

Instructional Related Activities
Report Form

SPONSOR	DEPARTMENT
Steven Marsh	Performing Arts - Music
ACTIVITY TITLE	DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY
World Music Concert / Demonstration series #604	4-7-14

PLEASE EXPLAIN (1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

THIS EVENT FEATURED A FLAMENCO DANCER AND GUITARIST DEMONSTRATING FLAMENCO MUSIC AND DANCE CONCEPTS TO MY WORLD MUSIC CLASS (PAMU 332). OUR TWO GUESTS ARE BOTH OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS IN THEIR FIELD. THEY INTRODUCED OUR CLASS TO THE WORLD OF FLAMENCO MUSIC AND DANCE, BY WAY OF VERBAL DISCUSSIONS, LIVE DANCE/MUSIC PERFORMANCE, AND WITH SOME RHYTHMIC PARTICIPATION FROM OUR AUDIENCE OF STUDENTS.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S):

THIS ACTIVITY RELATED DIRECTLY TO OUR WORLD MUSIC COURSE BECAUSE WE INVESTIGATE MANY VARIETIES OF MUSIC AND CULTURES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. OUR GUESTS DISCUSSED HOW FLAMENCO MUSIC COMES FROM THE ROMA (GYPSY) PEOPLE IN SPAIN, THE OTHER MUSICAL/CULTURAL COMPONENTS OF FLAMENCO, AND THE DEEPER MEANINGS OF THIS ART FORM FOR THE PEOPLE WHO PERFORM THIS SPECIAL MUSIC AND DANCE IN THE PRESENT ERA.

WE ALSO HAD STUDENTS FROM OTHER CI COURSES ATTENDING THIS EVENT, SO THAT THEY COULD BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THIS ART FORM.

AS USUAL, WE HAD STUDENTS WRITE CONCERT REPORTS ABOUT THE EVENT, IN OUR QUEST TO IMPROVE WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM.

AND (3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS:

ARLEEN (THE DANCER) HAS PERFORMED AT CI ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD HIRED THIS PARTICULAR GUITAR PLAYER. THEY BOTH WERE VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THEIR SUBJECT. THEY TAUGHT OUR STUDENTS HOW TO COUNT THE MUSIC AND HOW TO DO THE SPECIAL CLAPPING (PALMAS) THAT TRADITIONALLY ACCOMPANIES FLAMENCO.

UNFORTUNATELY, NO STUDENTS RESPONDED TO MY REQUEST TO COMPLETE THE QUALTRICS SURVEY FOR THIS EVENT. ZERO. THIS POINTS OUT THE ONGOING PROBLEM

WE ARE HAVING WITH GETTING STUDENTS TO GO ONLINE AND FILL OUT THE QUALTRICS EVALUATIONS OF THESE EVENTS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER IS. I'VE TRIED SEVERAL APPROACHES TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN THE POST-EVENT SURVEYS, BUT SOMETIMES THE STUDENTS ARE 100% NON-COOPERATIVE, AS WAS THE CASE THIS TIME.

I WILL ATTACH SOME STUDENT COMMENTS FROM THE STUDENTS' WRITING ASSIGNMENTS.



A SAMPLE OF STUDENT REPORTS:

On April 7, 2014, we had a Flamenco guitarist and dancer performance. I have spent some time in Barcelona, Spain, but that didn't really prepare me for what we saw. The sheer passion from the dancer, and the expertise from the guitarist, combined to make an intriguing and spectacular concert. Arlene Hurtado was the dancer, and Adam Del Monte was the guitarist. Right away I could tell they were masters at their craft, and they enjoyed showing us their craft.

Adam played a Flamenco guitar, which had nylon strings. The difference between a Flamenco guitar and a Classical guitar, is the height of the bridge. The Flamenco guitar's bridge is lower, and allows him to strum easily for a nicer sounding note. Whereas when playing a Classical guitar, the sounds are more lyrical. He also told us how he learned much of his Flamenco education from gypsies he was left with every Summer starting at the age of 7. Flamenco music is a huge part in the gypsies' family culture, where every person has a role to play, whether it's playing the guitar, clapping your hands, or dancing. He helped lighten the mood everytime he spoke about the gypsies. Finally, he showed us the different ways of strumming the guitar, and it definitely looks like something that can't be learned overnight.

Arlene wore traditional Flamenco shoes, which had a high heel and reinforced toes. There were nails on the bottom as well. The shoes were as much an instrument as the guitar, acting at times as a percussion instrument, and in some cases added

the bass to the guitar's music. As Arlene danced, she seemed deeply focussed, and every move was elegant and flowed nicely with the music. Adam told us how a dancer's arm movements represent the singing, and the leg movements represent the guitar. The dancer's goal is to express the themes of the song, but in an indirect way.

They described to us the four realms of Flamenco. It can be thought of as a x-y graph. The axis represents the form of the music. The positive x axis leans towards the free form, and the negative towards a rhythmic form. The y axis represents the emotion or theme of the music. The positive y axis is more serious, hardcore, and tragic. The negative y axis is more comedic, happy, or sarcastic. There are many different "compas", or rhythmic patterns that lie on this graph. Compas are mainly improvised, but they all have a base structure and have certain established rules. The guitarist can subdivide beats within each rhythmic framework. Compas are very similar to the ragas of Indian music. The performers explained how there is a lot of give and take between the two of them. The dancer will begin with "palmas", the clapping of the hands, which will mark the rhythmic pattern. There is a lot of question and answer between the two during their performance. They told us that traditionally there is a third member who sings. The singer normally dictates where the song will go, but in this case the two of them each took on that role.

This concert I feel was one of our better ones we've had thus far. Even before it began, Arlene was in the audience getting to know us and our backgrounds. She wanted to connect to us, because knowing the audience can help the performers know how long to play and what to play. This concert felt a lot more personal than any of the others, and I could see and feel the passion the performers had. They gave it their all and did a wonderful job.

On Monday April 7, 2014 I decided to go to the Flamenco performance at CSUCI. We had the pleasure of having Adam del Monte on guitar and Arleen Hurtado dancing, to perform for us. Upon my arrival to the performance I was excited to see the Flamenco performance because I have never seen Flamenco dancing before. I have always been into dancing and I was always curious about Flamenco. I thought it was going to be similar to salsa dancing, which I am a little familiar with, but it turned out that I was wrong. I underestimated the beauty and complexity of Flamenco dance. It was completely different from salsa and really exceeded my expectations.

It was a beautiful performance. The performance seemed very authentic. I was able to feel the joy and passion of performing between the two of them. I learned a lot of interesting information. I have always learned music in eight counts and by having us engage in counts of twelve it really put my head in spin. I was luckily able to catch on and feel the music. As I watching the performance I almost forgot to take notes because I was so mesmerized. It was not hard to recognize Hurtado's tap and ballet dance history. Her feet were moving so fast but yet her arms were so graceful like a ballerina. It was really interesting learning that the dancer was part of the music. Listening to the "tap" enhanced the already great rhythm of the music. Del Monte was a very talented guitarist. The music had an authentic Spanish vibe that made you want to get up and join Ms.

Hurtado's dancing. It was inspiring listening to a different culture's music. The combination of the exotic music and the pleasing sounds coming from the dancers feet was hypnotizing.

The main connection between jazz and Flamenco that I found was improvising. By watching them perform I would have never guessed that it is improvised. It showed how much talent and confidence you need to have in order to improve. Even though I have no Flamenco dance background, I was able to appreciate how talented they were because it is extremely hard it is to dance with live music. To perform at the level that they did took a lot of knowledge to execute. They really listened to each played off of each other. They used both the audience and each other to gain motivation during the numbers. I noticed when were all standing up and clapping that during that dance, both Del Monte and Hurtado were performing with more soul. They pointed out that even though they were improvising they had to follow a structure. The pauses added excitement to the performances.

Their passion toward their profession was very inspiring. The entire crowd was engaged and seemed to enjoy the performance just as much as I did. This helped opened my eyes to how uncultured the music I listen to is. Del Monte and Hurtado performed amazing together. I really enjoyed myself and I was inspired to learn Flamenco dancing.

Arlene, the dancer, made me want to get up and be a flamenco dancer! Her movement was so beautiful and emotional. Besides Hollywood scenes, I had never witnessed this kind of art, but this performance made me want to be the dancer. Arlene was fluent and you could take in all of her emotions. It was incredible. The guitarist was also amazing; however, I was more intrigued with the dance of Flamenco. The power to say so much in movement, without a word, is empowering.