

# Calaita Flamenco Son

'Calaita Flamenco son' are a 5 piece flamenco group based in the UK and Spain. 'Calaita' are Chico Pere – voice and guitar, Glenn Sharp – guitar, Diana Castro – voice, Leo Paredes – Percussion and Matt Nickson – flute and saxophone. Their live concerts include traditional styles such as bulerias, alegrias and seguiriyas, aswell as more comtemporary flamenco rumbas.



## Recent gigs include:

The Bridgewater Hall  
The Royal Exchange Theatre  
The Howard Assembly Room  
Jamboree, London  
El Parque del Salao, Lanjaron, Spain  
Instituto Cervantes  
The Forge, London  
The Dancehouse Theatre  
Whitworth Art Gallery  
Pave Live, Hull  
Ipswich Festival  
Sala El Cachorro, Seville, Spain  
Birnam Arts Centre, Scotland

La Casita Papel, Granada, Spain  
Huddersfield University  
Mint Lounge  
Artrix, Bromsgrove  
Night & Day Cafe  
The Cornerhouse  
Platt Fields, Manchester (festival)  
Musicport Festival  
Mintfest Festival  
Live at LICA, Lancaster  
The Gate, Cardiff  
Regents Theatre, Ipswich  
Viento Sur Teatro, Seville, Spain

## For further information or to request a full CD, please contact:

Glenn Sharp 07971 086571 / [glenn@glennsharp.co.uk](mailto:glenn@glennsharp.co.uk) (manager)

## Booking Agent:

Gail Cooke: WEB: [www.laughingdogmusic.co.uk](http://www.laughingdogmusic.co.uk) EMAIL: [gailscooke@gmail.com](mailto:gailscooke@gmail.com)

## Audio and video can be found at:

[www.calaitaflamenco.com](http://www.calaitaflamenco.com) and [www.glennsharp.co.uk](http://www.glennsharp.co.uk)



**Chico Pere** - Chico (José Antonio Peregrina) grew up in Triana, Seville and is from a family of flamenco singers. On completing his training in Seville he moved to Barcelona where he worked with numerous flamenco musicians and groups. In the 1980's Chico toured Andalucia as a singer and percussionist with a group specializing in Sevillanas and Rumbas. Chico then studied Piano and Flamenco Guitar at the Jam Session Academy, Barcelona, where he formed the group Vayatela and later completed his album, 'Son las cosas del buen Son'. He arrived to Manchester in 2008 and joined Leo Paredes and Glenn Sharp to form Calaita flamenco son.



**Glenn Sharp** - Glenn has played guitar for the past 27 years and has studied with tutors including Juan Martin (UK) and Francisco Morales (Seville). Aswell as being a solo concert guitarist, he is a session player, composer and world music producer. He has gigged and toured with numerous world-music artists including Nitin Sawhney and Aref Durvesh, and has collaborated on world music projects internationally. Glenn is also the producer of the Jadid ensemble.



**Leo Parades** from Seville, specializes in Flamenco cajón, African Djembe and Arabic Darbuka. Leo started out as the percussionist for Latimbah who played in Seville and at the Etno-Sur Festival in Jaén. Leo moved to Manchester in 2005 where he soon became involved in numerous performances and workshops. After additional study in Senegal with Kulaty Cabo he was then asked to join Manchester's West African group Tanate, where he received further training from Seckou Keita. Leo has studied Flamenco cajón with many teachers but most recently with Roberto C Jaén of Cristina Hoyos' Ballet Flamenco de Andalucia.



**Diana Castro** from Lanjarón, near Granada, Spain. Diana studied music at Granada University where she would start her career as a professional blues, jazz and soul singer. In 2007, she left Spain to go to Manchester, UK, where she met Chico Pere. Aswell as performing with Calaita, Diana is currently training in singing and music production at Salford Univeristy Diana was also the artistic co-ordinator of 'Lanjarock' festival in Spain for 2011.



**Matt Nickson** - Matt is a saxophonist and founder of Matt and Phred's Jazz Club. He has been one of the main driving forces in North West jazz over the last 20 years. Matt has a big "Dexter Gordon" like sound on tenor and a flowing melodic playing style. Matt was a notable session player with chart bands throughout the late 80s /90s, but it is his tireless promotion of jazz in Manchester which has taken up most of his time, leading to the foundation of Iroko records and Matt and Phred's.



**Album out now on Riverboat records / World Music Network.**

***Featured in the Itunes 'best world music category 2014'***

*'The UK should consider itself very lucky to have such a talented quintet on its shores'* ★★★★★  
**Songlines Magazine**

*'a vibrant, high-quality release on musical ingeniousness'* **Inside World Music**

*'The musicianship throughout the CD is stunning and Chico has a voice to die for - powerful and sensitive in turns. It really does have to be heard!'* **Fatea Records**

*'Calaita Flamenco Son is well-crafted debut album by a UK-based band that has a genuine flamenco soul. Superb'* **World Music Central**

*'Calaita Flamenco Son are a fresh exciting Spanish collective and are a modern voice of rumba-powered flamenco'* **Ear to the Globe**



[www.worldmusic.net](http://www.worldmusic.net)

**Some comments from our recent shows:**

*"A wonderful experience, a true journey into the flamenco spirit"* **LICA**

*"It was great to see such a band in Spain appealing to all ages of flamenco lovers"* **Lanjaron Festival of music**

*"Brilliant, passionate, a treat for the festival goers"* **Musicport**

*"Heaven sent. Calaita played and brought the sun from Seville to damp Kendal"* **Mintfest**

**Songlines full review:**

Two years of intense gigging is very much in evidence on this confident flamenco fusion debut. Calaita Flamenco Son was formed by singer Chico Pere, from Seville, British guitarist Glenn Sharp and cajon player Leo Paredes; it later expanded to introduce flute and sax and a female backing vocalist. Softening flamenco with jazz, tango and Cuban rhythms, theirs is a very accessible, warm flamenco, leaning towards the upbeat, inclusive style of flamenco rumba. There is an organic, spontaneous feel to the performances and a clean, crisp production and tight arrangements means that Pere's natural vocal style - which is intimate, pensive, searching - gets the aural space it needs. Sharp's previous work with Nitin Sawhney, Guy Schalom and Nizar Rohana has encouraged an openness to experimentation and eclecticism. Calaita Flamenco Son is an exciting new venture, and the UK should consider itself very lucky to have such a talented quintet in its shores.

## Label Press Release:

Calaita Flamenco Son was formed by flamenco singer Chico Pere, guitarist Glenn Sharp and percussionist Leo Paredes. The trio soon expanded to include Diana Castro's soulful Spanish vocals and Matt Nickson's jazz-inflected saxophone.

Founding members Chico and Glenn composed most of the tracks heard on this beautiful recording. Chico draws inspiration from his childhood experiences in Triana, a neighbourhood on the western side of the Guadalquivir River in Seville, while Glenn Sharp, who crafted his incredible guitar playing under the tutelage of flamenco maestros Juan Martin and Francisco Morales, expands the sound via his multifarious fluency in flamenco, Turkish and Arabic music. Together they create a new brand of flamenco that is full of energy, spontaneity and experimentation, taking this most famous of musical forms in new and exciting directions. This is flamenco at its finest, by a group of artists who have incredibly diverse musical stories.

Chico Pere is from a family of flamenco singers and whose history can be heard in the truth and resonance of his voice. Glenn Sharp has performed internationally with numerous acclaimed world music artists including Nitin Sawhney, Guy Schalom and Nizar Rohana, and has worked on projects in African, Arabic, Indian and Latin American music. These experiences have enabled him to subtly incorporate this musical knowledge and awareness almost subliminally into any musical project that he is involved with. This broader understanding of many musical styles and cultures truly sets his playing apart from other flamenco guitarists. The musical partnership of Glenn and Chico is beautifully illustrated on the track 'En El Puente' where the lyrics refer to 'Triana's bridge' where the protagonist 'gazed at the waters'. The guitar parts here are stripped back, but delivered with exquisite elegance and purpose and beautifully compliment Chico's coarse and passionate vocals. Other flamenco *palos* nestle alongside sultry *seguiriyas*, lilting rumbas and fast-moving *bulerías*. Calaita's last two years have been jam-packed with gigs and tours across the UK and Spain. Venues that have welcomed the band's headstrong flamenco grooves include The Bridgewater Hall and The Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester as well as El Parque del Salao and La Casita Papel in Spain. *Calaita Flamenco Son* is the group's debut release on Riverboat Records and captures the spirit of their dramatic live performance, expressing perfectly Calaita's mysterious *duende* spirit. The entire album was recorded intensively over three days at Wavelength Studios in the United Kingdom. The tracks were laid down naturally often without copious retakes, cementing the natural and organic musical feel heard throughout.

'Un Mensajito' is a up-tempo tango influenced track, driven by Chico and Glenn's pulsing guitars. Matt's trilling saxophone riff repeats throughout while *cajon* and handclaps add to the tight rhythmic structure. 'Tu Mirada Flamenca' (Your Flamenco Look), fuses traditional Spanish style with a ballad feel. Drawing on typical flamenco drama the lyrics are sung by one pining for his lovers 'black eyelashes' and 'honey coloured eyes'. 'Una Mujer Como Tu' plays on the Latin flavours of a traditional *colombiana* and spotlights Chico's bounding and leaping vocal range. 'Entre El Tardón Y Triana' is composed in a 12-beat traditional flamenco form called *alegrías*, this one in the style of an *alegría de Cadiz* with the familiar opening lyric '*tiriti tran*'. 'Que Lejos Está Japón' is a traditional *bulerías*, the fastest and most energetic of all flamenco *palos* (forms). 'Si Tu Me Cantas La Caña' is an '*ida y vuelta'guajira*', meaning it is a dance form that was brought back to Spain by sailors

from the New World – in this case from Cuba. 'Quedate Con Tus Anillos' is a *seguriya*, a form considered the hallmark of the most emotional and serious genre of flamenco, *cante jondo*. 'Rumba del siete' also draws on Afro-Cuban music that returned to Spain, this time the sexually provocative *rumba* dance is explored.

This is flamenco as you have never heard it before. Their vibrant sound presents the passion of traditional flamenco alongside the energy of flamenco *rumba* and jazz. Calaita's unique sound is set to soar.