

FLAMENCO GALLERY

As seen by James Yohai

Juan Gonzales ("Triguito"). Guitarist. Triguito is one of the oldest flamenco guitarists still successfully performing with the best singers and dancers in Spain and elsewhere. He began to learn the flamenco guitar as a young boy, and is known to be one of the best rhythmical accompanists. He amazes listeners with the beauty of his accompanimental work, in which he employs his thumb to great effect. Knowing almost every item of the flamenco repertoire, he has performed with the cream of the old flamenco dancers and singers, and is one of the unforgettable guitarists of world class. Among the famous stars of pure flamenco with whom he performs are the great singers Rafael Farina, Pepe el Culata, Manuel Romero and Pericon de Cadiz; guitarists, Perico El Del Lunar, Andres Heredia, Rosita Duran, the dancer, and many other top-line artists.

The mere mention of these great stars to any professional or flamenco aficionado is enough to indicate the category in which Triguito belongs.

For many years Triguito has appeared in the famous Cabaret Zambra, Madrid, where he still performs; the Zambra has one of the best *Tablados Flamenco* in Spain, and it is a great achievement—and a signal honour—for an artist to perform there among such stars.

In addition to being an accomplished accompanist, Triguito is also a great soloist and a very familiar figure to all flamenco lovers in London and throughout the world. Some years ago he came with the Zambra's Ballet company to perform in the Palace Theatre, and since then, many flamenco aficionados went to Madrid to be taught by him. His ex-pupils include many prominent flamenco guitarists of different nationalities; among them is the well-known guitarist, Mauricio Eduardo, now residing in London.

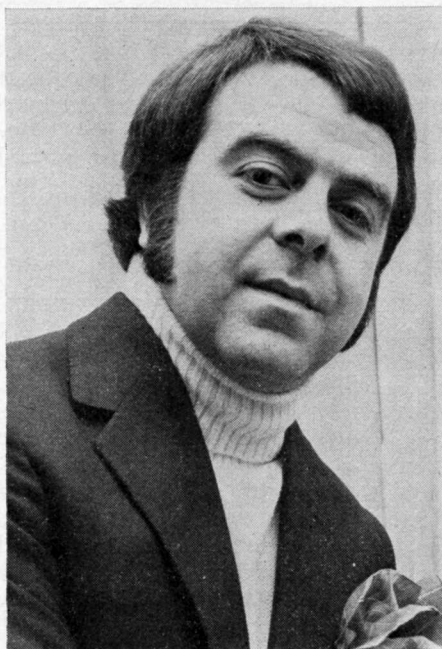
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Jose Martin ("Pepete"). Singer. Although Jose Martin—known as Pepete—was born in Santander, Northern Spain, he dominates the flamenco art as ably as any Andalusian singer. Additionally, he has versatility and great personality. Naturally, no one be-

comes a singer of his calibre without the help of some friends to teach him the secrets of this art, and as a young boy Pepete was initiated by Alejandro Martin (Senior) who, in turn, had all the secrets from his own father, Teodomiro Martin, who knew every item of the flamenco repertoire. So Pepete, with the help of such a great teacher, could not fail to learn and become a great exponent of flamenco—one to be classed among the best flamenco singers.

He knows every item, from the *Cante chico* to the *Cante grande*, and sings with such ease that everyone is surprised to learn he is from the north of Spain. Pepete, with so many good qualities, soon wins the attention of his audiences with his improvisations and fine sense of humour.

In March 1973 he presented, for the Spanish residents of this country, a great flamenco show at the Royal Albert Hall in which famous Spanish singers, dancers and guitarists participated. Pepete's great success at the Albert Hall prompted him to remain in London, where he is performing with all the best flamenco artists in theatres, clubs and Spanish restaurants.



"PEPETE"

Alejandro Martin, guitarist, also from Santander (he accompanied Pepete in Spain) is a descendant of a flamenco family of singers and guitarists (famous for generations) to whom he is indebted for much of his knowledge and experience. His father, grandfather, and many members of this family of aficionados contributed to the success he now enjoys as one of the best guitarists of today, famous all over the world.

Six years ago he won the second prize at a flamenco festival in Cordoba, in competition with the best guitarists of the country, and after many successful performances in Spain, Alejandro went to Mexico to join the celebrated flamenco family group *The Amayas*, as accompanist and soloist, giving recitals all over Mexico.

Nowadays, Alejandro is the permanent accompanist of the star dancers **Conchita Del Mar** and her husband **Jose Luis Ponce**. These famous dancers, with Alejandro Martin, were the principal artists in the ballet of the celebrated dancer Mariema. Alejandro Martin, Conchita Del Mar and Jose Luis Ponce now perform as a trio in the best *Salas de Fiestas* and *Tablados Flamenco* of Benidor where they have also attracted the attention of top theatrical agents from all over the world, Spain included. It is not surprising they are inundated by offers of contracts, for they always put on a spectacular show wherever they perform. I hope we shall enjoy for many more years the work of these wonderful artists Pepete, Alejandro Martin, Jnr., Conchita Del Mar and Jose Luis Ponce.

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Nina Los Peines and **Pepe Pinto** (Singers). Two of the greatest flamenco singers Spain ever produced, Nina and Pepe for many years delighted flamenco-loving audiences in theatres, *Tablados Flamenco* and on radio.

Famous when they were young, and with so much in common as singers, the couple married and lived happily for many years. Nina Los Peines and Pepe Pinto—great artists both—were phenomenal exponents of the flamenco art of singing, and they performed with the

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