

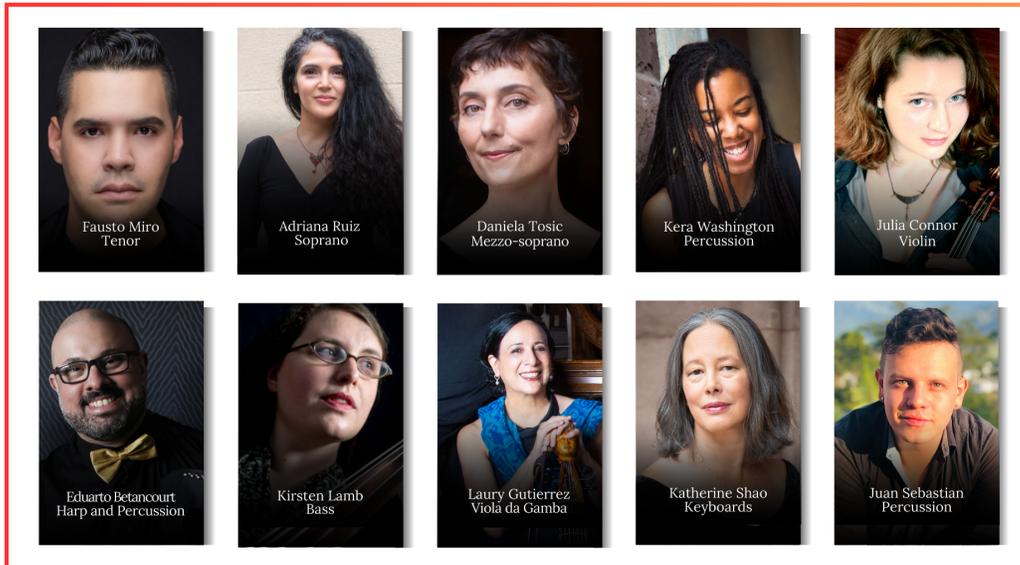
PRESS RELEASE:

**La Donna Musicale and Rumbarroco
present *More and More Morenas***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, March 11, 2024

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Boston, MA. The award-winning ensembles **La Donna Musicale** and **RUMBARROCO**, directed by Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center scholar Laury Gutierrez, will present: ***MORE AND MORE MORENAS*** from April 12 to 14.



This program is a musical exploration spanning the Iberian Renaissance to African-influenced indigenous folk traditions in contemporary South America. It explores the theme of *Nigra sum sed formosa*, I am black and beautiful, from the *Song of Songs*. It includes polyphonic settings featuring endearing depictions of *Morenas* from the Ibero-American *Cancioneros* (songbooks) and traditional (folkloric) contemporary popular works with affirmative expressions of *Morenas* in South America. In addition, all of these songs are peppered with Afro-Latin rhythms. “The importance of this repertory lies in how the poetry in the songs teaches us to look at the past in a different light,” says director Laury Gutierrez. “These songs represent some of the earliest examples of the ideal woman. Not the fair-skinned woman so often portrayed in the Western world, with overtones of courtly love, but instead a dark-skinned woman.”

Our theme resonates across time and audiences. These are stories about the common people: *Morenas* were the female ideal of beauty outside the court. The songs tell of the *Morenas*' pride, self-empowerment, and resistance, and how much love and passion was felt for them—which can be a source of inspiration to diverse audiences today. The ensemble will also perform dances from sources that were either anonymous or copied by Spanish composers, including several of African origin. In our program, those dynamic sounds will connect with dances from the Latin America of today. Selections include music from the Coimbra manuscript, and by Gabriel Diaz, Juan de Herrera, Manuel Machado, and others.

Performers:

Adriana Ruiz, soprano; Daniela Totic, mezzo-soprano; Fausto Miro, tenor; Julia Connor, violin; Eduardo Betancourt, harp & percussion; Katherine Shao, keyboards; Kirsten Lamb, bass; Juan Sebastian Sanchez, percussion, Kera Washington, percussion, and Laury Gutierrez, viola da gamba & Venezuelan cuatro.

Friday, April 12 at 7 pm

Church of the Covenant
67 Newbury St.,
Boston, MA

Saturday, April 13 at 4 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church
1 Roanoke Ave.
Jamaica Plain, MA

Sunday, April 14 at 4 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church
705 Hale St.
Beverly, MA

Tickets: \$35, 20, and \$5 – Free for children and *Card to Culture* patrons

For more information, please visit <https://ladm.org/tickets/> or call us at (617) 461-6973 or write to ladonna@ladm.org

La Donna Musicale Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the historically informed performance of Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Contemporary music by women composers. The ensemble uses period instruments and historical performance practices.

Rumbarroco's mission is to recreate, preserve, and popularize the vital rhythms and music of the past that traveled from the Iberian Peninsula to the Americas and vice versa.

La Donna Musicale and **Rumbarroco** have presented over 500 concerts/demonstrations in the USA, Europe, and South America at institutions such as Harvard, Rice, and Clark Universities, and Simmons and Providence Colleges. They have produced several groundbreaking commercial CDs to outstanding national and international reviews, winning awards and accolades. They have presented many modern world premieres, from composers who were nuns to worldly composers of opera and oratorio. Their radio & video presentations have reached thousands of people, from China to Chile, from Austria to Australia, and from Colombia to Cork.