

Ritmo Y Cultura

A newsletter by
Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center

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Spring 2006

Sembrando 2005

Puerto Rico Mi Patria December 11, 2005

Inside this issue:

Sembrando Herencia is our annual full-length performance that passes on our heritage to a new generation! This year Sembrando debuted our newest mini-musical *Puerto Rico Mi Patria*, our exciting "obra" of traditional music and dance that tells the story of the British Invasion of 1797. A British fleet of over 7000 men arrived for what should have been an easy victory with less than 200 trained Spanish soldiers guarding the fort. To their surprise, the British discovered the heroism of the Puerto Rican people as farmers, fisherman, and ordinary citizens came from the mountains, coastal towns, and cities to save the island! This "obra" of traditional music and dance is the product of eight months of serious historical investigation and is based on official and rare [historical references](#). Theatrical enhancements were in collaboration with Rupert Reyes, director of Teatro Vivo. Special guests include "Jaleo Flamenco" Austin's own student flamenco company, and performing arts students from Texas Empowerment Academy. During the [other half](#) of our show, our Performing Company shared the stage with our Performing Arts Students in a joyful celebration of traditional dance, music and song.



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Saludos from the Founding Director

Saludos!

We can hardly believe PRFDance is only half a year away from celebrating our 10th year! While we keep our hearts looking towards this milestone that shines before us like "El Faro" (the

lighthouse) of Cabo Rojo, we are hanging on to the sides of our little ship and working hard to bring our Institution to safe harbor. As we announced last year, the Tapestry performing arts building that has housed our one-room "little nest" for the last several years will soon be knocked down to make way for apartments! For a year we have searched for help and investigated how we could secure an affordable new home where we could take our Cultural Center to the next level. Our goal is to create a facility that is the physical presence of what we have grown to be -- one of the few in the country, and the only in all of Texas and our four surrounding states, offering ongoing performance and educational programs in Puerto Rican folklore and culture. After a long and frightening year, we would like to believe we are almost at that lighthouse. Critical lease negotiations are underway! Please pray with us.

Whatever location comes through for us, we will still need approximately \$15K for the build-out of our cultural center, including the wood floors and mirrors for our performing arts classrooms. Since our announcement last summer we have only received \$ 2K in donations! If you believe in what we do, we need your help to turn this around. PRFDance has grown at an amazing rate the last 10 years. We offer over 10 performing arts and cultural education programs in traditional dance, music, history and culture that are enjoyed by 60-70 students and professionals each week. Our performing company, which debuted with three dancers in 1998, is now a 24-member professional-level company of dancers and musicians who can perform a full-length production of Puerto Rico's traditional dances all to live music! Our website serves 2000 visitors each week searching for resources in Puerto Rican culture and history. Our quality has been validated by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture who has named us one of four active cultural centers on the mainland US affiliated by the Instituto for authentic, high-quality cultural programming.

Please demonstrate your pride and support by asking how you can be a part of PRFDance's exciting future. We need help finding cash donations, donated furniture, and volunteers to help with the construction and move!

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

Cantares

de Luis Llorens Torres
Puerto Rico 1876—1944

I

Cual palabras mensajeras,
así van mis pobres versos,
buscando siempre un nido,
buscando siempre tu seno!

II

Te conocí en el Paseo
el día de Carnaval..
eres la única persona
que no llevaba disfraz.

Sa

SURULLITOS DE MAIZ

Lilia E. Valentín

2 tazas de agua

1 1/4 cucharadita de sal

1 1/2 taza harina de maiz

1 taza de queso de bola holandes (Edam) rallado

1. Caliente el agua con la sal hasta que hierva. Retire del fuego, agregue la harina de maiz, mezcle rapidamente y cueza a fuego moderado moviendo continuamente alrededor de 3 a 5 minutos hasta que la mezcla despegue totalmente del fondo y de los lados de la cacerola.

2. Retire del fuego añada el queso rallado y mezcle bien. Inmediatamente coja la mezcla por cucharaditas y forme bolitas, presionelas con la palma de las manos para simular pequeños cigarros de alrededor de 3 pulgadas de largo.

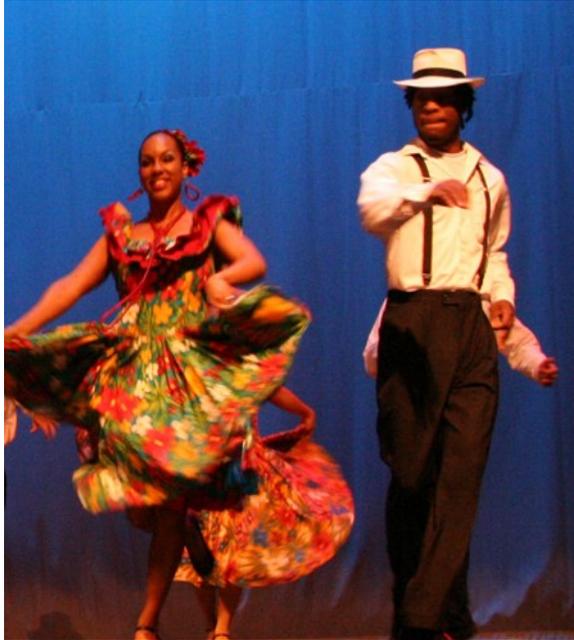
3. Friálos hasta dorarlos en abundante manteca o aceite vegetal (375 degrees F.)

Sáquelos y póngalos sobre papel absorbente.

Student Performances—Sembrando 2005

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.





The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture names Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center the 5th Affiliated Cultural Center on Mainland US!



On November 10, 2005, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture came to Austin to announce that it has named the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance and Cultural Center the 5th Affiliated Cultural Center on the Mainland US! This designation, announced in Puerto Rico in October, brings Austin on par with Chicago and Florida where the other active cultural centers are located. Affiliated Cultural Centers are recognized as the legitimate representatives of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture in their respective towns in Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican communities outside the Island. They are the preferred and natural vehicle of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture to channel cultural initiatives to the community.

The formal Austin announcement took place at Austin City Hall with the help of Austin City Councilman Raul Alvarez and Josilda Acosta from the Instituto de Cultura, who flew in from Puerto Rico for this special event. The press conference featured a live music and dance performance by members of PRFDance's professional-level performing company and cultural center students.

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ICP afilia Centro Cultural de Austin, Texas

El Dr. Jose Luis Vega, Director Ejecutivo del Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña saluda a la Dra. Ana Maria Grizzaffi Velez de Maynard, fundadora del Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance and Cultural Center (PRFDCC), organizacion cultural puertorriqueña ubicada en Austin, Texas. El PRFDCC se convierte en el quinto centro cultural boricua en los Estados Unidos afiliado al Programa de Promocion Cultural del ICP.

En 1995 el ICP crea el proyecto Casas de la Cultura en los Estados Unidos. A partir del 1996 el proyecto toma auge y se afilian dos centros ya existentes: Orlando en la Florida y Segundo Ruiz Belvis de Chicago. Ademas organizan otros dos nuevos centros: uno en Nueva York y otro en Miami.



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!

2006/2007 PRFDance Familia Members

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

- George & Terri Georgulas
- José & Rose M. Irizarry
- David & Ana Maria Maynard
- JoAnn & Rupert Reyes

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

- Richard Arocho A-C Promotions
- Claudio Bauzá & Maribel Perez-Bauzá

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

- Federico & Julia Subervi
- Pedro & Melinda Rivera
- Sandy Perkins

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

- Roger & Maricarmen Nasr
- Jackson Cruz
- David & Annie Barrera
- Reyna Martinez
- Andres Quinones
- César Salgado
- Carlos & Brenda Acosta
- Taqueria Arandas
- Ty & Gladys Oksuzler
- MusicaBoricua.com
- Gertrude Maynard
- Leticia Rodriguez & Ken Sherman

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

- Luis & 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
- Maria Ortiz Mayer
- Steven Voorhees
- Habana Restaurant
- Owen Scott
- Marjorie Hanshaw
- Chris Wilson
- Mr. & Mrs. Cyril McInnis
- Beatrice Reyes
- Isabel & Robinson Bassat-Ortiz

Be a Part of the Future!

Become a sponsor today & be a 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.

15528 Quiet Pond Court
Austin, Texas 78728

We're on the web!

www.prfdance.org



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Upcoming Performances & Events

Texas Community Music Festival—May 6, 2006, 8-9 pm—We will perform a one hour show of live music and dance for Central Market's Texas Community festival on May 6th from 8-9 m. This performance will take place on the entertainment deck at Central Market, 4001 N. Lamar near 38th Street in Austin. This event is free and open to the public. The Texas Community Music Festival is sponsored in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division.

5th Annual Spring Gala—May 21, 2006, 2-6 pm—Red Lion Hotel

This exclusive semi-formal event invites PRFDance Familia members and Industry/Local Sponsors to an elegant ballroom celebration with our Cultural Center participants and friends. This proud afternoon of music and dancing for-all features special performances by our Performing Arts students and Performing Company.

Celebrando 2006—Son Boricua - State Theater, June 24 (8pm) & 25 (2pm), 2006

Advance announcement of the "The Big One." The Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance RFD celebrates the rich culture of Puerto Rico with a unique performance—"Celebrando 2006—Son Boricua"—with special guests Gibaro direct from Puerto Rico! Join our performing company of dancers and musicians as we bring to life Puerto Rico's past with the rich "Musica de los 40s.", a musical style Rafael Hernandez and Bobby Capo made famous! Come with us back to the early 20th century for a Sunday afternoon at the Plaza, when the sounds of street vendors' "pregones" filled the air and friends danced and sang and enjoyed eating piraguas (fruit flavored shaved-ice cones)!