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# World falling for flamenco

Performer notes growing interest in traditional Spanish art of dance  
**PHILIP CROUCHER, METRO**

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You can hear it in her voice, with her words, the passion for flamenco dancing that Spain's Inmaculada Ortega has.

"For me it's a language," the 37-year-old said from her home in Madrid. "I'm able to communicate with the audience with no words. I do it with a different language. For me, it's my way to connect with the audience."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Spain's Inmaculada Ortega performs tomorrow with fellow dancer Joaquin Ruiz as part of the Fall For Flamenco Festival.

Halifax fans can get a feel of that connection tomorrow night as Ortega and fellow acclaimed dancer Joaquin Ruiz of Spain highlight this year's Fall For Flamenco Festival with a performance titled Color Y Ritmo at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Ortega and Ruiz are visiting Halifax to share their vision of flamenco, a Spanish art form that includes song, dance and guitar playing.

"It's going to be based in pure flamenco," Ortega said of their performance, which includes award-winning composer and guitarist Arcadio Marin. "It's something very traditional. It's not mixed with any kind of modern dances like a lot of people are doing now. It's very, very pure."

Ortega and Ruiz have been performing flamenco together for the last 10 years. Both bring different styles to the stage, but Ortega said it makes for a good combination. "I show the female style. It's very feminine, very sensual and very elegant. And he's very powerful," she said. "So, everybody can see the differences in style between a man and a woman."

This is the third annual Fall For Flamenco Festival in Halifax, with tomorrow night's performance marking the largest venue at which an event has ever

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- What: Color Y Ritmo featuring Joaquin Ruiz and Inmaculada Ortega.
- Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.
- When: Tomorrow, 8 p.m.

been staged. The two-week festival concludes on Tuesday.

• Cost: \$35 and \$25. Call 1-800-874-1669.

“I think flamenco is growing all over the world,” said Ortega, who has been flamenco dancing since she was seven. “It’s going to countries that don’t have anything in common with Spain. Like Japan, like China or Israel.”

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