

The Afro-Latin Project

Ed East, publicist
Artes Latinas
135 Cornwall Avenue
Waterloo, IA 50702
(319) 235-2819

April 9, 2007

RELEASE AT WILL

LATIN AMERICAN SONG, DRUMS, AND DANCE ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM

The Afro-Latin Project is an ensemble that performs music and dances of Latin America. The ensemble specializes in the music and dances influenced by the African presence in Latin America. The ensemble was formed in 2005 and has been awarded two grants by the Iowa Arts Council. Their performances have been well received and have been requested by colleges and universities in New York, Rhode Island, Texas, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Iowa.

The director of the Afro-Latin Project, Ed East, a native of Panama, conceived of the idea of creating the ensemble after returning from a trip to Cuba, where he and a group of University of Iowa teachers and students spent time studying Afro-Cuban folkloric music and dances. The Afro-Latin Project's repertoire consists of music from Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The members of the ensemble are a mixture of Latin American and U.S. citizens who share an intense love of the African-rooted cultures and musical traditions of the Americas. The Afro-Latin Project presents sacred and secular pieces, always featuring the joyous and uplifting sounds which are a hallmark of African musical traditions.

###END