



NEWS RELEASE

Press Contact Only: Jorge Luis González at 545-4482 or jlq@admin.umass.edu
For tickets: 413-545-2511, 800-999-UMAS or www.fineartscenter.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2012

WHAT: Ballet Hispanico
WHEN: Tuesday, April 3, 7:30 P.M., 2012
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
TICKETS: Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/pressphotos/>

BALLET HISPANICO BRINGS ITS PASSIONATE FUSION OF LATIN AND CLASSICAL DANCE TO THE FINE ARTS CENTER CONCERT HALL

"[Ballet Hispanico's] well-trained dancers are naturally theatrical and able to flesh out their technique with a sweet, unalloyed enthusiasm."

—Gia Kourlas, New York Times

Led by Eduardo Vilaro (former artistic director of Luna Negra Dance Theatre and Dance Center faculty member), Ballet Hispanico explores, preserves and celebrates Latino culture through dance. It describes itself as "the foremost dance representative of Hispanic culture in the United States." The innovative troupe brings its mix of Latin and contemporary dance forms to the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Tuesday, April 3 at 7:30 P.M. On the preceding night, in the Concert Hall lobby, members of the company will present a free Salsa workshop open to everyone who would like to learn this popular, vivacious Latin dance from some of its masters. The workshop runs from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

On the program is *Espiritu Vivo*, a new work commissioned from African-American choreographer Ronald K. Brown, which investigates the intersection of the African and Latino Diasporas in the Caribbean and Latin America, set to a suite of four songs by Peruvian singer Susana Baca. Also on the program is *Nube Blanco*, inspired by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's

childhood memories of the beautiful songs of Maria Dolores Pradera and *Club Havana*, Latin dancing at its best. The intoxicating rhythms of the Conga, Rumba, Mambo, and Cha Cha are brought to life by choreographer Pedro Ruiz and set to the music of Israel López, Rubén Gonzales, A.K. Salim, Perez Prado, and Francisco Repilado.

The Company was founded by the Venezuelan American dancer and choreographer Tina Ramirez in 1970 and has performed for more than two million people in the United States, Europe, and South America, and has a repertoire of over 75 works. The company has commissioned nearly 80 works and acquired 11 others, working with 45 choreographers from around the world. From its grassroots origins as a dance school and community-based performing arts troupe, Ballet Hispanico has grown into a world class institution. Its New York City headquarters include six beautiful dance studios.

In August 2009, Ballet Hispanico welcomed Eduardo Vilaro as its Artistic Director. A former member of the Ballet Hispanico Company, Vilaro founded and led Chicago's Luna Negra Dance Theater for ten years. Vilaro's background in dance education and community outreach allows him to build on the core values established by Ms. Ramirez to bring Ballet Hispanico into an artistically vibrant future.

The Ballet Hispanico Company performs a diverse repertory by the foremost choreographers of our time as well as emerging artists. The works fuse Latin dance with classical and contemporary techniques to create a new style of concert dance in which theatricality and passion propel every move. The choreographers represent a multitude of nationalities including Venezuela, Cuba, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia. The Company has offered over 3,350 performances throughout 11 countries, on 3 continents.

Tickets for Ballet Hispanico are \$15, \$30, and \$35 (\$10 for Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under). Tickets are available online at fineartscenter.com or by calling 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS. The performance is sponsored Baystate Medical Practices, *El Sol Latino*, UnityFirst.com, *Domingos de Parranda*, and WGBY-TV.

A limited number of press passes are available to credentialed reporters by contacting Shawn Farley, Director of Marketing, at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu.

–END–