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***Joan Soriano + Puerto Plata: The Roots of Bachata***  
**A night of authentic bachata and son at the Latino Cultural Center**  
**Saturday, February 19, 2011 @ 8 PM**

Dallas (January 21, 2011) – The rhythms of the Dominican Republic take over the Latino Cultural Center on Saturday, February 19, 2011 when two extraordinary Dominican musicians, Joan Soriano and Puerto Plata, join forces for an evening of bachata and son. The one-night concert brings together an old-time veteran of the Dominican guitar tradition (Puerto Plata) with a young grittier bachatero (Joan Soriano). The two musicians, accompanied by a 7-member band, will give the audience a unique perspective of Dominican music in all its forms – bolero, merengue, ranchera, mangulina, bachata and son.

Tickets to the concert are \$15 and are available online at [brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) (hyperlink <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/141287>) (credit cards) or at the door (cash or check). The Latino Cultural Center is located at 2600 Live Oak, in downtown Dallas (1.5 blocks north of the DART Deep Ellum station). For additional information, please contact (214) 671-0045.

Bachata, one of Latin music's most popular styles, has its roots in the rural areas of the Dominican Republic. This guitar-based music is essential to Dominican culture and draws upon a variety of influences from Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. This lively music was repressed during the three decades of the Rafael Trujillo regime in the Dominican Republic; musicians like Puerto Plata kept it alive all those years allowing it to be rediscovered by younger generations.

“We are thrilled to introduce these two remarkable musicians to the Dallas community,” notes María Muñoz-Blanco, Dallas’ director of Cultural Affairs and acting general manager of the Latino Cultural Center. “Their talent and authenticity are extraordinary; this will be an evening of bachata like you’ve never heard before!”

Soriano plays steel string bachata with equal parts romance and grit. Unlike the highly polished contemporary interpretations of bachata, Soriano’s music is permeated by Afro-infused rhythms and preserves the essence of the sweet bitterness of unrequited love that characterizes old-time bachata. Puerto Plata combines the wisdom of a charming but tough grandfather with the astounding vigor one would expect of a much younger man; his music takes us back to the time when son, merengue and música jíbara were regional variations of Afro-Spanish fusion.

Joan Soriano was born in 1972 in the rural countryside near Santo Domingo, the capital city of the Dominican Republic. The seventh of 15 children, he left school to help farm the family’s land. He fashioned his first guitar from a tin can and fishing line, and formed a band with his young brothers and sisters to perform at neighborhood events. Nicknamed “Los Candes” (after their father Candelario) the band became a local sensation. At age 13 Joan hitched a ride to Santo Domingo, where he went on to nurture his talent working with some of the island’s greatest bachata stars. In the 1990s the owner of the highly rated radio station Radio Guarachita, Radhamés Aracena, took him under his wing and produced his first solo single. In September 2010, iASO Records released Soriano’s first international CD, *El Duque de*

*la Bachata*. Soriano has been featured on the *Rough Guide to the Bachata* and on the documentary *Santo Domingo Blues* as well as performed and recorded with big name bachata musicians such as Joe Veras and Zacarias Ferreira.

Puerto Plata's life story is equally compelling. Born José Cobles in 1923 in the Dominican resort town of Puerto Plata, he lost his mother at an early age and by age 16 was working as a carpenter for United Fruit Company. He bought his first guitar when he was 24, and by age 27 settled in Santiago, the island's second largest city. It was in Santiago that he acquired his nickname, Puerto Plata, and where his lifelong commitment to music takes root. Under the rule of Rafael Trujillo (1930-1960), Dominican musicians were largely blocked from recording and so, like other popular singers of the time, Puerto Plata found eager audiences at the underground cabaret dance halls of Dominican Santiago's red light districts. The passage of time and Puerto Plata's resilience have managed to preserve some of the Dominican Republic's sweetest melodies and romantic lyrics, often with a wry, twinkling sense of cabaret humor. In 2007 his first internationally distributed album, *Mujer de Cabaret*, was released by iASO Records to critical acclaim in the *New York Times*; his follow-up record, *Casita de Campo*, was selected by *National Geographic* as one of the 10 best albums of 2009.

*Joan Soriano + Puerto Plata: The Roots of Bachata* is made possible with the support of the City of Dallas through the Office of Cultural Affairs; Texas Commission on the Arts; BBVA Compass and the Friends of the LCC. Air transportation provided by American Airlines. The concert is presented in partnership with the Making Connections, Inc. and the Sociedad Cultural Dominicana de DFW. Special thanks to Benjamin de Menil, executive producer and founder of iASO Records.

**The Latino Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs.** The mission of the Latino Cultural Center is to serve as a catalyst for the preservation, development and promotion of Latino arts and culture in Dallas.

LCC hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and evenings for performing arts events. For additional information please call (214) 671-0045 or visit our web site at [www.dallasculture.org/latinocc](http://www.dallasculture.org/latinocc).

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## ARTISTS PHOTOS



Joan Soriano  
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Puerto Plata

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