



Volume 8, Issue 1

Spring 2011

Sembrando Herencia 2010 500 Years

Inside this issue:



On December 5th, 2010 we presented our first tri-lingual musical: 500 Years. This musical included songs and dialogue in Spanish, English and Taino (Puerto Rico's indigenous people).

In order to incorporate the three languages in an interesting way, 500 Years took us from a Taino village in 1504 to the mountains in 1810 to the present day in New York city and back to the island.

Director's Saludos	2
Octavitas and Valentine Salsa party	3
More of 500 years	4
Upcoming Performances	5
Classes and Programs	6
Sponsors & Familia Members	7
Keeping in touch with your culture	8

The picture on the right is a representation of life in the "cafetal." Puerto Rico has a long tradition of coffee production, even though it was brought to the island by the Spaniards around 1736, it wasn't until the Corsican immigrants started to work with it that the Puerto Rico's coffee was recognized as a coffee of excellence (1890). So, this scene is a celebration and a reflection of our past. Nowadays, the island continues producing coffee, but we can say that the 19th Century was the golden age of Puerto Rico's Coffee industry.





Saludos from the Founding Director

Semign cacona guari (God bless)!

We are only half-way through the Spring semester and already have so many beautiful memories to write about! On our first day back (Jan 8th), our Taino Family & Guaytiao (friends) kicked off opening day with a Taino Gathering that celebrated the New Year, as well as our Founding Director Tekina-eirú Maynard's birthday which fell on that day!! This event included an authentic Areyto (ceremonial dance), a discussion on Taino spirituality, and a pot-luck dinner! Later that month, Dr. Maynard gave an invited talk to the Austin Friends of Folk Arts on Taino Heritage. For Tekina-eirú, it was a privilege to share the history of her Ancestors and plans for the future to those learning about Tainos for the first time. Dr. Maynard donated the honorarium from this talk to PRFDance.

Later that month (Jan 23), PRFDance shared the joy and liveliness of our "Octavitas" holiday tradition with the Chinese community in an amazing cultural exchange that brought The Love of China dancers, a Tai Chi display from the Xiang Yun Temple, and the Dragon team to share the

Chinese New Year with our community for the first time! YNN-News (News 8) surprised us with TV cameras as our VERY large, standing-room only crowd -- including distant neighbors from Dallas, Killeen, San Antonio, and Oklahoma -- helped Puerto Ricans in Austin close the longest holiday season on the planet. Many brought instruments to play and sing along to joyful Puerto Rican holiday music and dances by the PRFDance Performing Company and Youth Students, in this fun family event sponsored by Fiesta Mart.

On February 6th, PRFDance returned the cultural exchange started on Octavitas with a performance at the Xiang Yun Temple in celebration of the Chinese New Year. This fun, free outdoor event included food and art exhibitions and performances by PRFDance, Austin traditional music, Chinese yo-yo, kung fu display, a magic show, Indian dance, and everyone's favorite, the dragon/lion dance. For most all of us at PRFDance this cultural exchange was an exciting, first time experience in a Chinese Temple! In return, we were able to share our culture with the Chinese community and demonstrate PRFDance's commitment to preserving our culture and hand down our beautiful heritage to a new generation!

On Valentine weekend (Feb. 12), PRFDance celebrated love and family with a Valentine Salsa Dance featuring Reggaeton group Los Splendi2 and DJ Bufiao spinning their amazing collection of classic Salsa Gorda. In the spirit of sharing, everyone brought a dish to share (Pernil, Arroz con Pollo!) or dessert (Tres Leches!). Parents found those "dress up" clothes they never get to wear anymore, and danced with their kids. Others just played dominoes! We celebrated our youth -- Tureyguanani's 11th birthday, and Guarinara's 1st place National Championship of the red belt division of the National NASKA Tournament! It was an old fashioned family dance, with great people, lots of joy, and wonderful food and music -- just like we remember growing up!

With this amazing number of special events behind us, our classes are preparing for more excitement just on the horizon. Up ahead, Tito Matos (Viento de Agua) and Tata Cepeda will be coming to Austin to train our performing company in -- master-level and powerful -- plena and bomba music and dance! Students will likewise have their own personal class experience with the folklore masters direct from Puerto Rico...in Spanish! The Maestros will return in June with all of Viento de Agua for a special edition of Celebrando that will be celebrating 10 years of projects with our Maestros from Puerto Rico who have helped us to become a premier Puerto Rican cultural center and performing company on the US Mainland.

In May, our student programs take front and center in Esperanza de la Herencia (Hope of the Heritage), our annual performance dedicated to inspiring Youth. With free admission to all children (under 18), this Recital of our cultural arts students, backed by our Performing Company will display the rich variety of Puerto Rico's traditions in a live music and dance performance that we hope will inspire children with a lifetime love of culture.

As our 13th year comes to a close, I thank Semign (God) for our cultural center Family who have discovered this rare place in our City where parents can participate with their children in a clean family atmosphere of traditions, music, and dance, a place where you can be adopted by our cultural center family if you are alone in town without any! PRFDance is dedicated to those who come seeking a world-class education in folklore and cultural traditions, who wish to discover and celebrate their identity, who yearn to become connected to a community, who will inspire and be inspired by role models, mentors and friends, and who, inside our walls, find a sense of pride and a dream for the future. We have been named the Ambassadors of Puerto Rican culture in Central Texas. We are proud to share the joy of our rich traditions with our community, and hand down our cultural heritage to the next generation! Thank you for being a part of it!

Dr. Ana María Tekina-eirú Maynard, Founding Director

Octavitas meets Chinese New Year 2011



On Sunday, January 23, 2011, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance shared the joy and liveliness of our "Octavitas" holiday tradition with the Chinese community in an amazing cultural exchange that brought The Love of China dancers, a Tai Chi display from the Xiang Yun Temple, and the Dragon team to share Chinese New Year with our community for the first time!

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standing-room only crowd -- including distant neighbors from Dallas, Killeen, San Antonio, and Oklahoma -- helped Puerto Ricans in Austin close the longest holiday season on the planet. Many brought instruments to play and sing along to joyful Puerto Rican holiday music and dances by the PRFDance Performing Company and Youth Students, in this fun family event sponsored by Fiesta Mart. On Sunday, February 6th, PRFDance returned the cultural exchange started on Octavitas with a performance at the Xiang Yun Temple in celebration of the Chinese New Year. This fun, free outdoor event included food and art exhibitions and performances by PRFDance, Austin traditional music, Chinese yo-yo, kung fu display, a magic show, Indian dance, and everyone's favorite, the dragon/lion dance. For most all of us at PRFDance this cultural exchange was an exciting, first time experience in a Chinese Temple! In return, we were able to share our culture with the Chinese community and demonstrate PRFDance's commitment to preserving our culture and hand down our beautiful new generation!

Valentine Party at PR Cultural Center



Valentine's party was full of delicious food, music, friends and love. Everyone that was there was either playing dominoes, dancing, eating or talking and they were having a good time. Join us next year!



500 Years

The Musical

Here you can enjoy a collage of Pictures from some of the scenes of our play. As you can tell from these pictures, everybody; dancers, actors, musicians and volunteers, put on a colorful story together. They worked hard for all of us, and they gave all their energy and talent to make a wonderful show.

PRFDance focuses on children and teaching them about our heritage and that is why our plays are filled with children characters. For us, they are the future and the reason for our work.



Upcoming Performances

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE presents:

Esperanza de la Herencia 2011, May 22, 2011, 2-4pm

FREE TO YOUTH. Each year, PRFDance brings the rich heritage of Puerto Rico to life with "Esperanza de la Herencia," a performance event dedicated to inspiring Youth. With free admission to all children (under 18), this Recital of our cultural arts students, backed by our PRFDance & Jr Performing Companies displays the rich variety of Puerto Rico's traditions and includes live music and dance performances. Children are the hope of the future. We hope our production will inspire them with a love for our culture that lasts a lifetime, so that they celebrate and transmit this joyful heritage to future generations.

This joyful, traditional music and dance performance will take place at the Mexican American Cultural Center Auditorium, 600 River Street, Austin 78701. This event will be in partnership with the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) who, along with the City of Austin, is committed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access will be provided upon request. For special accommodations please call the MACC at 512-478-6222, or 711-Relay-Texas, or 1-800-735-2989 TTY.

Celebrando 2011 - Special Edition, 10 Years of Celebration, June 25 & 26, 2011.

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE will be celebrating the rich culture of Puerto Rico with a **SPECIAL EDITION**, our largest performance of the year, **Celebrando 2011** with **Masters of Folklore** direct from Puerto Rico. For 10 years, PRFDance has brought the best of Puerto Rican folklore to Central Texas through this annual project and performance with our **Maestros** who have helped us to become the premier Puerto Rican cultural center and performing company on the US Mainland. Stand by for exciting details that will include **Tito Matos** and **Viento de Agua** -- as well as **Tata Cepeda** -- in a night of powerful **Plena** and **Bomba**, live music and dance. Mark your calendars. More details coming this Spring.

3rd Annual Taino Camping Trip, Coming in October

Every year is amazing and we will do it again! Each October, our cultural center enjoys a Taino Camping trip for the whole family. As each year, we will fly **Cacike Cabiba Opil** of **The Concilio Taino Guatu-Ma-Cu A Boriken** to Austin for a special weekend that will celebrate Taino Heritage and give our familias an "outside the classroom," experience in Taino traditions.

Sembrando Herencia 2011, Coming in December

This December, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance will debut our 8th bilingual musical, another original story by PRFDance Director **Ana María Tekina-eiru' Maynard** that features traditional music and dance and brings to light untold stories and unsung heroes in Puerto Rican history.

Sembrando Herencia, planting a Heritage for a new generation will showcase more than 50 of our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students, and give our students a real theatre experience through a shared performance with our professional-level performing company. This year's story is a big surprise, even to the writer! More details in the Fall.



PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER

Performing Arts & Culture Programs

Traditional Dance Classes with Cultural Lessons

- Adults - Mondays, 6-7pm
- Youth Beginner/Intermediate - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Youth Intermediate/Advanced - Saturdays, 11-12pm
- Junior Company - Saturdays, 12-1pm
- PRFDance Company - Mondays, 7-8pm

The Coquis "Brinca y Canta" Class - Saturdays, 12-1pm

Music Program

- Youth/Beginner Percussion - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Youth Choir, All ages - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Student Music Ensemble - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Cuatro /Beginner/Intermediate - Saturdays, 10am
- Cuatro/ Intermediate/Advanced - Saturdays, 11am
- Company Percussion - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Professional Music Ensemble - Thursdays, 7-9:30pm



Salsa Socials & Workshops -
See website for schedule.

Class Descriptions:

TRADITIONAL DANCE & CULTURE - (ages 5 and up, schedule above). These naturally bilingual classes teach traditional dances such as *Bomba*, *Plena*, *Seis* and *Danza*, as well as *Salsa* and other modern dances relevant to our culture and celebrations. Class material is taught at an age/skill-appropriate pace and complexity. Lessons begin with the basics, building on knowledge from previous classes towards a full-length choreography. Lessons on Puerto Rican culture, history, games and songs are added to enhance appreciation of Puerto Rican traditions. Semesters culminate in a Performance Recital.

THE COQUIS "BRINCA Y CANTA" CLASS - (ages 0-4)

Saturdays, 12-1pm. Adults are having as much fun as the children in this program targeted for young children and their favorite adult (parent, grandparent, etc.). This program teaches early childhood music including songs in Spanish, basic rhythm, creative movement and traditional childhood games in a family-style, mixed-age class based in our cultural heritage. This non-performance program gives children a musically rich learning experience from which (starting at age 5) they can graduate into our Youth Dance, Choir Program, or both! To encourage family togetherness, note that an accompanying adult is welcomed and required for this class.

YOUTH CHOIR - Saturdays, 9:00-10am. This naturally bilingual class teaches traditional and popular Puerto Rican songs to children and teens. Semesters culminate in a recital with our very own PRFDance Musicos.

PERCUSSION CLASS - Youth/Beginner (Saturdays, 10-11am) and Company (Thursdays, 6-7pm) classes cover traditional percussion rhythms from Puerto Rico, such as *Bomba* and *Plena*, as well as other afro-caribbean percussive rhythms relevant to our culture. Instruments taught include *barriles*, *panderos*, *congas*, *tambores* and small percussion. Lessons on Puerto Rican food, language, history, and more are added to enhance the base appreciation of Puerto Rican culture. Semesters culminate in a Recital.

MUSIC ENSEMBLE PROGRAMS - Students (Saturdays, 9-10am) and Advanced/Professional (Thursdays, 7-9:30pm). These programs teach Puerto Rican compositions to those demonstrating a proficiency in instrument, percussion, or voice. They are targeted for students through professionals interested in learning authentic orchestration of Puerto Rican music and traditions. The Professional Music Ensemble (professional-level musicians already fully skilled and knowledgeable in Puerto Rican music, folklore, and traditions) offers opportunity to work on performance quality material, keep polished, or improve technique and orchestration skills. Semesters culminate in a Recital.

For more information and registration, call 512-251-8122 or see our Website: <http://www.prfdance.org>



2010/2011 PRFDance Sponsors & Familia Members

Become a member of our PRFDance Family (<http://www.prfdance.org/familia.htm>)

SPONSORS

- Fluxion Scenic & Light
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- National Endowment for the Arts
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- The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture
- Target Stores
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FAMILIA MEMBERS

Padrinos (\$1000+)

- Ellen Fernández-Sacco
- David & Ana Maria Maynard
- Gladys & Ty Oksuzler (Chevere)
- Zera Thompson/Imajinu Photography

Padres (\$500+)

- José & Rose M. Irizarry
- Luz Arroyo
- Stephen Pruitt
- Mickey & Judy Golden-Bentley
- Austin Friends of Folk Arts

Hermanos (\$250+)

- Lucy Llera
- Noe & Rosa Montoya

Ad Sales & Donations

- Jose & Rose Irizarry
- Jenny Deleza

In-kind Support & Volunteers:

- María Capestany
- Joe Alvarado

We're on the web!

www.prfdance.org



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Keeping in touch with your culture

by: Yadira Izquierdo

Usually we use this space for sharing a poem or a recipe, but not in this occasion. Here we want to share a small biography of an iconic figure in Puerto Rico's theater: René Marqués (October 4, 1919–March 22, 1979).

René Marqués was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and he was a prolific writer. He was best known for his shorts stories and plays. *La Carreta* (The oxcart) is a classic tale of "Jibaro" living and it's a portrait of rural Puerto Rico, written with such precision that it's considered Marqués' master piece.

Among others, Marqués wrote *Los soles trunecos*, *La muerte no entrará en palacio* y *Un niño azul para una sombra*. If you want to keep in touch with your culture, reading is a wonderful way to do it. That way, you can know your history and pass it forward to future generations.

Know your history, love your heritage.