Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana

For Grades K - 12 and Family Audiences

Curriculum Connections: Dance, Music, Spanish Culture and Language
Welcome to the Lecture Demonstration Performance Guide created to help you enjoy a performance by Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana.

This dancer marks topics for discussion or activities you may want to do with other students, friends, or family.
WHAT IS CULTURE?
Culture is the arts, customs, civilization, and achievements of a particular people. Discuss your own culture. What makes your culture unique?

WATCH THAT MOVE
During the show listen and watch the performers closely. What do you think they are feeling?

FLAMENCO
The dance and music seen in our performance is the Spanish art form called Flamenco. Flamenco expresses many of our everyday feelings—happiness, loneliness, and anger, to name a few.

In the show you will hear an explosion of clicking castanets, strumming guitars, and dancers making rhythm with their hands and feet.

You will see powerful men in vests and boots and a whirlwind of women waving fans and twirling long fringed shawls in colorful ruffled dresses.

FLAMENCO VIVO CARLOTA SANTANA
A professional Spanish dance company, Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana was established in 1983 by Carlota Santana and Roberto Lorca.

After Mr. Lorca’s death in 1987 Ms. Santana continued to develop the company, founded on the belief that the spirit of flamenco has the power to build bridges between cultures and inspire audiences from diverse backgrounds.

The company is now based in New York City, North Carolina and Madrid, Spain.

Carlota Santana has been designated "The Keeper of Flamenco" by Dance Magazine in recognition of her commitment to creating new works and developing young artists and choreographers.

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WHAT IS FLAMENCO?

Flamenco is a Spanish music and dance that expresses feelings through different rhythms. The seeds of Flamenco were planted many years ago by different cultures. Today it has blossomed into a theater art performed throughout the world. Flamenco originated in southern Spain in the region called Andalucía. Its influences include Gypsies, Jews, Arabs, and Christians.

Gypsies came from northern India and traveled through the Middle East, North Africa and Europe in the fifteenth century. They are recognized throughout Europe for blending local musical traditions with their own to create new music fusion. In Spain this fusion became the art of Flamenco.

Moors are Arabic people from North Africa. They invaded Spain in 711 AD and ruled for over 700 years. Their instrument the vihuela was popular in the 15th and 16th centuries and over time it evolved into the modern day Flamenco guitar. The Moors influence is also heard in the varied vocal tone of the singing and the complex flamenco rhythms.

Sephardic Jews came to Spain from the Middle East during the 11th century. They contributed the varied tones of their music and song. This is most prominent in the flamenco saeta, a holy week song that is similar to Sephardic Jewish chants.

Christians - Christians lived alongside the Jews, Moors, and Gypsies in Andalucía. After the Spanish Inquisition (15th through 18th century) Spain became an increasingly Christian nation. As this happened the stories and heritage of Christianity began to appear in the lyrics of flamenco music.
FLAMENCO POSES  All of the pictures in this Program Guide show flamenco poses. Choose one of the pictures and make the pose. Try to get the strong posture, arms, hands and feet just right. See if your classmates can guess which picture you chose!

ELEMENTS OF FLAMENCO

Cante is flamenco singing; it is the oldest part of flamenco. This singing expresses life in all its colors - from dark to light. It may sound different from what you are used to; it might sound like crying at times. This is because of the rich cultural influences and strong emotions in the voice. The cante sets the mood for each performance.

Baile is flamenco dancing. Men and women dance in flamenco. It is percussive dance, meaning the dancers make rhythm. In flamenco dancers do fancy footwork called zapateado. They use parts of their feet to make sounds such as a golpe (flat), planta (ball of the foot) or tacón (heel). Flamenco dancers stand tall to show orgullo (pride), strength and elegance.

Guitarra means “guitar” in Spanish. The flamenco guitar has nylon strings that are played without a pick. The guitarist uses his left hand to make chords that match the singers tone while his/her right hand strums in time to the dancer’s zapateado. In doing this the guitarist connects the singer and dancer through music.

TRY THE GUITAR  Rasgueado is a technique the guitarist uses to play without a pick. To try it, pretend your knee is the guitar. Use your right hand to strum up with your thumb, next strum down with your fingers and last strum down with your thumb. Repeat until you can do it quickly!
COSTUMES AND PROPS

Costumes change with the emotion of the dance. Happy dances have bright, colorful costumes. Serious dances have dark costumes.

Women wear long ruffled dresses in flamenco. They wear their hair pulled back in a moño (bun) with flowers or other decorations. Sometimes they wear a long train dress called a bata de cola to show balance and skill. Sometimes they use a mantón de Manila (shawl) or an abanico (fan) to express emotions like flirtation or sadness.

Men wear pants with a jacket or vest called a chaleco. Sometimes they wear a pañuelo (handkerchief).

Both men and women wear special flamenco shoes with nails in the tip of the toe and the heel. The nails give a deep earthy sound to the zapeteado. Men wear boots, and women wear high heels.

RHYTHM

Compás is the rhythm of flamenco. During the performance everyone must keep the compás. This is the heart of Flamenco. If you are “fuera de compás” or “out of rhythm,” you cannot dance, sing or play the guitar because you will throw the other artists off rhythm. The performers keep the compás by listening closely and practicing every day. They work as a team to stay in compás together. This is the only way they can perform the music and dance.

Castañuelas or Castanets are a percussive instrument. They are spoon shaped pieces of wood tied together with a string. Dancers tie them to their thumbs and hit them with their fingers to make rhythm.

Palmas are special handclaps that flamenco artists use to keep compás. High-pitched claps or claras are done with the hands open, striking the fingers of one hand against the palm of the other. Muted claps, or sordas are done by cupping the hands and striking palm against palm.

TRY IT YOURSELF

Look at the palmas photos. Try clapping 4 counts of sordas together as a class. Try two counts of 4, then four counts of 4. Can you stay together? Next try claras!
THE PROGRAM

You will see and hear different flamenco styles throughout the performance. These are called palos. Below is a list of some palos you may see in this performance.

Sevillanas is a folk dance from Seville. Children in Andalucía grow up dancing Sevillanas. It is often danced in partners and is very popular during festivals in Andalucía. Watch the dancers use castanets as they dance together.

Jaleos is quick and lively. Watch for fast zapateado and pay attention to how the dancers keep the compás.

Alegrías is about happiness. It comes from the port city of Cádiz. The Spanish word alegría translates to “joy” in English. Look for the women showing off their skills with the bata de cola.

Guajiras is influenced by music from Cuba. This Guajiras tells a story about love, fighting, and making up. Watch the dancers—she uses a fan to express how she feels and he tries to give her a rose!

Seguiriya is one of the darkest and most serious palos in flamenco. Pay attention to the singing; it expresses deep sadness. You will see women twirling mantones (shawls) and men using bastones (canes) to create rhythm.

Rumba: is influenced by Afro-Cuban rhythms. It has a lively, bouncy feeling and is a festive party dance. Watch dancers take turns dancing solo to show off their own personal style while the rest of the cast supports them with palmas.

THE PERFORMANCE

YOU ARE PART OF THE SHOW! Watching dance is different from watching T.V. or movies. The performers on stage are real people who can see and hear you. It is very important that you sit still, be silent, and pay attention while they are performing so they can do their best for you. When they are finished you should clap loudly to show how much you enjoyed their hard work!

HELP THE PERFORMERS

A special way of showing support in flamenco is to shout “Olé!” This is a Spanish way of telling the performers you like what you see. It’s like saying “Yay!” in English. You are invited to shout “Olé!” when you clap at the end of each dance.
Enriching lives, sparking imaginations, and inspiring a love of learning through the arts!

Arts education and outreach programming at Appalachian is committed to connecting university arts resources to a diverse audience of community arts patrons, teachers and learners in the campus community, and in the public, private and home school network across our region. In doing so, the series strives to broaden and deepen arts experiences for audiences of all ages, while ensuring access to the arts for young audiences, building future audiences for the arts, and inspiring a love of learning through the arts.

Every season, affordable music, dance, film, and theatre events are offered to students and their teachers from K-12 classrooms across the region. Students experience everything from high-energy acrobatics and Appalachian music to international dance and literary classics brought to life through theatrical productions. In recent seasons, more than 8,000 students across our region have attended APPlause Series events.

This academic year, the APPlause! Series will be completely virtual and completely free, offering compelling programming to connect to K-12 classrooms, thanks in large part to generous donors who believe in supplying educators with arts programming that will spark creativity and inspire a love of learning.