

# Artists

## Berto Boyd

Berto Boyd began his musical training on the piano at age 5 and has been playing guitar for over 30 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 currently resides in 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, [Flamenco Guitar Class](#). Berto is endorsed by Hannabach Strings, Shelton-Farretta Guitars, and MiniFlex Mics.

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 many well-known celebrities.

Berto's debut album "Esmeralda" was released in 2003 featuring all original Flamenco compositions. In 2017, he released the debut album "[Convivencia](#)" with his group [Flamenco Pacifico](#). Additionally in 2017, he performed in the finale concert of [Chintimini Chamber Music Festival](#) Classical works by Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Boccherini with a string quartet. In 2015, he was commissioned to transcribe the monumental guitar score for [Avalon – Suite for Flamenco guitar and Chamber Orchestra](#) by [Jose Luis de la Paz](#), which he performed during its' debut at the Miami Dade Auditorium. Other performance credits highlights include: Opening for the Gypsy Kings at [Britt Fest](#) with Flamenco Pacifico in 2015 as well as performances at the [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#) and [Oregon Country Fair](#) 2015 and 2016, "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" with award winning Flamenco dancer [Timo Nuñez](#) at the Center Stage Theater Santa Barbara, CA 2004.

[Official Website](#)

## **Grant Ruiz**

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.

Aside from being a soloist, Grant has collaborated in productions with larger groups. In 2016 he was the guitarist joining the Rogue Valley Chorale in the Oregon premiere of *Misa Azteca* by Joseph Julian Gonzales at the Collier Center in Medford. In 2004 he performed with the Curry/Del Norte Orchestra of southern Oregon in a production of *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5* by Heitor Villa-Lobos.

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 with Berto Boyd. In 2015 Flamenco Pacifico performed at the Britt Music and Arts Festival in Jacksonville, Oregon, on the same bill as the Gipsy Kings.

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 also provided the soundtrack for the DVD *A Guitar Maker's Path* by Les Stansell in 2011.

Grant 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. He is also a member of the faculty of the Britt Festival's annual guitar workshop.

[Official Website](#)

## **Terry Longshore**

Terry Longshore is a percussionist based in Ashland, Oregon whose genre-crossing work exhibits the artistry of the concert stage, the spontaneity of jazz, and the energy of a rock club. He performs nationally and internationally as a soloist and ensemble member, and can be heard on numerous CD and motion picture recordings. He has premiered and recorded countless works by a variety of composers, and collaborates with many artists working in diverse media. Longshore is a Yamaha Performing Artist and an artist endorser for Zildjian Cymbals, Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, Remo Drumheads, Gon Bops Percussion, and Beato Bags, and is a member of the Black Swamp Percussion Education Network. He holds bachelor's degrees in business administration from California State University at Fresno and percussion performance from California State University Sacramento, and earned the master's and doctoral degrees in contemporary music performance from the University of California, San Diego. He is Professor of Music at the Oregon Center for the Arts at Southern Oregon University. [Official Website](#)

## **Randy Tico**

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". He is currently touring with Jeff Bridges. [Official Website](#)

## **Elena Villa**

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. [Official Website](#)

## **Melissa Cruz**

Melissa Cruz is a Bay Area-based flamenco professional and has been a full-time flamenco artist and instructor for the past 14 years. After being exposed to flamenco while studying Spanish at UC Berkeley, she began dancing with Rosa Montoya and soon thereafter, joined Ms. Montoya's professional company. Apart from frequently performing in theatrical presentations, she teaches a full weekly schedule of flamenco dance classes and presents consistently in the local flamenco cabaret circuit. Melissa is also the dancer and percussionist for the band, [LoCura](#), with who she performs and tours. Recently, she served as Adjunct Dance Faculty at The University of San Francisco, as a guest instructor at the world dance youth program, Danceversity, and currently presents her own apprentice dance repertory group. Melissa has performed as a soloist in the San Francisco International Arts Festival in 2012 and 2016 and has presented in eight San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festivals; in 2010 and 2011, as a featured soloist. She was commissioned to present a solo representing the genre of flamenco in the 2013 San Francisco Isadora Duncan Awards Ceremony and was a featured artist in the 2014 Tucson Flamenco Festival. Currently, she is principal dancer and choreographer for the San Francisco Flamenco Dance Company which debuted the show, "Mares" in September 2016. As described by Rachel Howard of the SF Chronicle: "Any dancer could make pained faces. But Cruz is clearly possessed by the duende — the spirit that drives this deeply introspective art." [Official Website](#)

