

Folk Dance New Zealand presents 'The ABC of Folk Dance' Workshop Presenters

A Aotearoa Te Huamanuka Luiten-Apirana & Paraone Luiten-Apirana



Te Huamanuka Luiten-Apirana (*Ngāti Hikairo*) is a performer, writer and kapa haka teacher. Te Huamanuka has folk-danced her way from New Zealand to Armenia, Georgia and Turkey. She is a graduate of South Seas Film School and The Actors' Program and wrote award-winning play "Lipsync, Kanikani, Twerk Off!" in 2021. Currently she lives in Auckland, working as a writer, actor, singer and teacher. You can find her music on Spotify.



Paraone Luiten-Apirana (*Ngāti Hikairo*) is an engineer and artist. Paraone has folk-danced his way from New Zealand to Armenia and the Netherlands. He is a graduate of the University of Auckland where he studied Engineering and Commerce and is currently undertaking his PhD. Currently he lives in Auckland, working as a professional teaching fellow while studying. You cannot find his music on Spotify.

Together, siblings Te Huamanuka and Paraone, will lead us through Folk Dance New Zealand's bespoke Waiata-a-ringā (action song) 'Kaikanikani-a-iwi' and have us dancing with true kiwi style. We recommend revising the lyrics and reviewing the video on our website in advance of this workshop at <https://folkdance.nz/blog/>

B Bulgaria Marieta Kolarska



Marieta is the lead tutor of the 'Bulgarian Roses' cultural performance group. Marieta is Bulgarian and came to NZ in 2004 with her family. Marieta always had a passion for the Bulgarian culture as she comes from a family of musicians. Marieta followed into the footsteps of Sonya Arabadjieva - the founder of the Bulgarian Roses - and picked up the leadership of the group after Sonya emigrated to Australia. The Auckland-based group has flourished under Marieta's tutelage. Some of the horos that participants will be learning together are the work of Prof. Anton Andonoff - choreographer and soloist in the world-acclaimed 'Ansamble

Tracia'. Marieta says "*For me personally, it is very important to learn about the different cultures, as through that process we learn about the people, and then it is easier to find common ground. I am not a dancer by trade, but a dancer by passion*".

C Colombia

Joyz Florez and Julian Lopez



Joyz Florez was born in Bogotá, Colombia, but her heart belongs to the Colombian Llanos, where she spent much of her life. While living in Villavicencio, she immersed herself in the vibrant local culture and joined folklore groups. Nine years ago, Joyz embarked on a new adventure, moving to New Zealand. Despite the geographical distance, she remained deeply connected to her cultural roots. In 2019, she joined the Tierra Viva Colombia Dance Group, a platform where her talent and dedication were immediately recognized. Joyz now serves as the group's lead dancer and wardrobe manager. In this role, she ensures that each performance authentically represents Colombian traditions, paying meticulous attention to the details of the costumes.



Julian Lopez began studying dance in 2011 with Marisol Cerero in the Folkloric group of the National University of Colombia. He has been a member of several Colombian National Dance Companies, including the Jaime Orozco National Folk Ballet, Colombian Folk Ballet Tierra Colombiana, Romir Echeverry Ballet, and the Herencia Viva National Dance Company. He further studied classical

ballet, jazz, Colombian and international folk dancing, and salsa. During his dancing career, he has participated in tours to countries such as Mexico, Panama, Spain, and Italy. Upon arriving in New Zealand, he met Diana Prieto and agreed to support her project and start directing Tierra Viva, putting his passion for Colombian folk dancing to use as a performer and teacher. He is currently the director and choreographer of the Tierra Viva Colombian Folk Dance Group.

Julian and Joyz will be joined by Jorge Cardenas and Anita Ruiz in presenting a workshop of traditional Colombian dance. Be prepared for fun and vitality.

So it's **A B C** and
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E Enjoyment
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