the Battery Dance Festival which is now New York City's longest-running public dance festival. Widely recognized as one of the outstanding choreographers of his generation, his works have been presented in major theaters and festivals across five continents.



# *FLAMENCO CERTAMEN PRODUCERS*

**CARLOTA SANTANA** (Co-Founder and Artistic Director) Hailed as “The Keeper of Flamenco” by Dance Magazine, Carlota Santana is an internationally-renowned flamenco/Spanish dance artist and educator. She has led Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana’s growth as one of this country’s most successful flamenco companies, with a mission to promote flamenco as a living art form and a vital part of Hispanic heritage. In 2013, on the occasion of Flamenco Vivo’s 30th Anniversary, she was honored by the King and Government of Spain with La Cruz de la Orden al Mérito Civil for “all the years of passion, excellence and dedication to the flamenco art.” Under Santana’s artistic direction, Flamenco Vivo has premiered more than 20 original works, offering commissions to numerous flamenco artists from Spain and the United States. Santana is a member of the New York Dance Force and North Carolina Dance Alliance, is a recipient of a Choreographer fellowship from the North Carolina Arts Council and serves on the faculty of Duke University.

**Leslie Roybal (Program Director, Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana)**, has enjoyed a professional career spanning over 20 years in both the contemporary dance and flamenco forms. She has performed around the world with The Metropolitan Opera, Pasión y Arte, A Palo Seco Flamenco, Entreflamenco, Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana and in the New York Area and New Mexico tablaos. Leslie was first dancer and Co-Director of Murray Spalding Mandalas, with whom she produced several seasons of Mandalas at St. Mark’s Church in the Bowery in NYC, co-produced a film version of the work XIII and was at the helm of a preservation project for Ms. Spalding’s canon of work, which now resides in the NYPL Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. As Program Director for Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, Leslie is dedicated to inspiring people of all ages and abilities through the flamenco art form and to mentoring rising flamenco artists. Most recently she created the Colmena Flamenca, a three-tiered framework of support and education for flamenco dancers at all stages of their careers.

<https://flamenco-vivo.org/colmena/>

## **Special Thanks to:**

**Guest Mentors:** Briseyda Zárate, Fanny Ara

**Initial Certamen Judges:** The 2020 Consorcio Flamenco - Ana Librada, Ania Bartelmus, Laura Sánchez, Ronaldo Monge, Patricia Muñiz, Xianix Barrera

**The Lake Placid Center for the Arts**

## **Prize Sponsors**

Margaret Jova and the Certamen de Danza Española y Flamenco

Festival de Jerez

Flamencodanzaestudio Úrsula López - Tamara López



## ABOUT FLAMENCO **VIVO** CARLOTA SANTANA

Founded in 1983, Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana is one of America's most prominent flamenco companies, serving more than 35,000 people nationwide each year through far-reaching programs that entertain, educate and empower. Our mission is to: promote flamenco as a living art form and a vital part of Hispanic heritage; produce and perform high quality dance works; provide arts education programs that catalyze connections among young people; and nurture the new generations of Spanish dance artists and educators. We believe that the universal spirit of flamenco – with diverse influences from Arab, Jewish, Roma, Spanish, African and Latin American cultures – gives this art form a unique power to build bridges between people.

FLAMENCO **VIVO** CARLOTA SANTANA

4 WEST 43RD STREET, SUITE 608, NEW YORK, NY 10036

[WWW.FLAMENCO-VIVO.ORG](http://WWW.FLAMENCO-VIVO.ORG)

212.736.4499



[www.facebook.com/flamencovivo](http://www.facebook.com/flamencovivo)



[@flamencovivo](https://www.instagram.com/flamencovivo)



[@flamencovivo](https://twitter.com/flamencovivo)

