



Ritmo Y Cultura

A newsletter by
Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center

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Spring 2008

Sembrando Herencia 2007 Featuring Angelito Boricano



Angelito Boricano

tional, the story is rich in very real Puerto Rican history and traditions. Please enjoy some photos from Sembrando Herencia 2007 on this page and also on page 4.

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At a Factory in New York during the 1950s



Students Performing Danza

Saludos from the Founding Director



Our cultural center is in the middle of a very exciting year! In February our students and company members were treated to a Bomba dance and percussion workshop with Tata Cepeda and Victor Emmanuelli, two of my favorite Maestros from Puerto Rico. While Puerto Rican Masters have been training us for 11 years, this is the first opportunity our students have had to experience a workshop with Masters from Puerto Rico. Our children were inspired by the Maestros and our Maestros were delighted with the children. Given the huge success, we have decided to make workshops with our Maestros from Puerto Rico a new Spring-semester tradition!

With that, in April, our cultural center enjoyed another workshop with Maestros from Puerto Rico. This time, Taino dance, music and song by Cacike Cacibaopil and his people from Guatu-Ma-cu A Boriken. For most of our company, students, and their families this was a first-exposure to Tainos and the traditions of our Ancestors.

After spending a decade studying, teaching and performing the cross-section of Puerto Rico's folklore -- Bomba, Plena, Seis, Danza -- it has been very meaningful to journey back to our "Primera Raiz". Puerto Rico has a rich culture whose origins can be traced back to native Taino, Spanish and West African roots. While we know much about our Spanish and African heritage, our Puerto Rican community at-large knows little about our Taino traditions.

Every Puerto Rican student learns that the Tainos were the first people to greet Columbus on his voyage to the Americas. History documents the extinction of our Ancestors during the 16th century from the abuses of slavery and the new European diseases for which they had no immunity. What was not well documented was the survival of Taino traditions that became part of what we know today as "Puerto Rican culture."

The reality is Tainos were not completely extinguished. A census in 1514 found that 40 percent of the "officially recognized" wives of Spanish men were Taina. Petroglyphs in mountain caves and restored ceremonial grounds testify that Tainos also escaped high into the Cordillera Central, the mountain range that runs across the center of Puerto Rico, and quietly continued living their traditions.

In retrospect, it's not surprising to learn that in his year 2000 National Science Foundation research, Juan Carlos Martinez Cruzado, Professor of Genetics at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, found that 61 percent of all Puerto Ricans carry Amerindian mitochondrial DNA from their maternal lines. Taino culture survived thanks to Taina mothers who handed down to their children traditions that would become a permanent part of our Island's heritage.

Whether participating in classes this semester or making plans to attend one of our upcoming events, we hope you enjoy learning about our Taino heritage. Taino culture is very much alive in all of Puerto Rico, through our vocabulary, music, customs, culture, beliefs, and the generous and joyful nature of our people. For this reason, it is important that we learn more about our first root, our Primera Raiz. We cannot be a complete people without knowing the Taino history and legacy that are part of our cultural fabric today.

Con cariño, naboria daca (su servidora),

Dr. Ana Maria Tekina-eirú Maynard



Left — A "Mayohuacan", a Taino drum made from a hollowed tree, presented to the Maynard family

Above — Ceremonial consecration of the Mayohuacan

Spring 2008 Highlights

Celebrando 2008 Rediscovering Boriken – Taino Workshops

From April 3-8, Cacique Cacibaopil (Martin Veguilla) of The Concilio Taino Guatu Ma Cu A Boriken and key leaders of his Concilio Taino came to Austin from Puerto Rico to personally teach our company, teachers and students about Taino culture and history. Our cultural center was excited to host the Cacique and his people, who taught a variety of important Taino traditions including native percussion and dance, songs in Taino, and native craftwork such as making maracas. We even learned how to play the ancient Taino ballgame of Batu! Our company took part in its first "Areyto", a Taino ceremonial dance, on a trip with our guests to nearby McKinney Falls State Park. Members of Concilio Taino will return to Austin to perform with our company in the Celebrando 2008 show on June 21 and 22, 2008. Mark those days on your calendars!

Right – Cacique Cacibaopil (top row, left) and members of Concilio Taino pose with members of the PRFDance family during the Taino workshops.

Below – Audience participation in the Octavitas celebration



Octavitas Celebration

On January 20, 2008, the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center celebrated "Octavitas" with a performance event, free and open to the public, featuring live traditional music and dance by our Professional Company and Performing Arts Youth Students. Approximately 150 attended from our local community and as far away as Dallas, Killeen, and San Antonio. Octavitas is the last holiday of the Christmas Season celebrated on the Island eight days after the Epiphany. Puerto Rico enjoys one of the longest holiday seasons on the planet – celebrated from Thanksgiving until the middle of January with joyful music and dance and lively middle of the night, house-to-house celebrations, waking neighbors and singing aguinaldos (holiday songs).

Workshop Series in Puerto Rican Studies - Robert Clemente, "The Great One"

On February 3, 2008, Edwin Baez hosted the first of PRFDance's 2008 Puerto Rican Studies Workshops. Edwin, a die-hard Roberto Clemente fan, presented his lifetime collection of Clemente memorabilia. Roberto Clemente was the first Latin American player elected to the baseball Hall of Fame and was regarded by many as the finest all-around player of his era. This series is free and open to the public, so stay tuned for future workshops.

More Photos from the Sembrando Herencia 2007 Show



Upcoming Performances

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC DANCE presents:

6th Annual Spring Gala

May 17, 2008, 2 pm



In this exclusive semi-formal event, our Cultural Center participants and their families and friends celebrate the end of the school season with our PRFDance Familia Members and Industry/Local Sponsors. This proud afternoon of music and dancing-for-all features special performances by our Performing Arts students and Performing Company. Will be held at the Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 Red River St, Austin.

Celebrando 2008 – Rediscovering Boriken

June 21, 2008, 8 pm & June 22, 2008, 2 pm

Don't miss Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance's largest performance of the year - a spectacular, live production featuring Tainos of Guatu Ma-Cu A Boriken direct from our Island! In this once in a lifetime performance on June 21 & 22, 2008, you will discover the history and culture of our Primera Raiz (first root) through authentic music and dance presentations. The shows will take place in The Theatre at Reagan High School, 7104 Berkman Dr, Austin Texas, 78752. Admission \$15 Adults. \$10 Children (12 & under), lap children free (2 & under). Tickets on sale later this Spring. Directions to Theatre: Take I-35 to US Hwy 290 East. Exit Hwy 290 at Berkman Dr. Turn left on Berkman and cross under the highway. The theatre is less than a block away on the left.



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
- Teens/Advanced - Saturdays, 12-1pm
- Company - Mondays, 7-8pm

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

Music Program

- Youth Percussion - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Youth Choir, All ages - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Student Music Ensemble - Saturdays, 9-10am
- Company Percussion - Thursdays, 6-7pm
- Professional Music Ensemble - Thursdays, 7-9:30pm

Salsa Workshops - Check www.prfdance.org 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. This program is 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 - Thursdays, 6-7pm. Youth and Company 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>



2007/2008 PRFDance Sponsors & Familia Members

SPONSORS

- Ruta Maya Coffee/Buttross GroupII
- National Endowment for the Arts
- City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division
- The Texas Commission on the Arts
- The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture
- Target
- IBM

FAMILIA MEMBERS

Padrinos (\$1000+)

- Anonymous Donor
- José & Rose M. Irizarry
- David & Ana Maria Maynard
- Rupert & JoAnn Reyes
- Gladys & Ty Oksuzler (Chevere)

Padres (\$500+)

- Roxanne & Ed Flecha
- Victoria Crawford
- Stephen Pruitt

Hermanos (\$250+)

- Mr. & Mrs. Robinson Bassat-Ortiz
- Mickey & Judy Golden Bentley
- Pedro & Melinda Rivera

Tios (\$100+)

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- Sandra & Ramon Acosta
- Jack & Violeta Sulsona
- Reyna Martinez
- Jenny Deleza
- Gertrude Maynard
- David & Olga Simons

Amigos (\$25+)

- Luis Sanchez
- Edwin Baez
- Zera Thompson
- Eunice Tanco
- Habana, 6th Street
- Arandas Taqueria & Restaurant
- A&A Appliance
- Irontonate

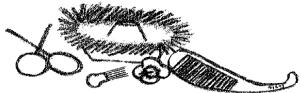
In-Kind Support

- Rosa Montoya

15228 Quiet Pond Court
Austin, Texas 78728

We're on the web!

www.prfdance.org



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Arroz con Gandules (Pigeon Pea Rice) - David Simons

1/3 cup + 1 Tbsp oil

1 - 10 oz. can of diced tomatoes (optional – diced tomatoes w/ chiles)

2 packets of Sazón Goya con Cilantro y Achiote

4 Tbsp Goya Recaito (or use another sofrito without tomato sauce in it. Sofrito is a blended mixture of peppers, onions, cilantro, and garlic.)

1 Tbsp loose or 1 large cube of chicken bouillon (caldo de pollo)

2 cans of pigeon peas (gandules)

3 lbs. medium grain rice (7 cups)

6 cups water

1 Tbsp salt

1. Mix oil, sazón, recaito(sofrito), and can of diced tomatoes in a large, heavy pot (caldero) and cook 4 – 5 minutes over medium-low heat.

2. Add 2 cans of pigeon peas (do not drain), chicken bouillon, and salt and mix well.

3. Add rice and water and mix well.

4. Bring rapidly to a boil and reduce heat to medium-low.

5. Cook uncovered until dry (no liquid remains between grains of rice)

6. Turn rice over, cover pot, reduce heat to low, and cook another 15 minutes until rice is tender.