

# PASIÓN Y ARTE FLAMENCO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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-Pasión y Arte Presents-  
Fringe Festival 2020

## **Sevillana Get Togethers 2020**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA-** Pasion y Arte, Philadelphia's premier all-female flamenco dance company, is excited to present *Sevillana Get Togethers 2020*, a combination of virtual learning, digital content, and a final live virtual gathering as part of the 2020 Fringe Festival. The premieres of the Sevillana 1-3 videos on the Pasion y Arte website will take place September 17, September 24, and October 1 at 5pm. The final live virtual event will take place on October 4 at 5pm.

During a time when it has become easy to feel isolated and disconnected from others, *Sevillana Get Togethers 2020* is a new interactive project that aims to keep people connected while also honoring the personal self and celebrating humanity.

What is the Sevillana? The Sevillana is a colorful and exciting style of song and dance that originated in Castile and not in Seville, a variation from a style of dance known as the seguidilla. The Sevillana is not flamenco, although today it is performed by flamenco artists who give it that special flamenco touch. It is performed to a strict 3/4 rhythm and is danced by pairs or groups of people. The dance is choreographed to a pre-established routine, and has 4 Coplas (Sections). Today, the Sevillana is danced at any form of get-together; whether it is the feria, a wedding, or at a family party where everyone present will join in. It is a celebration of being together with others—family, friends, and co-workers.

*Sevillana Get Togethers 2020* involves virtual learning, where participants will learn the 4 sections of the Sevillana dance by taking free weekly Zoom classes throughout the summer taught by PyA Artistic Director, Elba Hevia y Vaca. When participants have learned a Sevillana, they will then record themselves dancing from the privacy of their own home and submit those videos to Ms. Hevia y Vaca. These personal videos will then be transformed into a Mandala video, a human collage of sorts, where participants will dance together on one screen. Those participating are PyA Conservatory students, former and current PyA company members, international flamenco artists, and the general public.

The final, live virtual event will be on October 4 on the last day of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Audiences will be able to log on to watch and/or dance the final 4th Sevillana with other members of the larger Philadelphia community. This event will feature a short history of Sevillana by Elba Hevia y Vaca, a brief review of the first 3 Sevillana, and live musical accompaniment. It will be a celebration of community and of joining in with others in a dance to celebrate one another.

“I feel that especially now, in these times of isolation and injustice, we need to connect as a community more than ever,” says Hevia y Vaca. “In times of quarantine and social distancing, I still believe that we can connect virtually

and meet each other to dance alone AND together. Whatever limitations we have in our life now, we are free to choose and create a life sustaining society through honoring our community and all of its colors. *Sevillana Get Togethers 2020* is about honoring our isolation and connectivity to our colorful community.”

### **Sevillana Get Togethers 2020 Event Details**

Thursday, September 17 at 5pm

Premiere of Sevillana 1 video on [pasionyarteflamenco.org](http://pasionyarteflamenco.org)

Thursday, September 24 at 5pm

Premiere of Sevillana 2 video on [pasionyarteflamenco.org](http://pasionyarteflamenco.org)

Thursday, October 1 at 5pm

Premiere of Sevillana 3 video on [pasionyarteflamenco.org](http://pasionyarteflamenco.org)

Sunday, October 4 at 5pm

Live virtual Sevillana 4 event

Digital platform TBD

Donations via virtual tip jar accepted

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#### **About Pasión y Arte:**

Founded in 2000 by Artistic Director Elba Hevia y Vaca, Pasión y Arte (PyA) has achieved a reputation for creating groundbreaking contemporary feminist flamenco that is also deeply steeped in the centuries old traditions of the southern Spanish masters. Their critically acclaimed works are noted for their innovative choreography and technical precision. Ms. Hevia y Vaca’s commitment to expand the boundaries of the form is evidenced in the nine original, full-length, flamenco-based dance pieces she has created for the company. Drawing upon a mastery of flamenco integrated with other dance forms, mixed media and experimentation in narrative and symbolic storytelling, PyA embraces the tensions between modern and traditional approaches. Through its work and the diversity of its company members, PyA expands the knowledge of the art form beyond its strict conventions of dance, production styles, and gender stereotyping. As part of their educational and community-oriented mission, Pasión y Arte presents flamenco lecture-demonstrations at schools, universities, and community centers.

In 2011, PyA received its second highly coveted grant from The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage through Dance Advance that resulted in the company’s first outside commission, an intensive collaboration with feminist flamenco artist and internationally renowned Spanish dancer and choreographer, Rosario Toledo, leading to the 2012 Philadelphia Flamenco Festival. PyA was again awarded a grant from The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage and the Knight Foundation for the funding of the 2014 Philadelphia Flamenco Festival, which took place over two weeks in March 2014. The company has also received awards from the Barra Foundation, Hispanics in Philanthropy, the Independence Foundation, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Leeway Foundation, the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, the Samuel S. Fels Fund, and the Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation.

Pasión y Arte has performed at the Annenberg Performing Arts Center, the Kimmel Center, Jacobs Pillow, New York’s Summer-Stages, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Wilma Theater, Painted Bride Arts Center, the Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial, Princeton University, and New York’s Public Theater. Pasión y Arte offers performances and workshops for community arts centers and has performed for students at Penn State University, Middlebury College, Dickinson University, Franklin & Marshall University, Muhlenberg College, Temple University, the Latin American Guild for Arts, and Bryn Mawr College.

Pasión y Arte

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[pasionyarteflamenco.org](http://pasionyarteflamenco.org)

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