



Ritmo Y Cultura

A newsletter by
Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center

Volume 3, Issue 7

Fall 2005

Celebrando 2005 Loíza Viva with William Cepeda & AfroBoricua

Inside this issue:

This year's Celebrando 2005 season project featured master artists William Cepeda and AfroBoricua, and focused on the rich folklore of Loíza. Our project included a week-long master level workshop on *Bomba* dance, percussion rhythms, and songs unique to Loíza, as well as the traditions that celebrate the **Festival of Santiago Apóstol**. Our *Músicos* enjoyed learning complex traditional and experimental music written by William Cepeda. Our Dancers put their acting skills to work for our presentation of the games and traditional songs of the *Baquiné*.



Saludos: Ana M. Maynard	2
Poesía: Lejanias	
Receta: Arroz con Dulce	
Loíza Aldea: Santiago Apóstol	3
Teen & Youth Clanes: La Escuelita	4
Spring Gala: Pictures	5
Cultural Center: Winter Schedule	6
Familia Members:	7
Upcoming Events:	8

Our season project culminated in a joint performance with PRFDance, William Cepeda, and AfroBoricua on June 25-26, 2005 at the State Theatre in downtown Austin and featured both traditional and experimental styles of music and dance.





Saludos from the Founding Director

Saludos!

Our 9th season of programming is in full swing, and what an amazing start we had! Fall kicked off with a surprise honor -- this Director was named the YWCA Woman of the Year for Arts! Just about the time the academy award-style trophy began gathering dust, our Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance and Cultural Center was blessed with even more good news -- the *Instituto de Cultura (ICPR)* has named PRFDance the fifth affiliated cultural center on the mainland US! This is BIG! PRFDance already brings a focal point to Austin as one of the few cultural centers in the country, and the only in all of Texas and our four surrounding states, offering our level of ongoing performance and educational programs in Puerto Rican cultural traditions. With this new designation, we bring Austin on par with Chicago and Florida where the three other active cultural centers are located. PRFDance's affiliation to the ICPR was formally announced at Austin City Hall on November 10 with the help of Austin City Councilman Raul Alvarez and Josilda Acosta from the *Instituto de Cultura*, who flew from Puerto Rico for this special event.

All this good news and accomplishments couldn't have come at a better time! We are bracing for next year when the Tapestry performing arts building that has housed our one-room "little nest" for the last several years is going to be knocked down to make way for apartments! We have decided to make this shocking news an exciting opportunity to take our Cultural Center to the next level and create a facility that is the physical presence of what we have grown to be. We will need approximately \$25K to build our cultural center classrooms and facility when we make this move. We need YOU to demonstrate your pride and support of this high-quality, authentic representation of Puerto Rican culture we are bringing to Central Texas with a donation of any size through the *familia* program!

Con cariño, su servidora,

Dr. Ana Maria Maynard, Founding Director

LEJANIAS

de Luis Llorens Torres
Puerto Rico 1876—1944

Nido en la maleza de la noche,
la muda y dormida terraza.
Nada de olor a flores ni a humedad de la grama
ni a resinas de troncos ni a salitre del mar;
sólo el aroma tuyo,
de tu pelo y tu carne y tu voz y tu andar,
fue la invisible ala
que atrevióse a volar.
En la huerta, palmas: besé el palmar.
Más allá, olas: besé el mar.
Besé la lejana nube.
Besé el lejano lucero.
Solo a tí,
que estabas a mi lado,
no te alcanzaron mis besos
en tu fuga a la lejania
de mi caballerosa cobardía.

ARROZ CON DULCE

Marta Hernández

3 tazas de arroz

3 ½ tazas de agua (Remoje el arroz en el agua y dejarlo por una hora)

3 ½ tazas de leche

¼ taza de mantequilla

4 rajadas de canela

2 onzas de gengibre cortado en pedazos y manchacados

1 cucharadita de gengibre en polvo

2 cucharaditas de vainilla

3-4 clavos de especias

½ taza de pasas sin semillas

1 lata de leche de coco

1 lata de crema de coco

Después de escurrir el arroz, pon el arroz y la leche y todos los ingredientes a hervir. Cuando el arroz está casi cocido, añade una lata de leche de coco y otra lata de crema de coco. Sigue cocinando. Pruebelo y si necesita azúcar, añade al gusto. Sigue cocinado hasta que está hecho el arroz. Saque las especias y vierta el arroz en un platón. No uses platos plásticos o de papel. Pon más pasas por encima.

Santiago Apóstol and the Vejigante

What an exciting adventure it was to join William Cepeda and members of AfroBoricua in Puerto Rico during our historical investigation of *Santiago de Apostol*, patron saint, and one of the most important figures of the town of Loíza Aldea and of our *Celebrando* 2005 season project dedicated to the folklore of Loíza!

The Festival of *Santiago Apóstol* reflects Spanish traditions transformed in the new world. The devotion to Santiago, St. James the Apostle, began in Spain in the early decades of the 9th century when on July 25, the Bishop Teodomiro was guided by a star to the tomb of the Saint. In later years, people from all over Europe would make pilgrimages to visit the Saint. In the first years, the faithful conceived Santiago as a humble fisherman of Galilee, a companion of Christ. It was in 844, during the wars between the Christians and the Muslims, that the Spaniard's conception of Santiago changed. A legend tells of a battle where the Christians, fighting at a great disadvantage, were saved by *Santiago* who, dressed as a knight and riding a white horse, appeared in the Muslim camp and defeated the Moors. After that, the images and paintings of *Santiago* always depicted the saint as a Spanish knight, mounted on a white horse with a flag in his left hand and a sword in his right. From then on the Spaniards called on *Santiago* for help in time of war.



The devotion to *Santiago* came to Puerto Rico with the Spanish conquistadors. In 1514, Diego Colón founded one of the first towns, on the east coast of the island, and called it *Santiago del Daguao*. The next year, the Saint was called upon to help the Spaniards fight the ferocious Carib Indians on neighboring Vieques island, in revenge for an attack the Indians had made on the farms in Loíza. On many occasions thereafter, Santiago was depended upon to help the Spaniards in their fights against the Carib Indians, and later Europeans, like the English and Dutch, who tried to take the island. By the early 1600s, the Island annually celebrated the feast day of *Santiago* every July 25th with great enthusiasm.

Although the origin of the Festival *de Santiago* in Loíza is unclear, one could imagine the slaves becoming devoted to the Saint as they picked up arms and fought along side the Spaniards to defend their families, towns and homes. The image of *Santiago* the Spaniards depended on for help was not so unlike some of the slaves own gods: Ogún, the god of war, and Changó, the god of lightning, thunder and storms. Santiago himself was not only considered the saint of war, but also the "son of thunder," capable of sending fire down from the sky to destroy the enemy.

West African culture and traditions brought to Puerto Rico by the slaves were preserved in Loíza thanks to poor roads and limited means of communication that isolated Loíza from other towns in the early days. For this reason, although the devotion to Santiago died down in other parts of Puerto Rico, this tradition was preserved in Loíza through the centuries and each year is still remembered in a week-long festival beginning July 25 that include both religious ceremony and carnival celebration. Anyone who visits Loíza during this time of year can't help but enjoy the lively carnival traditions, and towns people who dress as one of four historic characters to delight and entertain: the Caballero (Spanish knight), the *Vejigante* (Evil), *El Viejo* (men dressed a raggedy-dressed old men), and *La Loca* (men dressed as crazy ladies who sweep streets and balconies asking for money).

References and Suggested Reading:

"La Fiesta Santiago Apóstol en Loíza Aldea," Ricardo Alegria, Colección de Estudios Puertorriqueños, 1954.



Youth Traditional Dance & Culture Class

We at PRFDance are especially proud to offer high-quality programs that are passing on our heritage to a new generation. The children, preteens, and teens who participate in our weekly classes come not only from our own city of Austin, but from nearby cities such as San Antonio, San Marcos, Georgetown, Killeen and others, to learn traditional music and dance from one of the few performing companies on the mainland who can perform the spectrum of Puerto Rican folklore, live music and dance at a professional level.





We celebrate our end of the school year with an exclusive semi-formal event, a **Spring Gala** featuring a Recital by our Performing Arts students and Performing Company. On May 22, 2005, we invited our PRFDance Familia Members and Industry/Local Sponsors to an elegant ballroom celebration with our Cultural Center participants and their families and friends! This proud afternoon of music and dancing-for-all featured special performances by our Performing Arts students and Performing Company. This Recital gave our students the important experience of performing in a distinct, close-up setting, as well as an opportunity to present with our professional-level performing company. When the Recital was over we enjoyed a buffet reception courtesy of our PRFDance Families. A good time was had by all!



What a great job they all did; it was a fantastic event!

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLODIC DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER

Performing Arts & Culture Programs



Traditional Dance Classes with Cultural Lessons

- Beginner/Intermediate Adults - Mondays, 6-7pm
- Intermediate/Advanced Adults - Monday, 7-8pm
- Children - Saturdays, 10-11am
- Preteens - Saturdays, 10:30-11:30am
- Teens - Saturdays, 11:30-12:30pm

Music Program

- Percussion Class - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Youth Choir - All ages Youth. Saturday, 9-10am
- Student Music Ensemble - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Professional Music Ensemble - Thurs, 7-8pm

Class Descriptions & Schedule:

TRADITIONAL DANCE & CULTURE

(all ages, 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 the previous class towards a full-length choreography. Lessons on Puerto Rican culture and history, games and song are added to enhance appreciation of Puerto Rican traditions. Semesters culminate in a Performance Recital.

YOUTH CHOIR - Saturdays, 9:00-10am

This naturally bilingual class teaches traditional and popular Puerto Rican songs to children— teens. Semesters culminate in a recital with our very own PRFDance Musicos.

PERCUSSION CLASS - Thursdays, 6-7pm

This music class for all ages and expertise teaches 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), Advanced/Professional (Thursdays 7-8pm)

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 Puerto Rican traditions. The Professional Music Ensemble, for 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>

Thank You for your sponsorship!

2005/2006 PRFDance Familia Members

- **Padrinos (\$1000+)**
 - José and Rose M. Irizarry
 - David and Ana Maria Maynard
- **Padres (\$500+)**
 - George and Terri Georgulas
 - Richard Arocho A-C Promotions
 - Claudio Bauzá and Maribel Perez-Bauzá
- **Hermanos (\$250+)**
 - Federico and Julia Subervi
 - Pedro & Melinda Rivera
 - Sandy Perkins
- **Tios (\$100+)**
 - Roger and Maricarmen Nasr
 - David & Annie Barrera
 - Andres Quinones
 - César Salgado
 - Reyna Martinez
 - Jackson Cruz
 - Wells Fargo Bank
 - MusicaBoricua.com
- **Amigos (\$25+)**
 - Luis and Elida Bonet
 - Carol Gines
 - Penny Wilson
 - Eva Franklin
- Lizbeth Landrau
- Amber Dunsford
- Carmen & Chris Gallo
- Tomas Ayala Torres & Maria Yolanda Rivera
- Manuel Rosso & Jacqueline Benitez
- Jameida Gonzalez & Michael Wiley
- Bassel and Gisselle Bekdache
- Jenny Deleza
- Al Hollenbeck
- Ray & Susie Rodriguez
- Taqueria Arandas
- Habana Restaurant
- Owen Scott
- Marjorie Hanshaw
- Chris Wilson
- Beatrice Reyes

Be a Part of the Future!

Become a sponsor today & become part of the PRFDance & Cultural Center, a growing institution offering one of the few nationally awarded educational performance programs in Puerto Rican traditional arts & culture in the country. We are building a legacy that will be a focal point to Puerto Rican culture and education in Central Texas.

We're on the web!

www.prfdance.org



Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance, Inc..
Copyright © 2005

Upcoming Performances & Events

Sembrando Herencia 2005—Puerto Rico Mi Patria - December 11, 2005, 3pm

Join our company of dancers and musicians for this lively performance of traditional dance, music and song. This annual, full-length production passes on a heritage to a new generation as we showcase more than 50 of our own dancers, musicians, and performing arts students. This year's performance debuts "Puerto Rico Mi Patria," our original *obra* of traditional music and dance that tells the story of the heroism of the Puerto Rican people during the British Invasion of 1797. This lively celebration of Spanish, Taíno and West African roots will take place Sunday, December 11, 3:00 pm at Journey Theatre, in the [Fine Arts Center at W. Charles Akins High School](#). \$10 adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, lap children free (2 & under). Tickets on sale at AuxTix (www.austix.com).

Celebrando 2006- The State Theater, June 24 (8pm) & 25 (2pm), 2006

Advance announcement of "The Big One." Each year the PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE performing company brings the rich culture of Puerto Rico to Austin, Texas with a unique program entitled *CELEBRANDO..* As each year, our performing company of dancers and musicians will present a lively performance of traditional dance, live music and song, that will include invited masters from *Gibaro* de Puerto Rico direct from the island. This performance will take place on June 24-25, 2006 at the State Theatre in downtown Austin. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information! It's going to be another spectacular show!