

Ritmo Y Cultura

A newsletter by
Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center

Volume 3, Issue 6

Spring 2005

PRFDance prepares for Celebrando 2005 with William Cepeda & AfroBoricua



This year's Celebrando 2005 project will focus on the rich folklore of Loíza. With that, on Feb 16-20, 2005, we were honored to bring William Cepeda and members of AfroBoricua (Maribella Burgos, Victor Fuentes) to Austin for a week-long, master-level workshop on Bomba dance, percussion rhythms, and songs unique to Loíza, including the Seis Corrido and Corbé. We also learned about the celebrated Festival of Santiago Apostol which brings to life Loíza's historic devotion to Santiago Apostol (St. James the Apostle), a tradition first brought to the new world by colonizing Spaniards and transformed into something uniquely Puerto Rican with West African influences.

The Músicos enjoyed intense rehearsals of original traditional and experimental music written by William Cepeda, while the dancers had great fun learning the games and songs of the Baquiné, a tradition that celebrates the death of an innocent child who will surely go straight to heaven. This workshop built artistic material -- music and choreographies in both traditional and experimental styles -- that we will perform together in a joint performance June 25-26 at the State Theatre. You won't want to miss William and his team's return to Austin.

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Saludos from the Founding Director

Here we are soaring to the end of our 8th season! Did you know we are the only Puerto Rican institution in all of Texas and our four surrounding states offering ongoing performing arts programs and a professional-level performing company of dancers and musicians? This spring, we have the extreme honor of providing over 10 weekly folkloric dance, music and cultural programs for over 60 participants, ages 5 to adults!!

We recently learned that because of our central location we serve Texas cities containing 81% of the Puerto Rican population living in Texas (US Census). This includes participants from nearby cities, San Antonio to Killeen, who come to Austin each week to enjoy our ongoing programs. A growing audience from distant cities, Dallas to Houston, also come to see our big shows.

We are proud of our growth. Since 2001 we have added children and teens dance classes to our adult program offering, as well as a youth choir, a percussion class, and music ensembles for students and professionals. Our performing company can now perform a full-length production of Puerto Rico's four traditional styles all to live music!

At this time we ask you to pray with us for continued blessings. While there is so much promise, we are also entering a delicate phase as we face the end of our current lease and an inevitable location change for 2006. At this time we are doing serious study of what can we afford in today's economy, given the reality that this change will require major funding to renovate a new location, and will likely double our monthly costs. *Please consider making a donation of any size to help us build a new home.* We know with your prayers and support we will come through and make you proud!

Con cariño, su servidora,
Dr. Ana Maria Maynard, Founding Director

Remembranzas

By Carmen G. Ortiz
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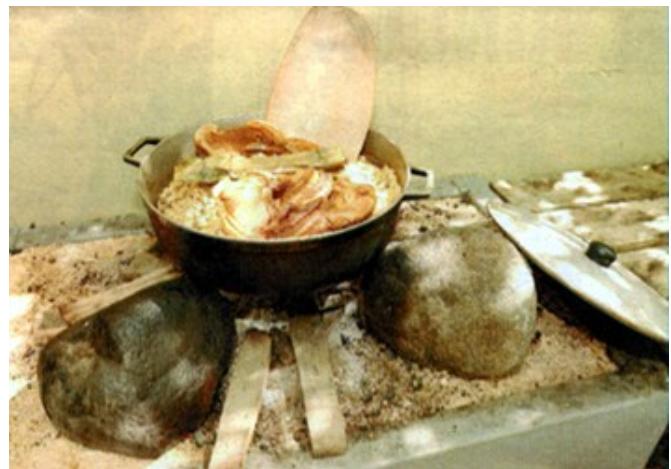
Casita de campo añorada por todos
Ausentes boricuas en el orbe, solos

No olvidaremos la isla
el olor a caballo, a la briza temprana,
ni el cantar de mi gallo

Rememora la infancia
Dulce de coco, lo criollo
El cundiamor en la mata.la gallina, los pollos
El enjambre de abejas, el zorzal, el sinsonte
la reinita, el guayacán,también el olor a monte

En el fogón de la abuela dulces manjares, hervores
La gallina que en sopa, deleitará a los que tomen
La leña, el fuego, las ditas,el pilón que con su golpe
condimentará el lechón, la marota, Oh, folklore !

Recordando viviremos
El jardín, bellas flores,
frutas frescas, yerbabuena
Isla de mis amores



From the Classroom . . .



Barrioles by Alex Georgulas

I hear. I listen. They don't see me. They concentrate on the beat, watching as the skin of the drum drains itself of vibration. The skin stops and goes silent. It starts again, the steady rhythm, the beating of drums. They know it's past time to go and they'll be tired in the morning. They don't care. The beat is so perfect you fall into a trance. You feel the beat pulsing through you. One day. One day.

My name is Alex Georgulas. One of the many things I like to do is write poetry. Taking percussion class at the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center is one of the more exciting things that I do. They teach you how to play many kinds of challenging traditional drums such as a *barril*.

A *barril* is a type of drum that comes from the Spanish word for barrel. The reason it is named after a barrel is that the drum is made from a rum barrel with a goatskin draped and tightened at the top of the drum. Then the drum is hit with your hands. The thing that makes playing these drums so fun and challenging is that there are many ways to play the drum, many hand movements that you use to hit the drum with, and you have to concentrate hard to play the drum correctly.

I joined the student percussion class very recently and my class and I have already progressed because of our wonderful teacher Dr. Ana María Maynard who, from time to time, will play with the 'official *músicos*'. They are the musicians who play for the dancers in the performances. One day I hope to be one of these *músicos* and play with them. So I will continue to come to the percussion class and will practice at home on my own drums.

Every once in a while PRFDance has a workshop for our musicians and dancers, to teach them more about Puerto Rico. Just recently William Cepeda came to teach. He brought with him two very accomplished artists, Victor Fuentes and Maribella Burgos, both members of AfroBoricua. I was invited to come and watch these professional *músicos* play in our studio. I even got to play one small drum piece along with the professionals. I enjoyed it very much – with all the beautiful music. I only hope that one day I will play like them. I am very fortunate to have been invited to take part in and hear this level of artistic creativity at work.



Celebrando 2005 - Acting Workshop With Rupert Reyes, Director Teatro Vivo

On March 25-26, 2005 PRFDancers continued our acting training, this time with Rupert Reyes, Director of Teatro Vivo. Teatro Vivo reflects the heart and soul of the Latino reality by opening a unique window for all to share in this experience. Teatro Vivo produces truly bilingual plays that are accessible to both English and Spanish speaking audiences. We enjoyed our time with Rupert and learned a lot of wonderful acting tools we can apply to our performances that bring to life Puerto Rican traditions. While you wait for our big June show, Celebrando 2005 with William Ce-peda, enjoy these photos!



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

- **American Latino Television, May 2005.**

Our performance and interview for American Latino TV (www.americanlatino.tv) will air May 2005. This documentary will educate major cities in the US and Caribbean on Puerto Rican culture and traditional music and dance. American Latino TV airs on more than 70 major markets across the country, from LA and San Francisco to every major Texas city to Chicago, Miami, New York, as well as Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

- **3rd Annual Spring Gala - May 22, 2005, 2-6pm**

This exclusive semi-formal event invites 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 features special performances by our Performing Arts students and Performing Company. Our largest donors will be recognized for their generosity! Become a [PRFDance Familia Member](#) today!

- **Celebrando 2005 with William Cepeda - June 25 (8pm) & 26th (2pm), 2005**

This year our professional-level performing company celebrates the rich culture of Puerto Rico with this unique performance featuring the folklore of Loíza. William Cepeda and AfroBoricua unite with PRFDance to bring the Festival of Loíza, the Baquine and the unique Bomba of Loíza to Austin for the first time. This all-live music and dance performance will take place June 25 (8pm) and June 26 (2pm), at the State Theater, 719 Congress Avenue in downtown Austin, Texas. Tickets on sale later this year.

- **PRFDance Familia Picnic - September 11, 2005, 2-6pm**

Our PRFDance Familia members, family and friends, will enjoy our annual "Día en el Campo," an old-fashioned event for the whole family! Come enjoy our favorite DJ spinning the hot sounds of Salsa and Merengue, play Dominoes and Briscas while children play in a deluxe playground within eye distance! Come dance Bomba to live drums!! Become a [PRFDance Familia Member](#)!

- **Sembrando Herencia 2005 - 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 lively celebration of Spanish, Taíno and West African roots will take place Sunday, December 11, 3:00pm at Journey Theatre, in the [Fine Arts Center at W. Charles Akins High School](#). More information and tickets later this year.



PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORIC 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 through 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!

2004/2005 PRFDance Familia Members

- **Padrinos (\$1000+)**

- José and Rose Irizarry
- David and Ana Maria Maynard

- **Padres (\$500+)**

- George and Terri Georgulas
- Jeff and Wendy Painter
- Claudio Bauzá and Maribel Perez-Bauzá

- **Hermanos (\$250+)**

- Federico and Julia Subervi

- **Tios (\$100+)**

- Elton Fewell and Daisy Diáz-Alemañy
- Roger and Maricarmen Nasr
- Annie Barrera
- Delois Thompson
- Ramón Acosta & Family
- Brenda and Carlos Acosta
- Ty and Gladys Oksuzler
- Pedro and Melinda Rivera
- Cathy Shavalier Chernow

- **Amigos (\$25+)**

- Virginia Barriera
- Luis and Elida Bonet
- Jaime León
- Jesse Trevino
- Armando Alvarado
- Pat Brian
- Robert Meyer
- Felix and Dolores Amaro
- Cyril and Julia McInnis
- Wayne and Desiree Hollingsworth
- Bassel and Gisselle Bekdache

Be Part of the Future!

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

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Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance Upcoming 2005 Performances & Events

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- Celebrando 2005 with William Cepeda
June 25 (8pm) & 26th (2pm), 2005
- PRFDance Familia Picnic - September 11, 2005, 2-6pm
- Sembrando Herencia 2005 - December 11, 2005, 3pm



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