



COLOMBIAN FOLKLORIC BALLET
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NEWS RELEASE

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***MI COLOMBIA*, A POWERFUL AND VIVID EXPRESSION OF COLOMBIAN DANCE AND MUSIC AT THE HOUSTON'S HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

Experience the strength and passion of a living, dancing example of pride, determination, and talent at ***MI COLOMBIA* extravaganza featuring** local and international renowned artists from Colombia on Friday June 11, 2010 at 8:00 PM and on Saturday June 12, 2010 at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM at the Zilkha Hall of the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets call 713.315.2525 or visit www.thehobbycenter.org

After the remarkable standing-ovation performance at the IX Latin Grammy Award and prior years sold-out shows, the Colombian Folkloric Ballet®, in commemoration of the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Independence of Colombia, is presenting ***MI COLOMBIA***, a very powerful and vivid expression of the dance and music of the majestic country of Colombia **featuring the New York City's Cumbiamba eNeYe, the international renowned Colombian artists Jairo Lastre and Nilko Andreas, and the USA's Colombian Folkloric Ballet.** This show, with live music, projects the unified theme of cultural diversity prevailing in Colombia and enhances the understanding and appreciation of Colombian dance and music. Colombia's history, different cultural regions and themes, colorful native costumes, authentic music, and pulsating dances are all rolled together into one spectacular extravaganza: *MI COLOMBIA*.

MI COLOMBIA takes the spectator through a journey of Colombia's folkloric regions to experience their contagious music and dance, brilliant festivals, and lively carnivals that are an essential part of the vibrant landscape of Colombia.

La Cumbiamba eNeYe (www.lacumbiambaeneye.com) is a 10-piece outfit from New York City dedicated to preserving and exploring the many flavors of Afro-Colombian music. The group's debut, "Marioneta", offers up a grab bag of traditional styles and formats from Colombia's folkloric regions, with a special emphasis on the music of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. On the other hand, Jairo Lastre and Nilko Andreas have gained the acceptance of international audiences and, throughout this, a significant place in Colombia's cultural life.

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"Mi Colombia!!" - News release of May 21, 2010 - continuation

Jairo Lastre, one of the most prominent and talented dancers that has come from Colombia, began his dance training at age of ten at the Instituto Colombiano de Ballet Clasico (Incolballet) in Cali under the direction of Gloria Castro. In 1986 he joined the Fundacion Ballet de Cali as a Principal Dancer. With that company, Mr. Lastre danced leading roles in *Don Quixote*, *Coppélia*, *The Nutcraker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Giselle*, and *Swank Lake*, among others. In 1990, he was a scholarship recipient with the Houston Ballet Academy while being the Artistic Director of the USA's Colombian Folkloric Ballet. On contemporary and folkloric dances, Mr. Lastre has danced as a soloist in *Carmina Burana*, *Barrio Ballet*, *Enigma*, *Serenata Criolla*, *Alfonsina*, and *Intermezzi*, to name a few.

Nilko Andreas (www.nilkoandreas.com) has performed solo and chamber music at international renowned venues. As a composer, he has written music for independent films, theatre, and independent artists. His collaboration in 2005 with award-winning theatre group Artificio, in Federico Garcia Lorca's *The Butterfly's Evil Spell*, won him several awards and rave reviews. Most recently Nilko Andreas received the "Colombia Exterior Excellency Award" given to Colombians who have notably distinguished themselves outside their native country.

MI COLOMBIA is funded in part by a grant from the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance; sponsored by AEI International, Promigas S.A., Dunbar Harder, PLLC, and Continental Airlines; and co-sponsored by Grijalva and Allen, P.C., Univision-Channel 45, Telefutera Channel 67, ABC Channel 13, Colombian Fest, and Colombian Young Professionals Association. The Colombian Folkloric Ballet is a Uniquely Houston partner organization.

The Colombian Folkloric Ballet® (CFB) (www.cfb-usa.org) is non-profit tax-exempt organization that has established a free professional level instruction and training center in Houston. Special emphasis is placed on training youth with positive and culturally affirming activities. The CFB promotes Colombian-American cultural exchange by spreading the Colombian culture through its educational, performing and producing activities including, among others, the presentation of the sold-out musical "*Mi Colombia*" in renowned auditoriums of major American cities. The CFB is distinguished by its exceptionally talented dancers and the emphasis on acquiring and commissioning new pieces by the world's most sought-after Colombian choreographers.

The CFB was formed in 1983 by the Honorable Eberto Amador, then Consul of Colombia in Houston. Through education and performance of Colombian dance and music, CFB's mission is to create an open forum of cultural exchange and dispel the myths and misconceptions that surround the image of Colombia. The CFB has been operating in Houston for the past twenty seven years. It provides training in folkloric, classical ballet, and modern dance. In addition to its regular cultural and educational programs, the CFB grants college tuition scholarships for the professional advancement of Hispanic students of the Houston area.

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