

Press Release page 2-3: Announcing the Fiesta Finale Performers, Aug 5th, El Paseo



Ricardo Chavez began dancing flamenco in 1991. His appreciation of flamenco in its pure form eventually guided him to begin intensive studies in Seville and Madrid in 1997 and 1999. He attended the National Institute of Flamenco at Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2001. While studying there, Ricardo performed extensively for three years throughout New Mexico. After returning to Los Angeles in 2004, Ricardo was presented as a featured soloist. In 2005, he began performing in "Forever Flamenco" at the Fountain Theater. In 2005 and 2006, he directed two remarkable shows for Pureza Flamenca at the Museum of Latin American Art. In September of 2007, Ricardo performed at "Spanish Nights on the Lake," at the Lake Las Vegas Resort. He has also appeared in the LA Opera productions of "Carmen" and "Barber of Seville." In 2011 he had the opportunity to perform at "Battle of the Dance," a dinner show originating from the island of Mallorca, Spain. Ricardo began teaching flamenco after his return to LA in 2004. He is currently teaching in Orange County.



Born in Santa Barbara, **Paloma Rios** began training in various dance forms at the age of four. She studied with Antoinette Lopez, and at age nine decided to focus exclusively on flamenco, going on to take classes from Maria "La Chacha" Bermudez. In 2004, she traveled to Spain to study with dancers such as Antonio "El Pipa," and El Junco. In 2005 she debuted as Choreographer/Musical Interpreter in Robert Boyd's "Arte y Pasion" in Santa Barbara. Also in 2005 she received Roberto Amaral's scholarship for "Espana Clasica," and toured with the company through Southern California. In April of that same year, Rios won the coveted title of Spirit of Fiesta. The next year in Spain she studied intensively with master gypsy teachers from Sevilla and Jerez, including the Farruco Family, Juana Amaya, Manuela Carrasco, and Maria del Mar Moreno, and many others. During her stay, she worked in tablaos in Sevilla, Spain.

Upon returning to the US in 2006, she founded the Paloma Rios School of Flamenco, now in its sixth season.



A native of Santa Barbara, **Ciera Lamborn** has appeared with LA Opera, Lyric Opera of Los Angeles, and Opera Santa Barbara. As a concert soloist she has sung for the Angeles Chorale and the UCLA Chorale. Ciera obtained scholarship support from the Gluck Foundation, the Leni Fé Bland Foundation, and the Performing Arts Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara. Ms. Lamborn received her Bachelor of Music from UC Santa Barbara, and her Masters of Music and Doctorate of Musical Arts from UC Los Angeles. She was most recently seen as Frasquita in Opera Santa Barbara's spring production of "Carmen," and last fall she sang Pamina for their production of "The Magic Flute."



Francisco Martinez has received several Lester Horton Awards for Outstanding Choreography, and his work has been featured on PBS Artists Showcase. For over three decades audiences have enjoyed the lyrical, highly sculpted and powerful choreography that is the trademark of Francisco Martinez Dancetheatre, Southern California's foremost contemporary ballet company. Founded in 1981, FMDT strives for excellence and diversity in its repertory, appealing to a broad audience with highly theatrical, balletic works that reflect a classical temperament within traditional, dramatic, contemporary and abstract styles. Francisco received his formal training with the Nikolai/Louis Dance Labs, Martha Graham School, and the Harkness Ballet, after studying at the University of Arizona and Texas Christian University.

Parade of Folkloric Masks - a rare and unique collection created for Santa Barbara performances.

Nearly a half century ago, Dr. Henry Profant, father of John E. Profant, hosted a reception for local artists. Among the guests were dancers and artists Jerry and Mary Brozik. And through the generosity of our donors, this story has come full circle.



Press Release as of 7/12/2012

Press Release page 2-3: Announcing the Fiesta Finale Performers, Aug 5th, El Paseo

Jerry and Mary Brozik were artists from Michigan who came to Santa Barbara some 60 years ago. Here they danced at Fiesta, first with Spanish and Mexican dance master Jose Manero, and then with Eligio Herrera, performing Mexican folklorico. The Broziks had lived in Mexico during the 1930s and collected and recorded much about Mexican and South American culture; they loved performing these dances at Fiesta.

One night Jerry was sidelined because of a knee injury. As he watched the dancers he realized that the audience in the Sunken Garden could not see the facial detail and emotional content of the dances on the Courthouse stage. So Jerry began designing and developing a fantastic collection of oversized masks using his own special paper mache technique. His wife Mary designed dances for the masks, based on her careful notes and meticulous research of the cultures in Mexico and South America.

They did not reproduce the original dances, but rather incorporated the styles and regional idioms in their new show involving his stunning masks and Mary's choreography. Their performers were called Las Maskeras (the masks).

These masks & dances had not been seen for 40 years until the Profant Foundation – with the support of community – acquired the collection to keep them in the community and to preserve them as part of our local cultural history. - *Erin Graffy*

The Profant Foundation is grateful for the assistance of **Francisco and Maria Cabrera** and **The Cabrera Dancers**, as they bring the legacy of the Brosik Masks to life for all of us to enjoy.



The Martinez Brothers, a Santa Barbara native musical family, have been entertaining during Fiestas for three decades. Their traditional instrumental Latin-American music, for listening and dancing pleasure, is always a highlight of the Fiesta Finale Performance. Their parents met at El Paseo, as did John and Lyn Profant, so both families credit the restaurant's warm and spirited ambiance as the perfect recipe to start a life-long romance. "El Paseo - Where it all began!"



Much to the delight of Southern California audiences, **Gil Rosas** has enjoyed a remarkable career as a pianist and entertainer for over 55 years. His professional career began at the age of 17, as musical director of the new television station KEYT in Santa Barbara. In 1957 Gil was the featured pianist with the El Paseo Orchestra, where he celebrated his 21st birthday. He also accompanied the various dancers and singers during the next two years when the El Paseo Restaurant featured their famous floor shows with the Jose Manero Dancers, the Tony Sunceri Orchestra, the marimba of Lencho Martinez and the vibrant Mistress of Ceremonies, Leonor Palacios.

Memories of these elegant evenings were the inspiration for Fiesta Finale. We recently learned that Gil knew Jerry and Mary Brozik (creators of the Masks now featured at Fiesta Finale) and accompanied the original performances.

After distinguished service in the U.S. Continental Band during his military stint in Virginia, Gil began a successful 40-year career as a piano-bar entertainer in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Throughout this period Gil also performed as a guest soloist with the S.B. City College Orchestra and the S.B. Symphony Orchestra. In January 2007 Gil had the honor of performing at Santa Barbara's Lobero Theater, a dedicatory concert celebrating the acquisition of the theater's new Steinway concert grand piano. Gil also served as a church organist for many years. He and his wife Susan live in Santa Barbara where he performs for social and charitable events.