

BÁRBARA MARTÍNEZ

PERFORMING ARTIST & ARTS EDUCATOR
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FACT SHEET: ARTS-IN-EDUCATION FLAMENCO PROGRAMS

Flamenco. "Arms up in circle in then out". These are the words of my flamenco instructor, Barbara. I am curving my fingers. My middle finger meets my thumb. Quickly I do the quebrada turn. My arms twisted, I do a small karate kid, turn and finish with my arms up. Suddenly I twist into a bullfighter. With a little jump a sevillana hits the bottom of my shoe. Then I am walking on the great vine. I finish with a twist of my arms.

-Lizzie Weiss, 10 years old

Bárbara Martínez leads classes, workshops, residencies, lecture demonstrations and school performances, taking New York's finest flamenco artists to elementary, middle and high schools, colleges, universities, libraries and community centers. She has been involved in arts education programs since 1999 as member of flamenco companies such as *Andrea del Conte Danza Española*, *Carlota Santana Flamenco Vivo* and *Flamenco Latino*. At *Bank Street School for Children*, Bárbara's after school program, open to children ages 6-11, is in its 4th year. She has participated in concerts and lecture tours for City Center, and has toured for the past two years with *Young Audiences of Virginia* and *Learning On Stage*, talking with children and young adults about flamenco throughout the United States.

The arts-in-education group is most interested in helping people build their life skills and confidence through learning. In her experience teaching movement, theater dance, flamenco, music and language to children and adults, Bárbara has learned that everyone can learn flamenco and apply that learning to their lives. Bárbara's classes focus on using the body to express characters and emotions. Students explore rhythms and patterns and they investigate the possibilities of telling a story with movement. Students are encouraged to create their own movement and to put what they hear and how they move into words and even learn Spanish vocabulary.

Bárbara learned immensely from mentor Wendy Tauscher, a choreographer and educator, who recently published *Making Music with Movement and Dance* (a new Silver-Burdett movement text for grades 1-8.) She has also participated as a guest artist in Betsy Blachly's *Music & Movement* graduate class at *Bank Street College of Education*, sharing flamenco movement and music activities that teachers can use in the classroom.

PROGRAMS

Workshops

Workshops are available for children, young adults and adults. Students are introduced to flamenco dance and music in 1 to 4

sessions. Elements covered include: *cuerpo* (posture), *braceo* (arm movement), *manos* (hand movement), *zapateo* (footwork), *palmas* (hand-clapping), *compás* (rhythm), *marquaje* (marking steps), the important relationship between *baile* (dance), *toque* (music) and *cante* (singing), beyond the steps: *estilo y aire* (style & expression.) Workshops can prepare students for a short student performance and can also be arranged with live guitar accompaniment.

Technical Requirements: Workshops can be held in a dance studio, and when this is not available, they can be held in a classroom or in an auditorium. A wooden floor is ideal.

Residencies

Residencies are available for children, young adults and adults for a more in-depth flamenco experience. A residency can be held in 8 weekly or bi-weekly sessions and usually culminate in a student performance of an original choreography by Bárbara Martínez. Residencies can also be arranged with live guitar accompaniment.

Technical Requirements: See Workshops. Students need to bring dance pants or tights, a leotard or t-shirt/tank-top, flamenco shoes or character shoes or comfortable dress shoes with a small heel and strap. For women: a flamenco skirt or full long skirt.

Interactive Shows

Interactive Shows are a combination of the typical lecture demonstration and a formal performance. Students of all ages experience the unique thrill of witnessing a live traditional *tablaó*-style flamenco show complete with music and dance. Interactive segments include the audience in exercises that illustrate the basics of the arm/hand movements, the art of *palmas*, castanets, footwork and *jaleos* (the cheering spirit.) The Flamenco Ensemble includes guitarists, percussionists, singers and as many dancers as the budget allows (4 are recommended.) Audience members may even get a chance dance a simple number with the artists.

Technical Requirements: Interactive Shows require a floor with a wooden surface, armless chairs, microphones and mic stands and sound system. If necessary, the group can provide the sound system. Amplified sound may not be necessary for small groups. Performances can be done in the school auditorium, gymnasiums, cafeterias or other large space.

Weekly Classes & Private Lessons

In addition to residencies, workshops and educational performances Bárbara teaches open weekly flamenco dances classes and workshops for adult men and women and private lessons to children and adults at Bridge for Dance on the Upper West Side and at Fazil's Studio near Times Square.

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RECENT ARTS-IN-EDUCATION WORK

Classes, Workshops & Residencies in Flamenco

Bank Street School for Children, NYC
Bridge for Dance, NYC
Casa Galicia Center, NYC
Children's Arts & Sciences Workshop, NYC
Dance Manhattan, NYC
The East Harlem Tutorial Lab, NYC
Fazil's Studio, NYC
Herricks High School, Mineola, NY
Lotus Music & Arts, NYC
Pleasantville Middle School, NY
Vanaver Caravan SummerDance, New Paltz, NY

Movement, Musical Theater & Dance Programs

Way Off Broadway, NYC
Bank Street School for Children, NYC
Summerbridge, NYC & San Francisco
Summerstage, Rockland County, NY

Lecture Demonstrations/Interactive Performances

City Center, NYC
Learning On Stage, US Tour
Young Audiences of New York
Young Audiences of Virginia
Horace Mann School, NYC
Ethical Culture/Fieldston School, NYC
Riverdale Country School, NYC
Saint David's School, NYC