



Sunday | October 19, 2025 | 3pm
Multicultural Arts Center

Celebrity Series of Boston, in association with Roxbury Concert Series,
presents a Neighborhood Arts performance,

Biribá Union

Mike Block cello

Christylez Bacon beatbox, guitar, rhymes

Edward Perez bass

Selections will be announced from the stage.

Today's program will run 60-75 minutes.

2025/26 Season Sponsors
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Neighborhood Arts is supported by the Barr Foundation through its ArtsAmplified initiative,
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Celebrity Series of Boston is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Borrowing its name from a Brazilian wild sugar-apple, **Biribá Union** features Mike Block (cello, vocals), Christylez Bacon (beatbox, guitar, rhymes) and Patricia Ligia (electric bass, vocals). (Note that Edward Perez is performing in place of Patricia Ligia today.) The trio met through Silkroad's Global Musician Workshop, initially bonding over their shared love of Brazilian music. They quickly began co-writing new music that draws on the freestyle theatrics of hip-hop and Go-go music; the effortless beauty of Brazilian forró and choro; the earthiness of American roots music, and the improvisational spontaneity of jazz.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mike Block is a Grammy Award-winning cellist, singer and composer with a passion for cross-cultural collaboration. Hailed as “one of the bravest, most intriguing musicians on the American fusion scene,” (*Gramophone*) he has been a member of the Silkroad Ensemble for nearly twenty years, and directs Silkroad's Global Musician Workshop. Yo-Yo Ma calls Block “the ideal musician for the 21st century,” saying, “I’m always struck by his unique perspective on the world and his relaxed and confident approach; he takes on new music and new things fearlessly.”

Christylez Bacon (pronounced: chris-styles) is a Grammy-nominated songwriter, storyteller, rapper, beat-boxer, and guitarist from southeast Washington, DC. With a tall antenna and wide curiosity, Bacon loves exploring music in different cultural contexts and has collaborated with Hindustani, Arabic and Brazilian musicians. He was the first hip-hop artist to be featured at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and has composed for and performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and Princeton Symphony Orchestra.

Bassist, composer, and Grammy-nominated bandleader **Edward Perez** resides in the cultural crossroads of Queens, New York, where he maintains musical collaborations in a myriad of styles. The early years of Perez’ career included stints in Boston and Lima, Peru, where he began his formation in jazz, Latin-jazz, and Afro-Peruvian styles. Since arriving in New York in 2005, Pérez has toured throughout the world, performing in more than twenty countries for acclaimed bandleaders in jazz such as Paquito D’Rivera, Ralph Peterson Jr, Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, and Ignacio Berroa and even sharing the stage with jazz luminaries such as Lee Konitz, Kenny Werner, Lionel Loueke, Mark Turner, and Seamus Blake. His own project, Terraza Big Band, received a Grammy nomination in the large ensemble category for their debut recording *One Day Wonder*, featuring compositions by Perez as well as co-leader Michael Thomas. Perez’ numerous recording credits as a sideman include three Latin-Grammy nominated recordings as well as another Grammy nod in the Latin-jazz category.

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