

# Discovery Theater

pre

## Borinquen!

## Music and Dance Of Puerto Rico

### WHO ARE GRUPO COROZO?

Corozo is a musical group that interprets folkloric music from the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. The group consists of talented professionals dedicated to promote the Puerto Rican culture through its music. Corozo's music includes "plena, bomba, seis, danza, decima" and other rhythms of Puerto Rican folk music. The group also interprets popular music from Puerto Rico and other Latin American countries to cater to the cultural diversity of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. For additional information please call Jose Lopez-Merced at 202-415-9613, or contact us via email at: [joselo@patriot.net](mailto:joselo@patriot.net) or [japerez21@grupocorozo.com](mailto:japerez21@grupocorozo.com).

### WHO IS RAÍCES DE BORINQUEN

The mission of Raices de Borinquen is to promote the appreciation and preservation of the Taíno Indian, Spanish, and West African roots and culture through the performance of Puerto Rican folkloric dances and music, particularly in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington DC. The represent, teach, and disseminate their rich culture by dancing traditional Puerto Rican musical genres such as "la Bomba", "la Plena", "la Danza", and "el Seis".

### BOMBA AND PLENA IN PUERTO RICO

Although usually grouped together, bomba y plena are actually two entirely different types of music that are coupled with dance.

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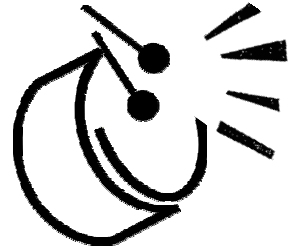
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See our website for tickets, location, directions, resources for teachers, and much more!

## Snapshot of Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is an island in the Caribbean that is about three times the size of Rhode Island. The capital is San Juan. Almost four million people live on the island. Geographically, the island is divided by mountains in the north and west and sandy beaches on the coast. El Yunque National Rainforest is the only tropical forest in the United States National Park System and is located southeast of San Juan near the city of Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.



The first inhabitants of Puerto Rico were the Taino. However, when the Spanish arrived on the island in 1493, the Taino were enslaved and forced to live and work in harsh conditions. This resulted in the slow disappearance of the Taino people. The Spanish imported slaves from Africa until about 1873, when slavery was abolished by the Spanish monarchy.

In 1898, as a result of the Spanish loss during the Spanish-American war, Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States. In 1917, Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship and in 1952 were allowed to have their own government. Today, the island is part of the U.S. Commonwealth.

## Vocabulary

**Bomba** (1) Afro-Puerto Rican music and dance often found in salsa and Latin jazz. (2) The name of drums similar to the Cuban *tumbadora*.

**Conga** (1) A single-headed, medium-pitched, barrel-shaped drum featured in Cuban music, salsa, and Latin jazz. (2) A ballroom dance developed in Europe and in the United States in the late 1930s that incorporated a simplified version of the *comparsa*, or street conga dancing, from Cuban carnivals.

**Güicharo** Another term for the *güiro*, its Puerto Rican and Cuban cousin, but with thinner grooves than those of the Cuban *güiro*.

**Paila** A term for a smaller version of the Cuban *timbales*.

**Pandereta** A hand-held drum like a tambourine. It often comes in a set of two or three but does not have jingles. The *pandereta* is characteristic of Puerto Rico's *plena* style.

**Plena** An Afro-Puerto Rican rhythm and vocal genre traditionally played with *panderetas* with lyrics containing humor, satire, and social commentary.

**Salsa** A musical style that developed primarily in New York City and other urban centers in Colombia, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico in the early 1970s. Its rhythmic foundations stem from Cuban music genres, such as *son*, *mambo*, and *rumba*.

**Timbales** Two round metal single-headed drums similar in shape to the snare drum and played with sticks on the head or shell (*la cáscara*). Timbales, used as substitutes for the timpani, first gained popularity in *danzón* orchestras.

**Tumbadora** The Cuban name for the conga drum.



## Related Resources

- [www.rhythmweb.com](http://www.rhythmweb.com) – learn about percussion from many cultures and this is only the beginning! What is a djembe? a doumbek? Find answers here.
- [welcome.topuertorico.org/index.shtml](http://welcome.topuertorico.org/index.shtml) – website exploring Puerto Rico's people, culture, history, food, and more.
- <http://www.elboricua.com/BoricuaKids.html> - History of **Puerto Rico**, children songs, coloring sheets, and so much more!
- <http://www.mamalisa.com> – has lots of great Puerto Rican song for kids!
- [www.putumayo.com](http://www.putumayo.com) – a company dedicated to introducing people (including kids!) to World Music. Latin and Afro-Latino CDs, kids' activity kits, classroom kits and more.

Discovery Theater and the Smithsonian Latino Center present Borinquen! Music and Dance Of Puerto Rico.