



Sat | Sep 17 | 3pm | Arlington Street Church, Back Bay

Celebrity Series of Boston presents a Neighborhood Arts performance

Fabiola Méndez Sextet

Fabiola Méndez cuatro, vocals
Juan Maldonado bass
Miguel Martínez percussion

David Antonio Rosado percussion
Jonathan Suazo saxophone
Kristalis Sotomayor flute

Afrorriqueña

Negrura (2022)

Produced by Fabiola Méndez; Directed by Monica Cohen;

Edited by Paloma Valenzuela; Color by Jorge Roman

Audio mixing by Alex Maury Lopez

Following the screening of the 20-minute film above, the sextet will perform live:

Alberto Carrión
(arr. Fabiola Méndez)

Amanecer Borincano

Fabiola Méndez/ Julia de Burgos

A Julia de Burgos

**Fabiola Méndez/
Angelamaria Dávila**

Dedicatoria

Fabiola Méndez

La vida es lucha toda

Fabiola Méndez/ Yara Liceaga Rojas

Hacerte la paz

Fabiola Méndez

El Dibujo

Fabiola Méndez

Sueño

Fabiola Méndez

Bomba pa' la diaspora

Fabiola Méndez

Flor de Agua

Fabiola Méndez

Al Otro Lado del Charco

Program Continued...

Fabiola Méndez /Carmen Colón Pellot
(arr. Jonathan Suazo)

Trigueña

Trad. /Carmen Colón Pellot
(arr. Jonathan Suazo)

Mulato

*Today's program will run approximately
95 minutes with a brief pause to be announced.*

2022/23 Neighborhood Arts Presenting Sponsor **Stephanie L. Brown Foundation**

2022/23 Season Sponsors **Amy & Joshua Boger**

Neighborhood Arts is sponsored by the Barr Foundation through its ArtsAmplified initiative, Boston Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, First Republic Bank, Foley & Lardner LLP, Klarman Family Foundation, Liberty Mutual Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Yawkey Foundation, U.S. Small Business Administration, and other generous supporters.

Celebrity Series of Boston is supported by Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Fabiola Méndez is a Puerto Rican cuatro player, educator, and composer who has taken part in a musical movement, crossing over the lines of genres such as folkloric, jazz & Latin, and taking the listener on a journey through identities, cultures, and roots. Recognized for being the first student to graduate from Berklee College of Music with the cuatro as principal instrument (2018), Fabiola has performed nationally and internationally, and works as a composer for children's shows *Alma's Way* (PBS Kids) and *Sesame Street's Mecha Builders* (HBO Max). She has received numerous awards, including the Quincy Jones Award for outstanding composition, WBUR's ARTery 25, the Brother Thomas Fellowship, Whippoorwill Arts Fellowship, and a motion from the Puerto Rican House of Representatives for her work around social justice through the arts.

A NOTE ON THE PROGRAM

Fabiola Méndez's concert, "Afrorriqueña," is a musical tribute to the Jíbaro and African roots in Puerto Rican culture. The music itself, inspired by poetry from Puerto Rican female poets, aims to take the listener through the feelings of pride, beauty, cultural responsibility, and love for our afro roots. Today's performance opens with a screening of Fabiola's 20-minute documentary *Negrura*, showcasing stories from Afro-Latinx folks and providing cultural and social context for the musical performance.



Learn more about Fabi and today's performers.