



## ***Confluencias* (Lara Wong & Melón Jiménez) - Press Release**

**Madrid, Spain – [31/7/2024]** – Award-winning flutist and bansuri player Lara Wong and acclaimed flamenco guitarist Melón Jiménez are excited to announce the release of their debut album, *Confluencias*. Scheduled for release on September 20th at the Vancouver Flamenco Festival, with a Spanish release at the FeminaJazz Festival in Madrid on October 18, *Confluencias* marks a significant milestone in the duo's musical journey. (Full tour schedule below)

*Confluencias* is an atypical flamenco album that transcends genres, using flamenco as a universal language to traverse musical territories. The album features eight tracks, combining traditional flamenco with modern influences from jazz, electronic music, and global roots music. The album features dazzling flamenco guitar passages, mystical bansuri melodies, sophisticated electronic soundscapes, and entrancing Iberian and Maghreb percussion.

Through dynamic compositions and vivid improvisations, *Confluencias* features Melón Jiménez on guitar and electronics, Lara Wong on flute and bansuri, and Gal Maestro on upright bass.

### **Journey to *Confluencias*:**

Lara Wong, from Vancouver, and Melón Jiménez, from Madrid, met at a flamenco jam in 2018 and connected over their eclectic musical tastes. Their musical bond formed little by little with sporadic concerts and recordings, until officially forming their duo in 2022. *Confluencias*, which means confluences in English, is their debut album and celebrates their coming together as one musical unit.

*Confluencias* reflects the duo's unending curiosity to discover new musical styles and sounds.

“One of the genres that we had both been wanting to explore is electronic music. With *Confluencias*, we step into that world, using drum machines and digital audio workstations 5 of the tracks. But *Confluencias* is a little of everything, I wouldn't call it an electro-flamenco album as it encompasses both traditional and modernity equally.” Says Wong.

Their inspiration also comes from music from North Africa, Spain, Ireland, India, and North America, as they adapt styles and techniques from these genres to the flute and guitar.

## **About Lara and Melón**

Lara is a distinctive and promising musical voice who studied flamenco in Andalusia after completing her degree in classical and jazz performance at McGill University. Over the years, she has become a respected figure in the flamenco scene, best known for playing flamenco music on the Indian bansuri flute. Lara is also the winner of the "Filon" first prize award for best flamenco instrumentalist of the Festival Cante de las Minas, making her the first foreigner to win in any category of the festival's 60 year history.

Lara's approach is a natural fit for guitarist and producer, Melón Jiménez, who first extensively explored the intersections of flamenco and classical Indian music as a member of Anoushka Shankar's Traveller Band in 2013. Melón was born into a musically and culturally diverse family that encouraged him to learn the music of his Andalusian gitano (Spanish Roma) roots and to use the flamenco guitar as a doorway to innovation. His musical versatility has led to collaborations with artists of all genres such as: Enrique Morente, Richard Bona, Ketama, Niña Pastori, and Jorge Pardo.

Together they have performed across Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America at venues such as, Vancouver Folk Festival, Blue Note Shanghai, Mariposa Festival, Suma Flamenca, Festival de Tradiciones du Monde, SunFest, and many more.

**Canadian Release:** Vancouver Flamenco Festival - September 20th

**Spanish Release:** FeminaJazz Festival, Madrid – October 18

### CONFLUENCIAS TOUR

**September 15:** ArtSpring Theatre, Salt Spring Island, BC

**September 20:** Vancouver Flamenco Festival, Vancouver, BC

**September 28:** Sunfest Series, London, ON

**October 2:** The Jazz Room, Waterloo, ON

**October 6:** BSMT254, Toronto

**October 8:** Toronto

**October 9:** Montreal (venue to be confirmed: Centre des musiciens du monde or Kawalees)

**October 10:** National Arts Centre, Ottawa

**October 11:** Val Morin

**October 12:** Le Crapo, Lanaudiere, QC

### **Additional Canadian tour dates:**

August 23: The Theatre on King, Peterborough, ON

August 24: One World Music Festival, Midland, ON

August 25: Toronto Taiwan Festival

August 25: Drom, Toronto

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

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