

Conjunto Nuevo Milenio, Inc

"New Millenium Panamanian Performing Arts Company"

About the Company



P.O. Box 160067, Brooklyn, NY, 11216

Celebrating Panamanian Dance, Culture, and Traditions

Mission

Conjunto Folklórico Nuevo Milenio is a Panamanian folkloric dance ensemble that performs choreographed versions of the nation's traditional dances, thus portraying various aspects of Panamanian life. Panama's people, custom, and influences reach beyond its borders; Panama's history is a global history.

Panamanians have been an established community in the United States, and we continue to grow. As an organization, CNM strives to reach out to other communities and expose them to the beauty of our heritage.

The Company's History

The first choreographed work was at the Panamanian Consulate to commemorate Panamanian involvement in the NY Yankees 1998 World Series in, the group proudly displayed the beauty of Panamanian folkloric dance.

As the result of the increased need to publicly recognize Panamanian folkloric visual expressions, the company was founded in 2004, and has continued to perform with the desires to contribute to the overall celebration of Panamanian nationalism and pride on the public stage throughout New York and the United States.

Partnership

- Brooklyn Arts Council—Folk Arts Program
- Panamanian Civic Committee
- Panamanian Folkloric Conference in the USA

Awards

- 2009 Brooklyn Community Arts Re-grant Award—Brooklyn Arts Council.. Brooklyn Images from Congo to Cucua: Wearing and Dancing the Traditions of Panama.
- 2008 Brooklyn 2008 NYC Department of Cultural Affairs award—Brooklyn Arts Council/ NYCDCA
- 2007 National Competition of Folkloric Groups, Adults, 2nd place—The Latino Issues Convention & Expo.
- 2007 Dama Internacional de la Pollera (2nd) & Concurso de camisilla (3rd) - XI Folkloric conference in Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2006 Brooklyn Community Arts Re-grant Award—Brooklyn Arts

Performance Highlights

- **Annual Panamanian Folkloric Conference (Encuentros Folkloricos)** -An international US-based Panamanian folk music and dance conference, New York , 2008,Norfolk, VA (2007), Orlando, FL (2006), Washington, DC (2005). Conjunto Nuevo Milenio will serve as the host in New York 2009.
- **Bullerengue: Afro Latino Celebration from Panama to Brooklyn-** Lecture/Demonstration of the origins, traditions, dances, attire and other rituals that take place. Lecture/Demo August 16 at Brooklyn Public Library and Bunde In Brooklyn Performance December 14, Holy Cross Church, 2008. Sponsored by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and Brooklyn Arts Council/ NYCDCA.
- **Annual Panamanian Independence Day Celebration in New York**—Presented by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and the Panamanian Civic Committee of Brooklyn, NY. November 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, and 2004,

Continued next page



Performance Highlights

- **Wedding Vows from the Heart of the Universe: Wedding traditions from Central Panama**—Concert and dramatic presentation of a Panamanian traditional *Ocu* wedding. This program was made possible due to the Brooklyn Arts Regrant Award from the Brooklyn Arts Council and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in conjunction with supporting funds from the Brooklyn public Library, Brooklyn, NY, October 14, 2006.
- **NYC Culture Fest 2006**—Artist representatives for the Brooklyn Arts Council Folk Arts Program
Battery Park, New York, NY, October 2006
- ***Folk Feet* at Queens Public Library**
Artist Representatives for the Brooklyn Arts Council Folk Arts Program, Queens, NY, October 2006
- ***Annual Panamanian Independence Day Parade***
Brooklyn, NY, October 2006, 2005
- ***Festival de la Pollera en Nueva York***
A celebration of the Pollera, the national dress of Panama, New York, NY, Summer 2006
- ***El día de la etnia negra (National Panamanian Black Pride Day)***
An annual celebration, Brooklyn, NY, September 2006, 2005, 2004
- ***Brooklyn Arts Council Community Arts Regrant Awards Ceremony***
Brooklyn, NY, March 2006
- **Performance for the Honorable Juan Carlos Navarro, Mayor of Panama City, Panama**
New York, NY, October 2005
- ***Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Summer Outdoors, A Folk Feet Performance***
Representatives of the Brooklyn Arts Council Folk Arts Program, New York, NY, August 2005

•**Tarde Criolla**

A benefit performance held for the plight of Panamanian children

Conjunto Nuevo Milenio has made regular appearances and is available for booking public and private functions including weddings, churches, corporations, civic organizations, and schools.

Company Repertoire

Dances/Bailes : •Tambores (Norte, Corridos, y Bufos), •Cumbias (Santeña, Chorrerana, Atravesao), •Punto

•Espina, •Congo, •Cumbia Por Veinticinco, •Denesa, •Contradanza, •Valdivieso (Arreglo coreográfico),
•Mejoranas

Ballets : •*Boda Ocueña & Saracunde*.



Performance & Educational Packets

CNM is available for private and public functions sponsored by corporations, civic organizations, schools, weddings, and churches. We can provide the following educational packets, all based on Panamanian traditional dance, music, and visual expressions, and tailored to fit the specific needs of the site's audience:

- **Lecture Demonstrations for School Assemblies**

An overview of the history and uniqueness of Panama with a presentation of folkloric dances from various provinces. An explanation of the traditional garments of several regions, and a history of the Panama Canal and its construction.

- **Evening and Weekend Family Programs**

An extended version of the lecture demonstration, however with information provided in greater detail to cover specific aspects of Panamanian history

- **Full Concerts**

One- to two-hour dance and music presentations representative of Panama's diverse regions. Musical instruments include live musical accompaniment with a vocalist, the traditional drums of Panama, and the accordion along with options to include contemporary Latin sounds of the piano and pre-recorded music. Please refer to the attached list of dances to view the company's repertoire that covers a range of dances from a wide array of Panama's regions.

- **Theatrical Dramatizations with Music and Dance (Full Ballets)**

CNM presents plays and ballets that recreate nostalgic regional traditions of the people of Panama. Performances include stories about a wedding of the Ocu region, a dance drama of the Afro-Latin legend of Saracunde, and mini-scenes that highlight everyday Panamanian life in events such as the *pindin* party. Please contact us for more details and specific requests.

- **Folkloric Music and Dance Workshops**

An opportunity for individuals to experience the traditional dances and music of Panama by working with members of CNM in private groups. Learn specific dances, sing the songs as a part of the chorus during a dance, or customize your own Panamanian *saloma*, or vocal call with the artistic director.

- **Hands-on Folkloric Crafts Workshops**

Learn to make *diablito* masks or leather *cutarras* (shoes), or develop an eye for arranging the highly recognized Panamanian *tembleque* hair ornaments in a workshop designed to expose you to the beauty of traditional crafts. Workshops can be tailored to small to medium size groups of



Director's Biography

Alberto Gonzalez

A national of the Republic of Panama, Alberto Gonzalez is the co-founder, artistic director, choreographer and historian for *Conjunto Nuevo Milenio*. He began his dance training at age 5 and studied with many prominent traditional dancers, musicians throughout the Republic of Panama. His career as a professional dancer began at the age of 18 with the Conjunto Música, Danza y Tradición of the University of Panama at Colon. Under the direction of the late *Hector Hooper*, Gonzalez performed with the *Panamanian National Folkloric Ballet* and for seven years toured throughout South America and Europe, electrifying audiences with his performances while developing his own movement style. In 1990, Alberto received his degree in Public Administration from the University of Panama and migrated to New York City. Since moving to New York, he has collaborated with numerous organizations and folkloric groups to help promote Panama's folklore and regional dances in the United States. In 2004, Alberto Gonzalez co-founded *Conjunto Nuevo Milenio*. His constant dedication to Panama's folklore has helped propel the group forward from its inception as the company performs at numerous recognized venues throughout New York City and the United States. Gonzalez's next goal is to form a Panamanian folkloric dance academy in New York.



Company Members

Concepcion "Conchita" Alvarado

Frankie Barria

Leonel Barria

Silvia Chifundo

Marva Espinosa

Edalio Galarza

Dr. Angela Fatou Gittens

Glenn Mesu Ra Gittens

Nuria Quiñones

Milvia Tejada

Chamara Tomlinson

Gloria Wilson

Oni Wilson

Use this link to read bios:

http://conjuntounuevomilenio.homestead.com/CNMweb2007/CNM2007EnglishAlbum/Dancers_Musicians2007/w7biosmain.html