

MarKamusic

www.markamusic.com

Ph: (413) 549-9155

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW ENGLAND MUSICAL LATIN ENSEMBLE BLENDS
ANCIENT SOUTH AMERICAN FOLKLORE WITH MODERN
CARIBBEAN AND WESTERN MOTIFS**

The Latin-Andean folk-fusion group **MarKamusic** will perform on ___/___/___(d/m/y) at ___:
___(time-am/pm) at _____(Location address)

MarKamusic performs traditional, folkloric and pop music of South and Latin American origin, fused with Latin jazz and western textures and instruments. The group has played its unique repertoire at international-music festivals, educational events in schools, museums, and cultural institutions; and in folk, jazz and world beat clubs all across the Eastern United States.

MarKamusic is composed of three salsa, Latin Jazz and Urban-Hip-Hop musicians from Puerto Rico, an Uruguayan rock and funk multi-instrumentalist, a Peruvian pop and traditional multi-instrumentalist scholar and a north American multi-instrumentalist klezmer, world and jazz musician. Together, they play chiefly original Folk/Pop/Latin/funk amalgams based on Andean, Caribbean, Latin and Afro-South American themes on an eclectic array of nearly fifty ancient and modern instruments. During its performances, **MarKamusic** accents the contributions of the four major cultural influences that have shaped modern Latin American music—the indigenous South American, the West African, the Euro-Iberian, and the contemporary North American. Traditional rhythms and melodic forms from these diverse cultures intermingled over the centuries, creating much of what is Latin American popular music today.

MarKamusic's musical purpose is to drive home to its audiences that America is larger than just the United States: that America, in fact, extends from Alaska to the southernmost tip of Chile. The members of **MarKamusic** also feel that the diverse cultures of the Americas— tied by history and geography, but separated by politics and language—can effectively be reconciled by the sharing (indeed, by the merging) of their many musical expressions. **MarKamusic**'s musicians: one Peruvian, three Puerto Ricans, one Ecuadorian and one Guatemalan represent the potential of this harmonious exchange.

For more information on this event, call:(-Please add your info here-)

*For more information on **MarKamusic** please contact:*

*Freddy Chapelliquen at the **MarKamusic** management office Ph: (413) 549-9155. You can also visit their web site www.markamusic.com or send the band an at EMAIL at **Freddy@markamusic.com***

MarKamusic

Notes on an improbable alliance (shortened version)

By Freddy Chapelliquen

In the beginning, the six-piece ensemble, "**MarKamusic**" had been performing its unique "Pan-Andean World Beat" music before multi-cultural audiences across the United States. From its conception as an ensemble of South American music, the group expanded its repertoire to include music from other Latin genres, saxophones, electric instruments, and jazz drums complementing the bamboo flutes and diminutive Indian guitars of the folkloric music in marvelous, if sometimes off-beat, ways.

Since then, **MarKamusic's** musical selections have emerged as a combination of many themes: their own interpretation of ancient Andean aboriginal melodies; songs arising from the twentieth-century Latin American struggle for Political peace; the sometimes jarring, sometimes hypnotic *Música Negroide* of Peru; of folk-rock protest music—banned in the mid 1970s under pain of death by the military Juntas; and a handful of favorite Caribbean and Latin-American torch songs and high-energy pop tunes. The sum of it all is that chairs are often empty or kicked over at the end of the night: everyone is up on their feet, prancing or kicking about like crazy or taking part in a madcap, coiling conga-line.

Today, **MarKamusic**—an improbable alliance of three Puerto Rican folk, funk, salsa, Caribbean and Urban-Latin Jazz musicians, a Peruvian popular music multi-instrumentalist and aboriginal-communications scholar, an Uruguayan Funk/rocker and a north American multi-instrumentalist klezmer, world and jazz music has predominantly been following the festival, concert and educational-enrichment-event circuits all over the United States for the last eleven years. They can be seen playing the older music halls and some of the principal big-city international-music clubs in New England.

Currently, the genre of Latin and South American indigenous folk music—with its penchant for native rudimentary instruments which mimic natural sounds and simple, engaging melodies which go straight to the heart—is enjoying a widening audience among North Americans, on both the East and West coasts. Undoubtedly, the heart-beat sound of the "bombo" slack-drum, the steamy-wet-jungle mood set by the "caña de agua" rain-stick, the rain-forest bird and insect noises of the ocarinas, the dreamy hunting melodies of the "quena" (bamboo flute), and the wind-through-the-mountains sound of the "Zampoña" pan-pipes serve as relief from the disconnected, technologically-fabricated sounds of modern commercial music. **MarKamusic** drew much from this same folk genre, with all its magical foreign sounds, but then took it all to a different place. Since **MarKamusic** was the result of confronting Caribbean musicians with a bunch of transplanted South and Central American musicians, the mix could not help but come out somewhat wacky and original. This is musical syncretism in the extreme. And, gauging from the exhausted, sweaty audiences clamoring for encores at the end of the show, it seems to be working for them quite nicely.

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