

LARA WONG TRIO

Presents

Rosa de los Vientos

An enchanting musical journey of flamenco jazz and world music.

SUMMER 2022 CANADIAN TOUR

"Emanating on-stage magnetism and artistic talent"

~ Flamenco Jazz: Historia de un Amor



Hailing from Madrid, Spain, the mecca of flamenco jazz, flamenco flutist, Lara Wong and her trio are embarking on their first cross-Canada tour. This summer, the award-winning trio will be touring Lara's new album **"Rosa de los Vientos"** at festivals and theaters, bringing nationwide stages to life with their captivating music.

The tour follows the crescendo of Lara's musical achievements this year. In August 2021, Lara became the first foreigner and woman to win the **"Filón Minero"** prize for best flamenco

instrumentalist in Spain's prestigious flamenco festival, *Festival Cante de las Minas*. Following this historic moment, Lara decided to record her first album, which she presents on this celebratory tour in her motherland, Canada.

The half-Japanese and half-Chinese flutist was born and raised in Vancouver but moved to Spain in 2012 to pursue her passion in flamenco, where she eventually stayed. Lara and her trio are based in **Madrid**, the Spanish capital where tradition meets innovation. Traditional flamenco has its roots in the south of Spain, while Madrid is the city of flamenco jazz and fusion.

Over the past four decades, flamenco has evolved into a rich and extensive musical genre that has grown to encompass non-traditional instruments and fuse with different musical genres. Artists such as Paco de Lucia and Jorge Pardo were the first to break the boundaries of traditional flamenco. The love affair between flamenco and jazz started decades ago with artists like Miles Davis (*Sketches of Spain*) and Chick Corea (*My Spanish Heart*).

Lara is Canada's own pioneer of flamenco jazz and with her flute and bansuris (Indian bamboo flute), she hopes to give a new face to flamenco for Canadians.

"Outside of Spain, people associate flamenco with passionate dancers clicking their castanets or with the Gypsy Kings' fiesta-fueled rumbas. But flamenco is so much more than that. With the intense singing and complex rhythms, flamenco can certainly be intimidating at first. But I think that with the flute, I can create a bridge between the exotic and the familiar. My music can be understood and felt by anyone in the world" says Wong.

The show will feature top artists from Spain and Canada. Guitarist **Melón Jiménez** (Enrique Morente, Richard Bona) dazzles as he masterfully weaves the tradition of his Andalusian gypsy roots with his own innovations; meticulously translating techniques from the sitar, slide guitar, and African gimbri to his guitar. **Ivan Mellén**, a Spanish folkloric percussion specialist, completes the trio with elegant rhythmic flair.

Their flamenco music is infused with jazz and a myriad of other influences spanning several countries, including — interestingly enough — India (Lara's bansuri flutes are used in Hindustani classical music, while Melón has toured with Anoushka Shankar, daughter of sitar great Ravi Shankar). Mystical melodies on bamboo bansuri flute and exploratory improvisations on traverse flute are accompanied by dazzling guitar riffs and sophisticated rhythms on percussion.

The album's title *Rosa de los Vientos* means *compass rose* in Spanish. And like the eight cardinal points on a compass, there are eight songs on the album. Each song is dedicated to a place where Lara once lived and each song resonates the unique flavors, emotions, and spirit of each place. Most of the songs are Lara's compositions but the trio will also perform flamenco renditions of musical masterpieces such as the Bill Evan's favorite, *My Foolish Heart*, and *Tango* by Ryuichi Sakamoto.

For more information visit: WWW.LARAWONG.COM

MEDIA Listen/download link: <https://en.larawong.com/about-1>

UPCOMING SUMMER TOUR DATES:

June 30: Heritage Playhouse, Gibsons, BC

July 2: Dr.Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Gardens, Vancouver, BC

July 3: Taiwan Festival, Vancouver, BC

July 5: Waterwheel Park Bandshell, Chemainus, BC

July 6: Lula Lounge, Toronto, Ontario

July 8: Gordon Best Theater, Peterborough, Ontario

July 9-10: SunFest, London, Ontario

July 11: Pearl Company Theater, Hamilton, Ontario

July 13: Bar Robo, Ottawa, Ontario

July 14: Cabaret Flamenco, Montreal, Quebec

July 15: Baril Roulant, Val David, Quebec

ARTIST LINKS:

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

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

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

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

For more information, photos, CDs, mp3s, WAV files, interviews, please contact:

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