

Flamenco is an exciting art form made up of music, song and dance from the south of Spain. The members of Flamenco Pacifico have extensive experience with teaching not only the music but also the historical and cultural elements of the art through lecture/demos. They have done this at several levels, from grade schools to universities to the general public.

In their lecture/demos, they explain where flamenco came from, demonstrate how it sounds, and teach the elements that are at the heart of the art form.

Flamenco is an interactive art where the audience gets involved, and the lecture/demos take full advantage of this. Audiences will hear and learn the different rhythms that are at the heart of flamenco, clapping along as the ensemble plays and sings. These rhythms are the gateway to understanding rhythms from around the world!

The lecture/demos also explore the songs of flamenco, what they mean, and how they are at the center of the art form. The audience can sing fun refrains with the performers and learn basic dance steps and arm work that the dancers use to express themselves so passionately.

Along with a sampling of culture and history, the audience will get to learn some Spanish, including how to yell out encouragement flamenco-style: "¡Olé!"

Here's an outline of a typical lecture demo:

- Performance of an introductory piece
- Overview of what flamenco is (cultural context, name, elements)
- Demonstration of clapping/palmas to convey rhythm
- Discussion and examples of tango rhythm with audience participation
- History up to the mid-19th century
- Role of the song/cante
- Discussion and examples of fandangos rhythm with audience participation
- History to the present, important artists
- Discuss palos de ida y vuelta
- Evolution of the dance by Elena
- Discussion and examples of soleares rhythm with audience participation
- Resurgence of flamenco as a protest form
- Discussion and examples of siguiriyas rhythm with audience participation
- Possible mini-dance lesson
- Q&A