



## “UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIES OF FLAMENCO”

### BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Classic works:

- Angel Álvarez Caballero, *Historia del cante flamenco* (Alianza Editorial, 1981)  
José Blas Vega and Manuel Ríos Ruíz, *Diccionario Enciclopédico Ilustrado del Flamenco*. 2 vols. (Madrid: Cinterco, 1988)  
Matilde Coral, et al, *Tratado de la bata de cola: Matilde Coral, una vida de arte y magisterio* (Alianza, 2003)  
Félix Grande, *Memoria del flamenco* (Barcelona: Nuevo Galaxia Gutenberg, 2001)  
Alfonso Puig, et al, *El arte del baile flamenco* (Ed. Polígrafa, 1977)  
Gerhard Steingress, *Sociología del cante flamenco* (Centro Andaluz del flamenco, 1991)  
Giles Tremlett, *Ghosts of Spain: Travels Through Spain and its Silent Past* (NY: Walker & Co., 2006)  
Matteo Vittucci, *The Language of Spanish Dance* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990)—an excellent illustrated reference book.  
William Washabaugh, *Flamenco: Passion, Politics and Popular Culture* (Berg, 1996)

#### Recent scholarship:

- K. Meira Goldberg, *Sonidos Negros: On the Blackness of Flamenco* (Oxford University Press, 2019)  
Michelle Heffner Hayes, *Flamenco: Conflicting Histories of the Dance* (McFarland, 2009)  
Adair Landborn, *Flamenco and Bullfighting: Movement, Passion and Risk in Two Spanish Traditions* (McFarland, 2015)  
Fernando López Rodríguez (Ryan Rockmore, translator), *A Queer History of Flamenco: Diversions, Transitions, and Returns in Flamenco Dance* (University of Michigan Press; forthcoming—in November 2024)  
Brenda Dixon-Gottschild, “Decolonizing Flamenco Through Exploring Black Influences,” *Dance* magazine, April 22, 2022.  
Marina Harss, “Flamenco Dancers Who ‘Move Between Genders,’ ” *The New York Times*, March 17, 2020.

### OTHER RESOURCES:

Interview with flamenco guitarist and academic Rafael Hoces, by Quico Perez-Ventana, on expoflamenco, July 2, 2020, <https://www.expoflamenco.com/en/interviews/rafael-hoces->

[the-classroom-is-meant-to-teach-knowledge-and-techniques-but-each-student-must-find-their-own-way-to-achieve-pellizco/](#)

Estela Zatanía's insightful, erudite, and amusing blog-posts on [www.expoflamenco.com](http://www.expoflamenco.com).

The essential website, dcflamenco, put together by flamenco guitarist Michael Pérez (a.k.a. "Miguelito"), which provides information on flamenco performances, teachers, and much more in the DC, MD, and VA area.

Flamenco Connection, an online store (est'd 1992) that offers an exceptionally wide variety of flamenco and related CDs, DVDs, sheet music, guitars and guitar strings, and dance gear. For information email [flamencoconnection@gmail.com](mailto:flamencoconnection@gmail.com).

The so-called "flamenco trilogy" of feature films by Carlos Saura (*Blood Wedding* [1981] *Carmen* [1983], and *El Amor Brujo* [1986], in which the narrative is combined with flamenco music and dance performed by some of Spain's greatest artists.

Carlos Saura's quasi-documentary films showcasing short performances by traditional, and highly experimental, flamenco singers, dancers, and musicians: *Flamenco* [1995] and *Flamenco, Flamenco* [2014]—NB: Saura's films are available on YouTube and other online platforms.

Major annual flamenco festivals in the U.S., with invited guest artists from Spain—notably in NYC and Albuquerque, NM.

Local/regional flamenco companies which offer websites, newsletters, classes, performances, etc. (Google "flamenco" in your area.)

Spanish restaurants sometimes have flamenco performances; check the websites of your local establishments.

## **NAMES, TERMS, & CONCEPTS**

flamenco—the origin of this term is still debated.

flamenco *puro*, *nuevo* flamenco, "fusion" flamenco—traditional flamenco, vs. newer, more experimental approaches to the form.

Spanish classical dance (cf. the *Escuela Bolera* repertoire)—like ballet, but with castanets.

Spanish regional (folk, traditional) dance—of which there are hundreds of examples.

"Neoclassical" Spanish dance (choreographed, to music by Spanish composers such as Granados and Albéniz)—La Argentina (1890-1936) is credited with inventing and popularizing this theatrical/concert form.

*duende*—much-used and probably untranslatable; roughly: "soul," "inspiration," deeply felt emotion.

*cante* (+ *toque*, *baile*)—flamenco singing (guitar-playing, dancing).

*jondo* refers to flamenco that is especially serious/emotional—as in *cante jondo* (vs. *cante chico*, which is much lighter and more playful in tone/mood).

castanets—clamshell-like pairs of wooden (or metal, or compressed fabric) instruments, tied together with a cord and worn on the thumb.

traditional accessories: various types of hats, canes, fans, shawls.

*bata de cola*—a long dress with a ruffled train.

*compás*—rhythm.

*palmas*, *palmeros/as*—rhythmic flamenco clapping; the people who do such clapping.

*tablaos*—flamenco nightclubs, where patrons eat, drink, and watch live flamenco shows.

*gitanos/as*—a term flamencos often use to refer to each other and themselves; usually translated as “gypsy,” but that term is now regarded as a slur. Better: [Spanish] Roma, or [Spanish] Romany/Romani people.

*palo* = a particular category of flamenco (e.g., *bulerías*, *alegrías*, *soleá*).

*copla* = a verse (of a traditional flamenco song)

*letra* = the lyrics of a flamenco song.

### **A FEW, WIDELY ADMIRERD, FLAMENCO ARTISTS**

(As with any art form, it is impossible to list all the “important” flamenco practitioners. There are venerated pioneers from the past, award-winning present-day performers, and young artists exploring—and going beyond--the traditional boundaries of “flamenco.” Personal taste is also a factor. Therefore, any “list” is bound to be problematic. Still, here are a number of widely admired flamenco artists, in no particular order, examples of whose work you can easily find online.)

#### **Singers:**

Camarón de la Isla (1950-1992), José Mercé (b. 1955), Carmen Linares (b. 1951), Enrique Morente (1942-2010), Miguel Poveda (b. 1973), Juan Pinilla (b. 1981), Rocío Jurado (1943-2006), Manuel Gago (b. 1971).

#### **Guitarists:**

Paco de Lucía (1947-2014), Manolo Sanlúcar (1943-2022), Antonia Jiménez (b. 1972), Vicente Amigo (b. 1967), Tomatito (b. 1958). [+ note virtuoso percussionists, such as David “Chupete” Rodríguez.]

#### **Dancers:**

Antonio Gades (1936-2004), Cristina Hoyos (b. 1946), Soledad Barrio (b. 1964), Sara Baras (b. 1971), Eva Yerbabuena (b. 1970), Manuela Carrasco (b. 1954), María Pagés (b. 1963), Joaquín Cortés (b. 1969), Rocío Molina (b. 1984), Israel Galván (b. 1973).

### **SOME POPULAR ARTISTS WHOSE WORK IS RELATED TO FLAMENCO:**

The Gypsy Kings (first major U.S. hit, “Bamboléo,” 1989)—flamenco-style *rumbas*.

Rosalía (b. 1992), Catalan singer, combines flamenco with rock, pop, and hip-hop (early U.S. hit, “Malamente,” 2018)

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