

BIOS

Company

Founded in 2017, **PALABRA FLAMENCO** is artistic director, storyteller, and dancer Denise Yeo, guitarist Gareth Owen, producer, poet, and *palmero* Garth Martens, and singer Veronica Maguire. Their 60-minute four-person show ***La Palabra en el Tiempo*** toured the Victoria Flamenco Festival in 2017 and in 2018, toured the Victoria Fringe Festival, Vancouver Fringe Festival, and Victoria Festival of Authors. In 2018-2019, they created and performed ***Dark Sounds***, a popular collaboration with acclaimed poet and philosopher Jan Zwicky. In 2019, their 45-minute two-person show ***Fox Woman*** tours the Toronto Fringe Festival and Winnipeg Fringe Festival, with a finale in Victoria.

FOX WOMAN

Denise Yeo | Principal Dancer, Storyteller, & Artistic Director

Denise Yeo is a professional flamenco dance soloist and *palmera*. In 2017, she co-founded Palabra Flamenco as its artistic director and principal dancer — joining traditional flamenco with English-language poetry and storytelling. Their show ***La Palabra en el Tiempo*** toured the Victoria Flamenco Festival, Victoria Fringe Festival, Vancouver Fringe Festival, and Victoria Festival of Authors. She later performed as a soloist for ***Dark Sounds***, a unique collaboration with acclaimed poet Jan Zwicky, guitarist Gareth Owen, and poet Garth Martens. ***Fox Woman*** is Yeo's second show as artistic director. As principal dancer and storyteller, she performs the roles of Fox Woman and the Hunter, with her husband, guitarist Gareth Owen, accompanying her. This summer, ***Fox Woman*** tours the Toronto Fringe Festival and Winnipeg Fringe Festival, with a finale in Victoria.

As a soloist, Yeo performs in *tablaos* across Canada. She has performed in large-scale flamenco productions *Recuerdos* and *Pasajes* for Alma de España Flamenco Dance Company. In North America, Denise has trained with award-winning choreographers Veronica Maguire, Carmen Romero, and Oscar Nieto. She has trained with international flamenco artists, including Concha Jareño, Domingo Ortega, Maria Bermúdez, Inmaculada Ortega, Antonio El Farru, Carmen Herrera, Ana María Lopez, and more.

Gareth Owen | Guitarist

Gareth Owen is a world-class flamenco guitarist who has recorded two albums, ***Gareth Owen Flamenco Guitar*** and ***El Cobre***, with a third in production. He has performed at the Calgary International Flamenco Festival, Toronto International Flamenco Festival, Vancouver International Flamenco Festival, and Dawson City Music Festival, with *tablaos* performances in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. As principal guitarist for Palabra Flamenco, he toured the Victoria Flamenco Festival, Victoria Fringe Festival, Vancouver Fringe Festival, and Victoria Festival of Authors with their show ***La Palabra en el Tiempo***. For their show ***Dark Sounds***, he collaborated with poet Jan Zwicky and dancer Denise Yeo. His mother is award-winning choreographer Veronica Maguire and his late father is renowned flamenco guitarist Harry Owen. He lives with his wife, dancer Denise Yeo, in Victoria.

He has shared the stage with international flamenco guitarists Jesus Álvarez and Gaspar Rodriguez Roman, and accompanied international artists Coral de los Reyes, Miguel Rosendo, Luis Vargas "El

Mono”, María Bermúdez, Domingo Ortega, Luis de la Tota, Gema Moneo, Ricardo Lopez, Emilio Ochando, Cristina Hall, and Vicente Griego, among others. Canadian collaborators include Oscar Nieto, Kasandra Lea “La China”, Gerardo Alcalá, and Carmen Romero.

Garth Martens | Producer and Publicist

Garth Martens co-founded Palabra Flamenco in 2017. As producer and publicist for ***La Palabra en el Tiempo***, ***Dark Sounds***, and ***Fox Woman***, he supports the company's artistic vision, manages event and tour logistics and promotions, public and media relations, and social media. As an artist, he wrote and performed poetry for ***La Palabra en el Tiempo*** and provided *palmas* accompaniment.