



# MELÓN JIMÉNEZ & LARA WONG

## NATIONAL SUMMER TOUR 2023

*"...the result is stunning; it is fluid, it is sensual and fully embodies the spirit of flamenco: virtuosity and passion."*

**-CBC Radio-Canada**

*"Melón Jiménez is a guitarist to watch. He has an alluring style that presents prodigiously performed, masterfully crafted compositions, exposing guitar complexities and a skill for bridging tradition and modernity"*

**-World Music Central**

*"Wong stands out on the flamenco scene"*

**-Ottawa Citizen**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Madrid, May 2023) - Direct from the flamenco-jazz capital of Madrid, Spain, award-winning musicians **Melón Jiménez and Lara Wong** are set to ignite Canadian stages with their captivating fusion of flamenco, world music, and jazz.

Led by acclaimed guitarist Melón Jiménez and flutist and bansuri player Lara Wong, this dynamic ensemble brings a fresh and innovative approach to the traditional flamenco genre. Their music is inspired by flamenco's Indian and Arabic origins and harmoniously unites these traditions into modern flamenco. Dazzling guitar riffs, entrancing rhythms, mystical bansuri melodies, and colourful flute improvisations come together in this dynamic trio. From July to August, they will delight audiences nation wide on their Summer 2023 National Tour across BC, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec.

The Summer 2023 National Tour will take Melón Jiménez and Lara Wong to renowned festivals and theatres including the Mariposa Folk Festival, Evergreen Theatre, Vancouver Folk Festival, Salmon Arm Roots N Blues, Festival des Traditions du Monde de Sherbrooke, and Festival Memoire et Racines. They will be joined by percussionist **Alex Carrasco** from France and dancer **Deborah "La Caramelita"** in various shows in August.

Contrary to popular belief that flamenco is primarily a dance form and is often reduced to stereotypes like the Gypsy Kings and castanet clicking dancers, true flamenco goes far beyond dance and rumbas. Melón Jiménez and Lara Wong are on a mission to bring the true breadth and depth of the ever-evolving flamenco music scene in Spain to Canada. Following the footsteps of flamenco-jazz or flamenco-nuevo legends such as, Paco de Lucia, Chano Dominguez, Jorge Pardo and even, Chick Corea, their music transcends musical genres and draws inspiration from various musical traditions, weaving together the soulful essence of flamenco, the harmonic colours of jazz, and the rhythmic improvisations of Indian music.

Melón and Lara's artistic journey together began when they first met on stage in 2018 in the flamenco jazz capital of Madrid. Since then, they have been captivating audiences around the world at festivals such as SunFest, Festival de Musica Andalusi de Fez, TAIWANFest, Mundial Montreal, and Festival de Musica Española Cadiz.

Melón Jimenez, one of Spain's top flamenco guitarist, grew up between Madrid and Jerez de la Frontera, the cradle of flamenco in Andalucia. He began his musical journey at the age of 3, following in the footsteps of his father. Today, he is one of Spain's most celebrated flamenco guitarist and has left an indelible mark on the music world with his devotion to both the traditions of his Andalusian gypsy roots and the innovation of the flamenco guitar. Melón has toured worldwide, touring with legendary musicians such as Anoushka Shankar, Richard Bona, Ketama, Chuchito Valdes, and Jorge Pardo.

Lara Wong is originally from Vancouver, B.C., is a prominent figure in Spain's flamenco scene. Her journey began in the classical world, earning a Bachelor's of

Music in classical and jazz flute from McGill University. Today, she is the winner of the prestigious "Filon" first prize award for best flamenco instrumentalist at the Festival Cante de las Minas, where she made history as the first foreigner and the first female to win in the instrumentalist category. Furthermore, she stands as the pioneer in incorporating the bansuri flute into the realm of flamenco.

This summer Melón Jiménez and Lara Wong will bring the true essence of Spain's modern day flamenco scene on their 25 show tour across Canada. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the magic and musical mastery of this dynamic duo.

### **NATIONAL TOUR DATES:**

8-9/7: Mariposa Folk Festival, Ontario, Canada  
14&16/7: Vancouver Folk Music Festival  
15/7: Old School House Arts Centre, BC  
21-22/7: Music by the Sea, Bamfield, BC  
27/7: Red Bird Live, Ottawa  
28/7: La Caravan, Quebec  
29/7: Festival Memoire et Racines, Quebec  
30/7: Boucherville, Quebec  
2/8: Square Cabot, Montreal, QC  
3/8: La Baleine Endiable, QC  
4/8: Québec  
5/8: CEM, Chicoutimi, Quebec  
8/8: Wolfe Island, Ontario  
9/8: Festival des traditions du Monde de Sherbrooke, Quebec  
10/8: Rivoli, Toronto, Ontario  
11-13/8: Kingsville Festival, Ontario  
13/8: Kitchener, Ontario  
16/8: Arts Place, Alberta  
17/8: Kaleidoscope Festival, Kimberly BC  
19-20/8: Salmon Arm Roots n Blues Festival, BC\*  
21/8: Mateada, Salt Spring Island, BC  
22/8: Wine Down Wednesdays, Duncan, BC  
23/8: Hermann's Upstairs Lounge, Victoria, BC  
24/8: St. James Community Square, Vancouver, BC  
25/8: High Beam Dreams, BC  
26/8: Evergreen Cultural Centre, BC

For tour dates and tickets: [Click here for our BandsinTown page](#)

### **ARTIST LINKS:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@melonjimenezoficial>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LaraFlautista>

<https://melonjimenez.bandcamp.com/>

<https://larawong.bandcamp.com/album/rosa-de-los-vientos>

[https://open.spotify.com/artist/3egmU9Nvsi72ljrtpSsVgx?si=AtmO\\_OC1CB1mu8FCiUyQ](https://open.spotify.com/artist/3egmU9Nvsi72ljrtpSsVgx?si=AtmO_OC1CB1mu8FCiUyQ)

<https://www.instagram.com/larawong.music/>

[https://www.instagram.com/melon\\_jimenez\\_guitarrista/](https://www.instagram.com/melon_jimenez_guitarrista/)

<https://www.facebook.com/larawongfl>

For more information, photos, mp3s, interviews, please view our EPK:  
[www.larawong.com/melon-lara](http://www.larawong.com/melon-lara) or contact:

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