

Los Llaneros

www.losllaneros.com

ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL AND BIOGRAPHY



Karin Stein (Colombian)
musical director, lead vocals, cuatro, guitar, tiple,
miscellaneous ethnic wind instruments, small
percussion

Edgar East (Panamanian)
vocals, maracas, Latin percussion, flute, guitar,
miscellaneous ethnic wind instruments, bass

Daniel Rojas (Colombian)
harp, cuatro, maracas, vocals, percussion

Depending on venue, a fourth musician is included

LOS LLANEROS (yah-NEH-ros) specialize in the music of the Colombian/Venezuelan plains that surround the vast basin of the Orinoco River. These plains are called Llanos (YAH-nos). The music of this geographically and culturally unique area has evolved over the last 500 years, beginning with the contact between nomadic Indians and Jesuit settlers. Authentic *Llanero* music is rarely performed outside of these savannas because of its difficult harp, cuatro, and percussion techniques, and hence it remains one of Latin America's best kept secrets. In addition to *Llanero* music, Los Llaneros include music from other areas of Colombia and Venezuela in their concerts.

The ensemble was founded in 1978 and consists of Karin Stein (Colombian), Edgar East (Panamanian), and Daniel Rojas (Colombian). All three artists have performed internationally for twenty to thirty years, both as members of Los Llaneros, as well as with other ensembles and as soloists. Los Llaneros often tour as a quartet.

Los Llaneros have won several awards at international music competitions held in Latin America. Daniel Rojas, the ensemble's harpist, is recognized as one of Colombia's foremost specialists in *Llanero* music. He has recorded numerous albums as a soloist and won several prizes for his virtuosity. Karin Stein, artistic director of Los Llaneros, has gained notoriety for her voice and her compositions. In 2004 one of her albums received a Parents' Choice "Recommended" Award in the U.S.A. Edgar East, multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and arranger, is known for his arrangements of Latin music for *salsa* and Latin jazz bands, school orchestras, and marching bands.

This first-rate, lively ensemble most commonly performs formal concerts but adjusts just as easily to informal and outdoor settings. Los Llaneros have played for audiences of twenty thousand people and given workshops to groups of fifteen. They have played at large theaters, museums, outdoor festivals, diplomatic receptions, and private homes. In other words, the group adapts easily to most settings, and its powerful and charming stage presence is enjoyed by all.

Sample Venues

Green Valley Recreation, Green Valley, AZ * The Miramar Cultural Center, Miramar, FL * The Los Angeles Music Center - Los Angeles, CA * Lotus Blossoms - Lotus Festival, Bloomington, IN * ArteVida International Folk Festival, Berea, KY * Rainforest World Music Festival, Kuching, Malaysia * The Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Hilton Head, NC * University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX * The Newmark Theater (together with Do Jump! - www.dojump.org, Portland, OR) * Pinedale Arts Council, Pinedale, WY * Redlands Bowl, Redlands, CA * Teatro Melico Salazar, San José, Costa Rica * Festival Llanero, Villavicencio, Colombia * Teatro Colon, Bogotá, Colombia * Festival de Arpas, Xalapa, Mexico * Janesville Concert Association, Janesville, WI * University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO * Armstrong Atlantic University, Savannah, GA * The South Florida Folk Festival, Ft. Lauderdale, FL * Festival del Joropo, Caracas, Venezuela * Festival de Arpas, Asunción, Paraguay