

## Mission Statement

**Based in the majestic state of Oregon, Flamenco Pacifico is a dynamic, professional performance group dedicated to bringing the art of flamenco music and dance to audiences in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Led by virtuoso flamenco guitarist and composer, Berto Boyd, the group's guitar-driven performances feature original modern flamenco compositions rooted in the time-honored forms of traditional flamenco. With inspired dancing by Elena Villa and the passionate vocals and guitar artistry of guitarist/singer Grant Ruiz, Flamenco Pacifico takes audiences on an unforgettable journey into the fascinating world of flamenco.**

## Bios

Berto Boyd began his musical training on the piano at age 5 and has been playing guitar for 28 years. A rigorous musician and a careful researcher, Berto has studied in Spain and performed throughout the United States with some of the world's finest Flamenco, Classical and Jazz artists. Born into a family of artists, which includes famed lead singer, Brandon Boyd of the multi-platinum band Incubus, he is one of the rare and few Americans who has dedicated his musical dreams to mastering the art of the Spanish guitar and composing original Flamenco music. He recently relocated from SoCal to the great Pacific Northwest where he is now the Artistic Director of the Corvallis Guitar Society, the Musical Director of the newly formed group "Flamenco Pacifico", and the owner of the international guitar instruction series, [FlamencoGuitarClass.com](http://FlamencoGuitarClass.com).

Berto Boyd is recognized as one of the top professionals in the music industry. As a former music broker/owner of BertoFlamenco Productions in Santa Barbara, CA, he regularly employed over 35 of SoCal's finest Classical, Jazz and Flamenco musicians for many high-end private events, corporate events, and for well-known celebrities.

Berto's debut album "Esmeralda" was released in 2003 featuring all original Flamenco compositions. He just recently finished transcribing the monumental guitar score for "Avalon" - Suite for Flamenco guitar and Chamber Orchestra by Jose Luis Rodriguez, which he performed during its' debut at the Miami Dade Auditorium in October 2015. Other performance credits highlights include: Musical Director for "Flamenco Pacifico" at the Britt Fest and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival 2015, "Flamenco Guitar - Past \* Present \* and Future" with Ben Woods at the Jewelbox Theater in Seattle, WA 2014, "An Evening of Guitar" with Berto Flamenco y Ritmo Gitano at PCPA Theaterfest in Santa Maria, CA 2008, Co-Musical Director/Guitarist for "Calle Flamenca" with Bailes Ferrer in Miami 2006, Musical Director/Guitarist for "Flamenco en Concierto" and "Tarde Flamenca" at the Fountain Theater in Hollywood, CA 2006, and Musical Director for "Arte y Pasion" at the Center Stage Theater Santa Barbara, CA 2004.

In 2003, Berto met his life-long friend and mentor - virtuoso Guitarist & Composer, from Huelva España, [Jose Luis Rodriguez](#) (former musical director for the "Ballet of Cristina Hoyos" for 10 years) in Mendocino, CA. In the United States, Berto has attended and participated in master classes with [David Russell](#), [Christopher Parkening](#), [Pepe Romero](#), [Gerardo Nunez](#), [Manuel Barrueco](#), [Juan Manuel Cañizares](#), Paco Jarana (musical director for Eva La Yerbabuena), Gaspar Rodriguez (musical director for the National Ballet of Spain), and Rafael Montilla (guitarist with the company of Paco Peña). He has also studied Music Theory and Analysis formally at Ventura College with Dr. Burns Taft, Composition with Miguel de Aguila, Robert Lawson, [Luis Muñoz](#),

and [Adam del Monte](#). Classical Guitar studies with [Carlos Gonzales](#), [Matthew Grief](#) of the [Los Angeles Guitar Quartet](#), [Tavi Jinariu](#), James Edwards, and [Dmitri Diatchenko](#). Brazilian Jazz studies with [Chris Judge](#) ([Gille Apap](#) & The Transylvanian Mountain Boys). Jazz Guitar with John Payne.

The son of a bebop saxophonist, **Grant Ruiz** has played classical guitar since he was 10 years old. After studying flamenco in Spain and with several renowned artists in the U.S., he became an active performer and teacher in Southern Oregon. Aside from classical music and flamenco, Grant has been influenced by jazz and rock music and Native American flute, which he studied with R. Carlos Nakai.

Grant has performed in several productions at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, including the 2003 world premiere of *Lorca in a Green Dress* by Nilo Cruz where he acted as composer, arranger, pianist and guitarist. Other engagements with the festival included the 2008 production of *Othello* and eight seasons of the festival's outdoor Green Show.

He has been a member of several ensembles, including Amor Flamenco, Alba Flamenca, the Dark Rose Trio with classical guitarists Joseph Thompson and Steve Berman, Dúo Flamenco with percussionist Terry Longshore, Djamenco with jazz guitarist Dan Fellman, and currently Flamenco Pacifico.

Grant's recording credits include the 2001 release of "Grant Ruiz on Guitar," the 2007 release of the self-titled CD "Dark Rose Trio," the 2009 release of "12 Prayers" by James Twyman, and the 2011 release of "Verde" with Dúo Flamenco.

He is a founding member of the Jefferson Classical Guitar Society based in Ashland, Oregon, having served alternatively as president, secretary, and treasurer, and is also on the Board of Directors. He is currently an adjunct professor of guitar at Southern Oregon University.

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, **Randy Tico** took to music early, learning bass and studying classical piano. Out of school, he honed his wares in numerous local club bands, learning jazz, latin and rock techniques that he would later draw upon as the bassist for the internationally acclaimed jazz group Matrix. Tico's involvement with Matrix began in 1978, and included touring and three albums--"Wizard" and "Tale of the Whale" for Warner Brothers and "Harvest" for Pablo. Tico's distinctive, melodic bass style, incorporating unusual techniques with harmonics, was a cornerstone of the Matrix sound.

In 1981, Tico's connection and affinity with Brazilian music took a step forward when he began working with Flora Purim and Airto. He has toured the globe and recorded many albums with the famous Brazilian couple. Tico's involvement with the music of Brazil has continued to grow with artists such as Ivan Lins, Kleber Jorge (singer w/ Sergio Mendes), Dori Caymmi, Cesar Camargo Mariano and Teka. In addition, he has recorded and toured with the Grammy award winning, world music group "Strunz and Farah" and appeared with them on the PBS television show "Sound Festival".

After returning to California from his Matrix stint in the early 80's, Tico began assembling large-scale multi-media projects for the annual Santa Barbara Arts Festivals. "Soundscapes", involving

music, multiple-projector visuals and dance resulted in an album release on Inner Circle records, with Tico at the helm as performer, composer, and producer. The project was refined in subsequent years and evolved into the yet more elaborate "Vision Quest" and "The First People". Then in 1990 the album "Earth Dance", featuring original Tico compositions was released on Higher Octave Music. Additionally, Tico served as musical director for Santa Barbara's celebrated Summer Solstice Parade in '88 and '89 and between '90 and '95 he composed for and directed trans-cultural, multi-media concert events for the Summer Solstice Evening Performance Series. In '98 "Points of Departure" , featuring choreography by Christopher Pilafian was performed at the historic Lobero Theater with Tico as composer and music director.

In '95 and '96 Tico joined percussionist Efrían Toro and Brazilian composer/keyboardist Rique Pantoja as instructors for educational seminars in Austria, Switzerland and Germany. He was also featured as guest artist/teacher at the Bozeman Bass Bash in Montana along with Brian Bromberg and Barry Green (author of "The Inner Game of Music"). In '98 the Bay Bass Band (founded by Barry Green) commissioned Tico to compose a new work for 5 acoustic basses and percussion. Other composers for the group include John Pattituci and Jimmy Haslip.

Composing music for theater is also an area in which Tico continues to be active. Working with the innovative director Nancy Keystone he has scored "Dr. Faustus" by Marlowe, "The Rover" by Aphra Behn and Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure". Their current work in development "The Akhmatova Project" was debuted in the prestigious Common Ground Festival at UCLA and also featured as part of the Getty Museum's Performance Series. Tico has also scored "Nevelson", "Mary Cassatt Speaks" and "Of Lies and Truth: Artemesia Gentileschi, Woman Painter" all written and performed by Helena Hale.

Besides composing and producing music for film, television, theater and multi-media projects Tico's talents as a bassist continue to be utilized on recording sessions for other composers and artists such as John McEuen, Jim Stubblefield, Benise, Sadao Wantanabe, Henry Butler, Ivan Lins, Berto Boyd and Willie & Lobo.

**Elena Villa** is an award-winning dancer whose passion for improvising to live music began with her first public belly dance performance as a young girl in the late 1970s. After being inspired by flamenco shows while traveling in France and Spain as a student, Elena began her flamenco training in Santa Cruz, CA in 1991. She later returned to Spain to study in Sevilla, one of the centers of flamenco. In her lifelong dedication to flamenco and Middle Eastern dance, Elena has pursued both cultural research and regular intensive study with master teachers from Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and North America.

Since 1996, she has taught weekly dance classes and frequent workshops in flamenco, classic belly dance, and Spanish Arabic fusion. Elena holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and has taught literature, film and cultural studies at the university level. She has also given lectures on flamenco and belly dance at UO, OSU, and SOU and has presented papers on these topics at academic conferences.

An active performing artist and arts advocate in her adopted state of Oregon, Elena is the current Performance Coordinator (since 2007) and a principal dancer for the acclaimed Gypsy Caravan Stage at the Oregon Country Fair, one of the West Coast's legendary belly dance venues. She also

serves on the board of directors for La Peña Flamenca de Portland and appears in their productions as a featured soloist. Her recent work includes performances at the World Beat Festival (Salem) and The Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Green Show (Ashland) in collaboration with Dúo Flamenco (Ashland), Shabava (Portland), Berto Boyd and Flamenco Pacifico.