



ALMA FLAMENCA 2006 - 2007 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Alma Flamenco ("Flamenco Soul") is dedicated to promoting the highest quality of Flamenco, and strives to achieve a thorough and deep understanding of Flamenco technique, structure and artistry.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

PRINCIPIANTES CHICO 5-6

½ hour per week.

This is a beginner class for children ages 5-6. The students will be introduced to the basic elements of flamenco – posture, braceo (arms), maneo (hand movements), taconeo (footwork) and compas (rhythm) – in a fun, child-friendly atmosphere. They will also learn a fun, age-appropriate flamenco choreography to perform at the yearly recital.

PRINCIPIANTES CHICO 7-9

1 hour per week.

This is a beginner/intermediate class for children ages 7-9, with or without previous dance experience. The students will learn additional techniques in posture, braceo, maneo, taconeo and compas in a fun atmosphere with other children their age. These students will learn a slightly more complex choreography for the yearly recital.

PRINCIPIANTES CHICO 10-13

1 hour per week

Children with or without dance experience between the ages of 10 and 13 are invited to join this beginner/intermediate class for pre-teens. Students will learn the basic techniques of flamenco dancing, as well as progressing to more sophisticated techniques, as the skill level allows. Unless enrolment for this class is high enough to justify a separate class, these students will typically join the Principiante Adult/Teen class, as the techniques and choreographies learned at these levels are very similar.

ADULT/TEEN CLASSES

BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE *TECHNIQUE ONLY*

1 hour per week.

This class focuses on technique at a beginner/intermediate 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. This class does not perform in the recital. Therefore, enrollment for this class is ongoing, and students may join at the beginning of any month.

PRINCIPIANTE (BEGINNER)

1 hour per week

This is a beginners' class for students with or without dance experience. The first month of this class will focus exclusively on technique, and technique is continuously reviewed throughout the year. The students learn a choreography based on one specific palo (dance form), which is performed at the recital to CD music. Students are not expected to move from Principiante to Intermedios after just one year, and in fact are encouraged to continue with Principiante level until confident with basic technique.

INTERMEDIOS (INTERMEDIATE)

1 hour per 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 Principiante 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 CD music. Students are encouraged to continue with Intermedios 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.

INTERMEDIOS/AVANZADOS

Prerequisite: minimum 4 years flamenco, knowledge of two complete choreographies. Students moving into Intermedios/Avanzados should expect a much more challenging level of dance. Int/Av 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 Intermedios 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). Int/Av students are encouraged to take a technique-only and/or palmas class to increase their Flamenco knowledge.

Intermedios/Avanzados Class Options: #1: choreography performed to CD music – **1 hour per week**

#2: choreography performed to live guitar music – **2 hours per week**

