

# BASILIO GEORGES

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Composer, flamenco guitarist and singer with 50-year career in NY. Specialty in creating music for Flamenco dance and theater productions. Ability to create authentic fusions between Flamenco, Latin, Jazz, and Blues styles, based on extensive experience as a freelance musician in the jazz and salsa world from 1974-1983. Musical facility on bass, cajón drums and Latin percussion. Founder/Director of Flamenco Latino dance/music company. Recent productions include collaborations with tap and hip-hop dancers. Recipient of grants for composition as free-lancer with other NY-based flamenco dance companies. Worked and lived in Spain. Facility with notation software, DAWs, sample libraries, mixing/mastering Plugins.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Flamenco Latino, Inc. 1979-Present** **New York, NY, Queens, NY**

Co-founder 1979, incorporated as a non-profit in 1999. Developed performing, touring and some arts in education programming from 1987-2006. Presented home-based seasons at Atlantic Theater 1993, American Theater of Actors 1995, Pace Downtown University Schimmel Theatre 1997, 1999, 2000 and The Duke on 42<sup>nd</sup> 2002. Ran a studio theater space, 2006-16, where year-round programming included adult and children's classes in dance, guitar, palmas, and cante, performances and recitals on-site, outreach to underserved communities, arts in ed. programs, and provided studio rental space during downtime to other artists and organizations. Currently operating out of Queens personal address, delivering similar programming in Queens. Recent home-based Seasons have been presented at Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning and The Secret Theatre. Collaborations with tap dancer Omar Edwards and Paige "Queen Tut" Stewart, the Kingdom Dance Co. Playbacks composed and recorded for Queensboro Dance Festival.

### **Thalia Spanish Theatre 2003-2018** **Sunnyside Queens NY**

Worked closely with director Angel Gil to compose and perform as guitarist/director for two unusual productions of theater works by Pablo Picasso, "Las Quatro Niñitas (The Four Little Girls)" 2003 and "El FlamenConde de Orgaz." 2005. These productions utilized bilingual actors, flamenco dancers and musicians. Surreal in quality, the narrative reflected different periods of Picassos's many painting styles, specific paintings and his relationships with women. Slides of famous paintings were projected on the set. The musicians were onstage and dressed in clown costumes like Harlequin and Pirout, depicted in the "Three Musicians" paintings. An original work by Angel was "Amor Latino" 2009, which was a reimagining of "Romeo and Juliet" and "West Side Story." Bilingual actors, dancers and musicians represented the rival gangs as tap dancers from the Bronx, and flamenco or salsa dancers from Queens. Additionally, the first gang were Yankees fans, and the second, Mets fans. Basilio returned to Thalia in 2018 for as a guitarist for "Encuentro Flamenco" by Danza España, mixing Flamenco, Middle Eastern and Indian dance. Guest artists from Sevilla included singer Juan Murube and guitarist Miguel Aragón.

### **American Bolero Dance Company 1999-Present** **New York, NY, Queens, NY**

Played guitar and arranged music for home-based seasons at The Secret Theatre and Centro Español in Queens. Highlight was 1999 season presented at the Hunter College Danny Kaye Theater, at which guest artists included singers Jesus Almendro, Sebastian Roman, and guitarist Juan Soto from Madrid.

### **Carlota Santana Flamenco Vivo (Spanish Dance Arts Co.) 1981-1992** **New York, NY**

Played and composed for home-based seasons and other concerts, at The Joyce Theater, Symphony Space, Allianz Francaise and Henry St. Settlement. Composition highlights included "Guerra, Amor y Campanas," a 30 min. flamenco ballet inspired by Hemingway's novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls." Toured US for 7 weeks in 1989 featuring this work. Composed, played and directed "Aires del Caribe," based on flamenco connection with Cuba, and "Ecos del Plata," which blended flamenco with Argentine tango.

### **Andrea Del Conte Danza España 1992-2000** **New York, NY**

Played guitar, composed and arranged for home-based seasons and other concerts. The last three seasons were presented at Dance Theater Workshop. Received grant funded commissions.

**Jose Molina Bailes Españoles**  
**New York, NY**

**1983-1985**

Toured U.S. 8 months out of each year with Jose, three female dancers, two guitarists and flamenco singer. Highlights included Town Hall in 1983 and Carnegie Hall in 1985. Company went to Sevilla during summer of 1984 to have new choreographies mounted by Manolo Marin, Curro Velez and Anna Maria Bueno.

**Work Study**  
**Madrid Sevilla**

**1984-1986**

Summer of 1982 Madrid, 1984 Sevilla, most of 1985-1986, both cities. Studied guitar with David Serva and Miguel Perez. Accompanied classes as paid guitarist, in Madrid for La Tati, Faico, Manolete and Alicia Diaz from Ballet Nacional. Accompanied flamenco singers in many Peñas, including Charlo in Madrid and Peña de La Macarena in Sevilla. Also led jazz group which performed at clubs in Madrid.

**Freelance Jazz and Salsa Musician**  
**New York, NY**

**1974-1983**

Formed a collective experimental jazz group with 6 other musicians, 3 of whom were acolytes of Cecil Taylor. Played extensively throughout the Lower East Side Loft Scene with this group. Switched to upright bass, and formed the Basil Georges Quartet, featured in 1976 on WKCR live radio broadcast. Freelanced and played gigs and jam sessions as house-bass player at The Tin Palace, the Surf Maid, Joyce's House of Unity, and Arturo's Café. Played Monty Waters, Marvin Ali Blackman, Junior Cook and Roberta Baum. Latin Band experience included Rene Grand, Joe Quijano and Raymond Rey, whose members played with Pete El Conde Rodriguez and Los Kimbos.

**COMPOSITIONS**

- 2024 compositions for accompanying Queensboro Dance Festival performances, flamenco/hip-hop collaborations, and "Bulerías Blastoff," a totally loop-based, synthesizer soundtrack which follows traditional 12-beat flamenco dance/singing structure and form. "We've Been Here Before," hip-hop/flamenco with rap commentary on Right Wing talking points leading up to 2024 Presidential Election, preceded in concert by a flamenco-tap improvisation accompanied by live musicians and DJ triggering loops used from the hip-hop/flamenco piece. "Billionaires in Suborbit," a representation of bulerías using jazz quartet in which guitar is used with natural sound and pedal effects.
- Produced, directed, composed, arranged and performed in concerts held at Flamenco Latino Studio Theater between 2007 to present 2016. Daring, experimental concerts included La Rumba de Cuba and España with guest tap artist Max Pollak 2012, Flamenco Wit Grit 2012 with Maya de Silva ¡Flamenco Revolución!, featuring flamenco interpretations of early Rolling Stones hits, and Flamenco Gumbo 2015 and 2016, with guest tap artists Max Pollak and Omar Edwards. Flamenco Ensemble, an advanced training program with the most talented Flamenco Latino students, was featured in concert annually.
- Performed, composed and arranged music for productions of Tablao Flamenco, a program of American Bolero Dance Company held at Centro Español in Astoria, Queens, from 2008 to 2019. Guest artists included Jose Moreno, La Meira, Jesule de Utrera, Natalia Meiriño, Juan Siddi and Nelida Tirado.
- Composed and performed in "Amor Latino," a 2009 production of Thalia Spanish Theatre based on "Romeo and Juliet" and "West Side Story."
- Composed and performed in two productions by Thalia Spanish Theatre based on plays written by Pablo Picasso, "Las Cuatro Niñitas" (The Four Little Girls), 2005 and "FlamenConde de Orgaz," 2008.
- Produced, performed and directed in 6 Flamenco Latino home based seasons from 1993 through 2002 held at the Duke on 42<sup>nd</sup>, Pace Downtown University, American Actors' Theater and Atlantic Theater. Many seasons premiered pieces with choreographic collaboration by Aurora Reyes.
- Performed with and was commissioned by Andrea Del Conte for annual seasons held at Thalia Spanish Theater and Dance Theater Workshop between 1992-2001.
- Performed with and was commissioned by Carlota Santana Spanish Dance (later Flamenco Vivo) from 1987-1992, annual seasons produced at Symphony Space, Allianza Francaise and the Joyce Theater.

- Composed and performed “Diary of a Madman,” 1980, 4 week run at Theater of the Open Eye. Reflecting Gogol’s play, music combined Russian and Spanish themes, scored for guitar, bass and piano.

### **Grants Received**

- Meet-the-Composer grants in 1996 for 1997 a Flamenco Latino season at Pace University for First Night Morristown with Alborada Latina.
- 11 grants from 1993-1999 to compose and direct “Cuatro Esquinas,” a 10-minute musical written for elementary students at P.S. 111, Manhattan. Funders included Con Edison, Citibank, Manhattan Community Arts Fund and Puffin Foundation.
- Meet-the-Composer grant with Flamenco Latino for Season 1993.
- Meet-the-Composer funds for the Carlota Santana Spanish Dance 1990 Season at St. Peter’s Church.
- NYSCA grant for the composition of “Guerra, Amor y Campanas,” a flamenco ballet based on “For Whom the Bell Tolls, commissioned by Carlota Santana Spanish Dance Season 1988 at Symphony Space.
- Received grants from Bronx Council-on-the-Arts, 1980-1984 for performance by Flamenco Latino.

### **Recordings and Film Soundtracks**

- 2024, “Acabo de Empezar - Just Gettin Started” Basilio Georges (Nueva Frontera). 5 original flamenco jazz/salsa compositions, 3 covers. Aurora Reyes, Danny Rivera and Guillermo Barron cajón, drums.
- 2015, “Cante Flamenco en Nueva York” (Nueva Frontera) featuring Luis Vargas.
- 2014, “Retrospectiva Vol. 1: It’s About Damn Time!” Basilio Georges (Nueva Frontera)
- 2003, “Noches Flamencas” (Harriton Carved Wax) by Mark Holen’s Zambomba.
- 2002, “The Florida Tour” (Nueva Frontera) by Flamenco Latino.
- 1995, “Apertivos Pa’El Oido” (Nueva Frontera) by Flamenco Latino.
- 1994, “High Heels,” by Pedro Almodovar.
- 1992, “Undertow,” short feature by Robert Withers. Composed and performed with Joseph Jarman.
- 1990, “La Reina del Nilo,” by La Conja.
- 1988, “Guerra, Amor y Campanas” Basilio Georges (Nueva Frontera).

## **EDUCATION**

<b>University of Wisconsin, B.A.</b>	<b>1974</b>
<b>Madison, Wisconsin</b>	
Individual major with honors, ethnomusicology and composition. Composition with Les Thimmig and improvisation with Bill Dixon and Jimmy Cheatham.	
<b>Miguel Garcia, Flamenco Guitar</b>	<b>1984-1985</b>
<b>Seville, Spain</b>	
<b>Mario Escudero, Flamenco Guitar</b>	<b>1985</b>
<b>Seville, Spain</b>	
<b>David Serva, Flamenco Guitar</b>	<b>1982-1986</b>
<b>Madrid, Spain</b>	