

“CUBANIA: A CELEBRATION OF CUBAN DANCE HERITAGE” OCTOBER 7-9, 2022

RUMBA COLUMBIA (no partnering, all levels)

Friday night, 7 pm - 8 pm with Wilfredo Guilbiac

Columbia was originally a men’s style of dancing but today both men and women may dance columbia. The dance is a form of rumba which involves no partner connection – instead, the dancer is improvising with the musicians, and in particular, the quinto player. Think strong, powerful, and percussive movements with an emphasis on footwork and strong lines. This dance has contributed greatly to men’s styling within the salsa format.

RUMBA GUAGUANCO (no partnered connection, all levels)

Friday night, 8 pm - 9 pm with Wilfredo Guilbiac

Rumba is an Afro-Cuban dance and music, and guaguanco is one of the most popular styles. This is a fluid and rhythmic but its concept represents a sensual game of chase between men and women, danced playfully but without physical connection. Instead, the male dancer tries to “vacunar” the female dancer with a swift gesture of the feet or hands, often making use of his “panuelo” or handkerchief, who blocks his attempts using her hands or “salla” (long skirt or scarf). Guaguanco has contributed greatly to salsa music and dance.

REGGAETON (no partnering, all levels)

Saturday morning, 1030 am - 11 am with Anaya Latin Dance

Reggaeton is a musical genre popular throughout the Caribbean and particularly in Cuba where it has evolved into a regional dance style. This class will feature isolations of the chest, shoulders, and hips in rhythm with steps highlighting the music and dance’s characteristic Cuban swagger. Some of the movements may also be used in the later “Salsa Partnerwork Musicality” workshop and is the perfect warm up for the morning.

SON (partners, all levels)

Saturday morning, 11 am – 12 pm with Anaya Latin Dance

Son is perhaps the least widely known yet simultaneously most influential genre of Cuban music and dance, as it is the direct and most clearly linked antecedent to salsa, mambo, and chachacha and is an inspiration for numerous other forms both musically (Congolese rumba) and choreographically (Ballroom rumba). The dance may be fast or slow and is both elegant and sensual. This class will focus on a partnerwork combination. This said, this class will include some son suelto (without partner) movements which may be used in the animations of the evening concert, and will also feature “saloneos” and “tornillos” (virtuosic still turns), which are discussed in the subsequent class and may also be used within salsa dancing.

SALSA PARTNERWORK MUSICALITY (partners, all levels)

Saturday Morning, 12 pm – 1 pm with Anaya Latin Dance

This class will focus on strategies for recognizing the different rhythms and musical development of a salsa or timba song, including how to begin a dance, when to use “saloneos” or simple repeating basics, when to use “figuras” or turn patterns, when to use movements from mambo, son, and other dances such as rumba or reggaeton, when to free the partner and use free steps, and more. This class will teach dancers how to effectively and enjoyably dance both *with* salsa and timba music and *with* a partner, rather than spending the duration of a song only spinning through a series of turn patterns and making the lady dizzy. As the saying goes, “*El que culpa la orquesta no sabe bailar*”!

SALSA SUELTA (no partners, intermediate)

Saturday Afternoon, 2 pm – 3 pm with Wilfredo Guilbiac

“Salsa suelta” is salsa dancing without partners! Expect a short routine with lots of footwork, body movement, musicality, and inspiration drawn from the full spectrum of Cuban dances. Dance experience recommended!

“CUBANIA: A CELEBRATION OF CUBAN DANCE HERITAGE” OCTOBER 7-9, 2022

RUEDA DE CASINO (changing partners, intermediate)

Saturday Afternoon, 3 pm – 4 pm, with Wilfredo Guilbiac

Rueda de casino is the group formation of casino, or Cuban salsa. Casino and rueda de casino experience is required in order to ensure a fun class for everyone present, and beginner salsa dancers should instead attend our evening salsa workshop. This “rueda de casino” class will focus on short partnered figures and fun, dynamic movements involving the whole group of dancers.

BEGINNER SALSA (beginners, in partners)

Saturday Evening, 6 pm – 7 pm, with Anaya Latin Dance

This beginner class is the perfect introduction to Cuban salsa! Dancers will learn basic steps and coordination in partners, starting from the very top. Expect to get on the dance floor the same night! Partner rotation is optional and bringing a partner is recommended to ensure an even balance.

AFRO-CUBAN TECHNIQUE (no partnering, all levels)

Sunday Morning, 1030 am – 11 am, with Felix Bambury-Webbe

This class will warm up the body, mind, and ear for the subsequent workshops on this day. This class will help dancers connect with the pulsating flow, divided torso, and grounded postures which are an essential part of the Afro-Cuban influence on Latin dance.

GAGA (no partnering, all levels)

Sunday Morning, 11 am – 12 pm, with Felix Bambury-Webbe

Gaga is an Afro-Haitian dance popular on Cuban’s eastern side, where these traditions are indigenized and where the instructor is from, which has deep Haitian roots. The music traditionally induces a trance-like state and the dance itself is simple but highly energetic. This class will also include an optional performance opportunity the same evening for selected dancers who would like to demonstrate what was learned, with costumes provided ladies.

ELEGGUA (no partnering, all levels)

Sunday Morning, 12 pm – 1 pm, with Wilfredo Guilbiac

Eleggua is one of the most important and most celebrated Orishas of the Yoruba tradition, originally from Nigeria and popular throughout the Caribbean and in particular, in Cuba. Eleggua is a child who is responsible for opening new paths. This Afro-Cuban dance is playful and white a part of both religion and folkloric tradition, Eleggua’s movements are sometimes incorporated into popular dance contexts, in choreography or when musical or lyrical references are made.

MAMBO (no partnering, all levels)

Sunday Afternoon, 2 pm – 3 pm, with Anaya Latin Dance

Mambo is a Cuban music and dance form that has become popular all around the world. Dancers will learn fun and easy steps from the original Cuban mambo, without partners. These movements can be incorporated into salsa dancing and will also be used in the fun animations to take place during the evening concert with Uno Jazz Orchestra, playing classic songs from the golden age of mambo.

CHACHACHA (no partnering, all levels)

Sunday Afternoon, 3 pm – 4 pm, with Anaya Latin Dance

Chachacha is a another Cuban music and dance form that has become popular all around the world. Dancers will learn the basics of chachacha without partnering. It is recommended, but not required, to also attend the Saturday “Son” class in order to practice dancing on “contratiempo” timing, which is also used for chachacha. These movements can be incorporated into salsa dancing and will also be used in the fun animations to take place during the evening concert with Uno Jazz Orchestra, playing many original mid-century chachachas.