



National Tour - Melón Jiménez & Lara Wong

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Madrid, August 2024)

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 August to October, they will delight audiences nation wide on their tour across BC, Quebec, and Ontario. The tour will take Melón Jiménez and Lara Wong to renowned festivals and theatres including the Vancouver International Flamenco Festival, National Arts Centre, Harbourfront Centre, and Toronto Taiwan Festival. Their performance on October 2nd at the Jazz Room in Waterloo, ON will include a special collaboration with New-York based jazz cellist, George Crotty. (More information on George below)

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 toured around the world in Asia, Europe, Canada, Mexico, and Morocco, and have played at iconic venues such as Bluenote Shanghai, Vancouver Folk Festival, SunFest, Taipei Performing Arts Centre, and Mundial Montreal.

Melón Jiménez, one of Spain's top flamenco guitarist, grew up between Madrid and Jerez de la Frontera, the cradle of flamenco in Andalucía. 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.

Canadian cellist **George Crotty** has forged his own exciting vocabulary, pushing the boundaries of the cello as a jazz instrument. Following his graduation from the Berklee College of Music, Crotty immersed himself in New York's jazz and world music scenes, playing with several ensembles, such as the Brooklyn Raga Massive, and the Detroit-based National Arab Orchestra. Additionally, he has enjoyed fruitful collaborations with Simon Shaheen, Paquito D'Rivera, Anat Cohen, and Darol Anger.

TOUR DATES:

August 23 The Theatre on King, Peterborough, ON

August 24 One World Music Festival, Midland, ON

August 25 Toronto Taiwan Festival

August 28 Mission, BC

August 30 Spirit Square, Campbell River, BC

August 31 Vault, Nanaimo, BC

September 1 Char's Landing, Port Alberni, BC

September 14 Yellow House, Galiano Island

September 15 ArtSpring Theatre, Salt Spring Island, BC

September 20 Vancouver International Flamenco Festival, Vancouver, BC

September 28 Sunfest Series, London, ON

October 2 The Jazz Room, Waterloo, ON

October 6 BSMT254, Toronto

October 8 Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, Toronto

October 9 Centre des musiciens du monde, Montreal, QC

October 10 National Arts Centre, Ottawa

October 11 Val Morin, QC

October 12 Le Crapo, Lanaudiere, QC

KW show link: <https://www.eventbrite.es/e/flamenco-world-jazz-with-melon-jimenez-lara-wong-george-crotty-tickets-1010802195577?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

For tour details and tickets: <https://www.bandsintown.com/a/15519931>

Official website: <https://en.larawong.com/melonlara>

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