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## Latino Arts Holiday Event Features:

### "Sparkling Strings" and a Mercado of Vibrant Handicrafts

Latin America's rich and varied cultural legacies will lend a unique character to Latino Arts' celebration of the holiday season on Friday, **December 2, 2005**.

Beginning at 5:00 PM in the Latino Arts Gallery, visitors can choose from a wide selection of one-of-a-kind gifts at a special holiday Mercado Navideño (Christmas market) of items for sale. Featured is a beautifully fashioned selection of knits, weavings, and jewelry from Peru, as well as quality art pieces by Latin American artists and lovingly crafted ceramics by members of the UCC's senior center and Bruce Guadalupe Community School students. The Mercado will be running **through December 22**.

At 7:00 in the Latino Arts Auditorium, Latino Arts will present "Sparkling Strings", a lively concert of works for cello and guitar that highlights the talents of two gifted Cuban-born classical musicians, Ana Ruth Bermúdez and Rene Izquierdo, who now make their homes in Milwaukee. The program will focus on Iberoamerican compositions by Manuel de Falla, Enrique Granados, and Astor Piazzolla - works grounded in the European tradition and warmed by Latin American influences.

Ana Ruth Bermúdez has played in the International Chamber Orchestra of Moscow and in the Havana Chamber Orchestra, becoming Artistic Director in 1991. She taught cello at Havana's National School of Music and Cuba's Higher Institute of Arts, as well as in Caracas, Venezuela at the Conservatorio de Musica Simon Bolivar and the Instituto Universitario de Estudios Musicales. Since moving to the United States in 2000, she has been teaching at various programs throughout Milwaukee, including the Center for Strings, the United Community Center, the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, as well as maintaining a private studio, performing in several ensembles, giving solo recitals, and performing as a member of the Skylight Opera Orchestra.

A member of the guitar faculty at UW-Milwaukee, René Izquierdo graduated from the Amadeo Roldan Conservatory and Superior Institute of Art in Havana, where he studied with renowned guitarist Jesus Ortega. He also holds a Master of Music and an Artist Diploma from Yale University School of Music. A finalist in the 2004 JoAnne Falletta International Guitar Concerto Competition, Izquierdo has appeared as a guest soloist and in chamber music concerts throughout North America and Europe. In 2004, he played the US premiere of "The Divan of Moses Ibn-Ezra" by Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Currently, he is recording his debut CD with Luthier Music Corporation.

The Latino Arts, Inc. Gallery and Auditorium are located in the United Community Center at 1028 South 9th Street on the near South Side of Milwaukee. Tickets to the concert \$20 adults; \$15 for seniors (60+) and \$10 for full time students. To purchase tickets, call 414-384-3100 or visit the Latino Arts website at [www.latinoartsinc.org](http://www.latinoartsinc.org).

Latino Arts also offers its audiences services that few other arts presenters can match, including - for a small charge - on-site childcare on performance nights (48-hour notice is required) and free shuttle service between the UCC's secure parking lot at 6th and Washington and the front door.

### About Latino Arts, Inc.

With roots going back more than 20 years, Latino Arts, Inc. was formally established in 1997. Since then, this organization has brought cultural awareness, artistic and educational experiences, and a diversity of Hispanic artists from throughout the Spanish-speaking world to share their talents with the greater Milwaukee community.