



ALMA FLAMENCA 2011-2012

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND FACTS

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Baile I – Technique (1 hour/week)

This class focuses on technique at a beginner level for students with or without dance experience. Special attention is paid to basic posture, braceo (arms), maneo (hand movements), taconeo (footwork) and compas (rhythm). Each month, a new palo (dance form) is introduced so that students are exposed to a broad range of flamenco forms. Students learn movements within each form for each month, but the choreography does not carry over month to month. Therefore, enrollment for this class is ongoing, and students may join at the beginning of any month from September to March. Starting mid-February, students will learn a short 1.5 minute choreography (with option to perform at recital).

Baile II (2 hour/ week)

Prerequisite: minimum 1-3 years flamenco and knowledge of 1 complete choreography.

This class is at an intermediate level, which requires a strong understanding of basic flamenco taconeo, maneo, braceo and compas. Ideally, students moving up from Baile 1 should have strong understanding of the movements they learned last year and the ability to confidently perform their choreography. The first month of this class will focus on advancing to intermediate technique. The students learn a choreography usually based on 12-count compas (rhythm), performed to LIVE music. Students are encouraged to continue with Baile II for at least three years, until very confident with intermediate-level technique and 12-count compas. Students are also encouraged to take a technique-only class to strengthen their flamenco skills.

Baile II with Guitar (1.5 hours/week)...*cancelled for 2011-2012

Prerequisite: minimum 4 years flamenco, knowledge of two complete choreographies.

Students moving into Baile II should expect a much more challenging level of dance. Baile II with Guitar recital choreographies are longer and more elaborate, and are taught at a quicker pace. To keep up with this higher level and learn these choreographies, students will have to practice outside of class time. Ideally, students moving up from Baile II should be able to confidently perform their previous choreographies without assistance, with a good understanding of more advanced elements such as body positioning taconeo, accenting, etc. The first month of this class will focus on technique. The students will then learn a choreography based on a more complex palo (dance form). Students are encouraged to take a technique-only and/or palmas class to increase their flamenco knowledge. Choreography performed to live guitar music.

Baile III with guitar (2 hours/week)

Prerequisite: minimum of 5 years flamenco.

Students moving into Baile III should expect a very challenging level of dance. Baile III choreographies are long (minimum 7-9 minutes) and very complex. To learn these choreographies and keep up with the class, students will have to attend most, if not all, classes, as well as practice outside of class time. Baile III students should be able to confidently perform their previous choreographies as if they were soloists, and need to be able to retain several choreographies at one time. Baile III students must have a strong understanding of body & arm positioning, taconeo, accenting, compas of several different palos and, most importantly of all, artistic expression. The first month of this class will focus on technique. The students learn choreographies based on the most complex palos (dance forms). Choreography performed to live guitar music.

WHEN DO I MOVE UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

It is not your mission to advance one level per year, and, in fact, Alma Flamenca discourages this approach. Each individual will move through the levels according to his/her understanding of Flamenco and ability to retain and perform choreographies, preferably not due to any external factors. Particularly when moving into the live guitar classes, students should have some background experience with CD classes, as live music requires the dancers to have a strong grasp of compas. Flamenco is a complex art form and you will be learning your entire life. Most students can expect to spend years in each of the intermediate and advanced levels. We are not simply learning steps in a sequence, but rather attempting to achieve a deep understanding of the art form as a whole.

Remember that Flamenco is about the journey -not the destination ...

AMANTES DE FLAMENCO

Amantes de Flamenco is Saskatoon's own semi-professional Flamenco performance group consisting of selected Baile III students of Alma Flamenca. Alba formed Amantes in 2001 to give her most skilled flamenco students a chance to perform semiprofessionally. Amantes members have the opportunity to perform in a variety of engagements, including the "Spain Meets Canada" Flamenco Festival with guest artists from Spain, Dare to Dance, FolkFest, Ness Creek Music Festival, local fundraising events and, when the opportunities arise, performances across Canada. In addition to the long-term mentorship of Kari Alba, Amantes members also have the opportunity to train more closely with guest Flamenco artists from Spain and Canada, learning additional elements such as palmas and Flamenco musicality.

However, with such additional opportunity comes added responsibility. Students must audition to become part of the Amantes, and once they are members of the Amantes, they must work to maintain top professionalism. Amantes members must regularly attend classes as well as additional rehearsals for specific shows, and must also commit to personal practice time. Amantes members are expected to have thorough knowledge of flamenco technique and a variety palos. Amantes dancers should be able to confidently perform choreographies in small groups or as solos, and be able to accompany fellow dancers with palmas.

Students at the Bailed III level will be invited to audition for Amantes de Flamenco under the instructor's guidance and approval. Auditions will consist of a videotape of 2 full-length choreographies performed as solos (ensuring that the video quality is such that the dancer's movements are visible and the taconeo can be clearly heard).