Isaí Joacaz Chacón

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Artist Statement

As a flamenco artist, my primary interest is in juxtaposing tradition and innovation. Flamenco's long, complex history and traditional song styles provide a framework and reference for everything I do; however, I also feel the need to impose my own identity on my work. I strive to present flamenco in a relevant way, with theatrical contexts and fresh, socially-conscious themes.

Collaboration is essential to keeping my musical mind fresh and engaged. Working with flamenco dancers and choreographers is essential to providing a total experience for audiences, while also pushing me creatively. I have also been inspired working with great Austin musicians from diverse genres, including Oliver Steck, Graham Reynolds, and Alex Castillo, singing in the opera Ainadamar, and joining forces with filmmakers. Finally, I place a priority on nurturing the love of flamenco in local musicians and dancers of all ages through classes and workshops, and in my company, A'lante Flamenco.

Biography



Isaí Chacón is a gifted guitarist, singer, and composer. Originally from Durango, Mexico, Isaí began studying guitar when he was ten years old. After absorbing the basics of Latin music in Mexico, Isaí relocated to Texas, where he studied music theory, jazz and composition, while simultaneously discovering his love of flamenco guitar and singing. After playing *son cubano* in Austin with bands

like Soniquete and O Positivo, Isai left Austin to live in Madrid from 2003-2004, and again from 2006-2010, where he immersed himself in the flamenco world by accompanying many of Spain's best artists in classes and performance. He was class accompanist at the famed Amor de Dios Academy for four years, and toured internationally with the companies of Laura Tabanera, Antonio Reyes and Cristóbal Reyes.

Isaí is the guitar, percussion and singing instructor at Flamencura Music and Dance, where he also accompanies dance classes. Since 2011 he has been Co-Founder and Co-Director of A'lante Flamenco (twice named Austin's Best Dance Ensemble by the Austin Critics' Table), where he composes and arranges flamenco music while directing some of the region's best flamenco musicians. Isai performs frequently throughout Texas, and has collaborated with groups and artists including Graham Reynolds, Alex Ruiz, Del Castillo, Oliver Steck, Texas Early Music Project, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance, Texas State University's Vocalibre, and many individual flamenco artists. In recent years, Isai has appeared in films by Austin directors Kat Albert, Maggie Bailey, and Paul Shirley. A'lante Flamenco is a member of the Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster, and tours frequently throughout the state.