

## UCCA April 21 Concert

A Romantic Afternoon with Elena Casanova

Una Tarde de 1800 " <i>An afternoon in 1800</i> "	Maria Matilde Alea
Los Tres Golpes	Ignacio Cervantes
Fiesta " <i>Party</i> "	Maria Matilde Alea
La Comparsa	Ernesto Lecuona
Siboney Adrian Hanson, guitar	Ernesto Lecuona
Michele Rivard, voice, Joel Cohen, cello, Adrian Hanson, guitar	Ernesto Lecuona
Tristeza Junto Al Mar " <i>Sadness by the Sea</i> "	Maria Matilde Alea
Ilusiones Perdidas	Ignacio Cervantes
A la Antigua	Ernesto Lecuona
Vitrales de mi Casa " <i>Stained glass windows at home</i> "	Maria Matilde Alea
Danzón LeGrand	Andrés Alén
Bolero " <i>Bolero</i> "	Maria Matilde Alea
Dancita de Ayer 1-4	Maria Emma Botet
Así soy Yo " <i>That's me</i> "	Maria Matilde Alea

### Special Thanks

Steve Decker, Professor and Theater Technical Director.  
Reid Edelman, Mendocino College Theater  
Rodney Grisanti, Music Department and Recording Arts  
Mendocino College Dance Department  
Trudy McCreanor, Director of Mendocino Ballet  
Susanna Janssen and Board of Directors of UCCA

### Dancers and Choreography

Paloma Victoria, choreography and dance  
Eva Campise, young ballerina

### Graphics and Media

Karen Adair, graphic designer and photographer  
Justin Briggs, media editor  
Sydney Emmerson, graphic artist  
Kirk Fuller, graphic artist, media editor and technician  
Mariano Reyes, sound design and technical assistant  
Paloma Victoria, creative director, film design and editing  
**Cuba Photos courtesy of Fuller Digital Media**

### Lighting

Steve Wilson, lighting design and technical director  
Eduardo (Lalo) Torres, lighting design assistant  
Jasmine Norris, lighting and production assistant

La Bella Cubana	José White
Apasionada	Rachelle Berthelsen-Davis, violin René Touzet
Ritmo de Son " <i>Son rhythm</i> "	Maria Matilde Alea
Intermission	
Ensueños " <i>Daydreams</i> "	Silvano Boudet
San Francisco el Grande	Ernesto Lecuona
Un Ramo de Flores	Ernesto Lecuona
De Cara al Sol	Ernesto Lecuona
Mi amor del Aire se Azora	Ernesto Lecuona
Michele Rivard, voice	
Seducción	Yalil Guerra
Paloma Victoria, modern dance	
No Hables Más	Ernesto Lecuona
Recuerdos de Cuba	Pedro Garcia
Danzas Cubanos – Bolero and Timba	Greg Danner
Eloquence Ensemble	
The Breeze and I	Ernesto Lecuona
Andalucía	Ernesto Lecuona
Malagueña	Ernesto Lecuona
Clips from film "Finding Compás"	

### Musicians

Members of Cantabile: Joel Cohen, cello and Michele Rivard, Voice  
Eloquence Ensemble: Rachelle Berthelsen-Davis, violin, Beth Heid, viola and Gwyneth Davis, cello  
Adrian Casanova, Voice and guitar  
Mariano Reyes, voice actor

### Sound

Rodney Grisanti, sound and recording engineer  
Russ Furlong, sound and recording assistant  
Mendocino Arts Club  
Mendocino College Recording Arts and Technology Club

### Stage Design

Adonis Noguera, sculptor  
Paloma Victoria  
Steve Wilson

### Production

Elena Casanova, creator and executive producer  
Adrian Casanova, concept consultant and assistant  
Brian Hanson, concept consultant

**Clips from film "Finding Compas", courtesy of Wise Women Circles**

**Dancer: La Tania, Cinematographer: Marlon Torres, Director: Kathy Douglas**

## Biographies

**Rachelle Berthelsen-Davis**, violinist, is a professor of music on the faculty of Pacific Union College and the director of the Pacific Union College Orchestra and Vox Pro Musica. As soloist, concertmaster and chamber musician, Davis has toured Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, China, and Southeast Asia—as well as the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean. She was an assistant professor of music at Columbia Union College and the concertmaster and assistant director for the New England Symphonic Ensemble, the resident orchestra for Mid-America Productions at Carnegie Hall, New York City. When she is not playing classical music, Davis loves improvisation and jamming with other styles of music.

**Adrian Casanova** is a multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter based in Ukiah. He graduated with the Prep Diploma at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has performed and collaborated alongside many local musicians. His EP album “You & Me” can be found on all streaming platforms. You can find him on social media (@adriancasa.nova)

**Joel Cohen, cello**, has spent his life pursuing many forms of musical expression through the cello. While steeped in the classical traditions of western music, he loves exploring other avenues of performance with his instrument. He was co-principal cello of the Oakland Symphony. While living in Vienna from 1985-97, Joel toured Europe, Asia, and the Americas as principal cellist of the Vienna Chamber Orchestra. Ten years in Boston had him playing with Boston Symphony, Portland Symphony, and PORT Summer opera. As the founding cellist with Quartet San Francisco Joel toured extensively in the US, during which the quartet was nominated twice for Grammy™ awards.

**Gwyneth Davis**, cellist, received her degree in music from Stanford University and also studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She plays with the Lamplighters, Cinnabar Opera and many chamber music and baroque ensembles, and has performed with most of the regional orchestras in the Bay Area as well as with the Utah Symphony and San Francisco Opera.

**Sydney Christine Emerson** Originally from Ukiah, Sydney is an artist and web designer who walks the line between creative thinking and technical know-how. She studied architecture at UC Berkeley and now works as a product and web designer. You can find her at: [uxfol.io/sydneychristine30](http://uxfol.io/sydneychristine30).

**Beth Heid**, violist, has performed with many chamber ensembles and orchestras in the Bay Area. She has enjoyed international musical experience, playing with the Mexico City Philharmonic for several years, as well as spending several summers in Graz, Austria with a festival orchestra. She has been a member of the Napa Valley Symphony and also plays frequently with the Santa Rosa Symphony. Her academic experience includes a music degree from the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific. She also studied chamber music at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria with Jean Fournier and with noted Bay Area violist and teacher Robert Slaughter. You can find more information at [www.eloquencestringquartet.com](http://www.eloquencestringquartet.com)

**Adonis Noguera** For over 30 years Adonis Noguera has been working with clay. He is a native of a historic town in Camagüey, Cuba with a rich tradition in clay. He lives in Ukiah with his family and is constantly creating. More information available at [www.adonisnoguera.com](http://www.adonisnoguera.com)

**Michele Rivard**, mezzo-soprano, was the vocal coach and a performer in 20 productions for the professional musical theatre company, *Cabrillo Stage*. She has appeared with the Santa Cruz Symphony, Cabrillo Music Festival, New Music Works, Ensemble Monterey, Trinity Chamber Orchestra, Novato Lyric Opera, Woodminster Summer Theater, San Francisco Simphonietta, Distinguished Artists Concert & Lecture Series, Cabaret Santa Cruz, Picasso Ensemble, and the University of California Santa Cruz and Cabrillo College Orchestras. Michele retired as Music Program Chair from Cabrillo College in Aptos, after twenty-five years. She currently teaches Classical and Musical Theater students at Santa Clara University and at Solano College in Fairfield.

**La Tania** is recognized worldwide as a dancer, choreographer and master teacher. She has received rave reviews from Japan, to Spain and all over the United States and has won numerous awards for her productions. She continues to create and most recently received the Isadora Duncan awards for Outstanding Achievement for her work “Solaz”.

**Paloma Victoria** Paloma Victoria Rodriguez Irizarry, originally from Puerto Rico, is a dedicated dancer, educator, and choreographer with a diverse background in dance and education. Her academic journey began at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, and continued at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, for a Master's Degree in Language. Her dance training was at Conservatorio Ballet Concierto under the tutelage of Carlota Carrera, María Carrera, Lolita San Miguel and José Pares. Paloma's performance experience spans theaters and festivals across California and Puerto Rico. In addition to performing, Paloma has showcased her talent as a choreographer. Her creative works include pieces like "Inner World" (2018) and "Through the Surface" (2023), highlighting her ability to synchronize movement with music and captivate audiences.

## Composers

**Maria Matilde Alea Fernández** (1918-2006) was a Cuban composer and teacher. Alea began her musical studies in Pinar del Río, Cuba. She later attended the Orbón Conservatory in Havana. Her compositions include works for piano, such as the *Miniaturas rítmicas Cubanas* of 1978.

**Andrés Alén** (1950- ) One of the most talented pianists to come out of Cuba in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He is a composer, arranger and educator. His compositions move between a number of different spheres, including classical, jazz and Cuban and Latin-American popular music.

**Maria Emma Botet** (1903-1989) Pianist, composer and educator. She studied with Hubert de Blanck and Joaquín Nin. She composed choral and piano works and pieces for voice and piano using a variety of idioms. Her musical language contains simplicity in the melodic and harmonic structure and translates with vigor the rhythm characteristic of Cuban music.

**Pedro Silvano Boudet**. (1828-1863) Violinist and composer. Organist in the Cathedral of Santiago de Cuba who inherited the role of choirmaster from Cratillo Guerra. He later became conductor of the Cathedral Orchestra as well. Boudet was a notable violinist who won awards at the Paris Conservatory. He also composed various works, including a mass for voice and orchestra as well as pieces for violin and piano.

**Ignacio Cervantes** (1847-1905) was the leading Cuban composer of the nineteenth century. His output was varied and included orchestral and stage works, but he is best known for his piano music, particularly for his Spanish-flavored *Danzas Cubanas*.

**Greg Danner** (1958- ) American composer, educator and professional musician. He has won many competitions and is a three-time winner of the Composers Guild. He is known primarily as a composer of music for wind bands, but has composed for choirs and various chamber ensembles. He has received annual ASCAP awards for composition since 1989 and is currently composer-in-residence and professor and Tennessee Tech.

**Yalil Guerra** (1973- ) classical guitarist, producer, composer, arranger, professor and conductor living in Los Angeles. He graduated from the National School of Music (E.N.A.) in Havana, Cuba with a Bachelor in Music. Master degrees from the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid, Spain and from Shepherd University in Los Angeles and a Doctor of Philosophy in Music from the University of California, Los Angeles. His composition “Seducción” won best classical contemporary composition in the Latin Grammy Awards in 2012.

**Ernesto Lecuona** (1895-1963) is arguably the most important Latin musical figure of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote hundreds of works during the era including popular standards as well as operettas, zarzuelas, ballets, and an opera. He studied with Maurice Ravel in Paris and after his debut in New York became a concert sensation. He left a legacy of music that crossed musical boundaries.

**René Touzet** (1916-2003) Cuban composer, pianist and bandleader. He worked with Desi Arnaz, Xavier Cugat and Stan Kenton. He was a popular bandleader through the 1960s. Touzet retired in 1972 and devoted his remaining years to composing for the piano. Touzet was given several honors and awards for his musical contributions and in 2001 the mayor of Miami declared September 9 as “René Touzet Day”.

**José White** (1835-1918) Cuban violinist, composer and educator. He performed globally and in 1875, performed twice with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra becoming the first soloist of African

descent. He was a friend of pianist and composer Ignacio Cervantes and a supporter of the Cuban Liberation Army which caused them both to be exiled.

#### Poems

*Yo no sé desde dónde, hacia dónde, ni cuándo regresarás... sé solo que te estaré esperando.*

*-Jose Angel Buesa*

*“El color tiene límites, La palabra: labios, la música: cielo, Lo verdadero es lo que no termina. Y la música está perpetuamente palpitando en el espacio.”*

*-José Martí*

*“Si me quieres, quíereme entera, no por zonas de luz o sombra... Si me quieres, quíereme negra y blanca. Y gris, y verde, y rubia, y morena... Quíereme día, quíereme noche... ¡Y madrugada en la ventana abierta! Si me quieres, no me recortes: ¡Quíereme toda... O no me quieras!”*

*-Dulce María Loynaz*

*“Yo sueño con los ojos abiertos, Y de día y noche siempre sueño. Y sobre las espumas del ancho mar revuelto, Y por entre las crespas arenas del desierto Y de león pujante, monarca de mi pecho, montado alegremente sobre el sumiso cuello? ¿Un niño que me llama flotando siempre ve!”*

*-José Martí*

*Solo los necios hablan de desdichas, o los egoístas La felicidad existe sobre la Tierra; y se la conquista con el ejercicio prudente de la razón, el conocimiento de la armonía del universo, y la práctica de la generosidad.*

*-José Martí*

*“Todo es hermoso y constante Todo es música y razón, Y todo, como el diamante, Antes que luz, es carbón.”*

*-José Martí*

#### Songs

*Yo pienso cuando me alegre, Como un escolar sencilló,  
En el canario Amarilló,  
Que tiene el ojo tan negro!  
!Yo quiero, cuando me muera,  
Sin patria, pero sin amo,  
Tener en mi losa un ramo, de flores, y una bandera!*

*Yo quiero salir del mundo, por la Puerta natural: En un carro de hojas verdes, A morir me han de llevar.  
No me pongan en lo oscuro, A morir como un traidor, !Yo soy Bueno y como Bueno, moriré de cara al sol!*

*Mi Amor del Aire se Azora; Eva es rubia, falsa es Eva:  
Viene una nube y se lleva, Mía mor que gime y que llora.  
Se lleva mi amor que llora, Esa nube que se lleva: Eva me ha sido traidora,  
!Eva me consolará!*

#### Poems

*I don't know from where, to where, or when you will return... I just know that I will be waiting for you.*

*-Jose Angel Buesa*

*“Color has limits, the word: lips, Music: sky, Truth is what does not end and music is perpetually throbbing in space.”*

*-José Martí*

*“If you love me, love me whole, Not by zones of light or shadow... If you love me, love me black and white. And gray, and green, and blond, and mixed... Love me day, Love me night... And in the morning with the open window! If you love me, don't (edit) trim me: love me all... Or don't love me at all”*

*-Dulce Maria Loynaz*

*“I dream with my eyes open Day and night I always dream And on the foaming waves of the vast turbulent sea, And in between the rolling desert sands, And on a mighty lion, monarch of my heart, merrily riding on his submissive neck,? A floating child calling me, I always see!”*

*-José Martí.*

*Only fools speak of misery, or the selfish Happiness exists on earth, and it is won through prudent exercise of reason, knowledge of the harmony of the universe, and the practice of generosity.*

*-José Martí.*

*“All is beautiful and unceasing, all is music and reason, and all, like a diamond, is carbon first, then light.”*

*-José Martí*

#### Songs

*I am still taken aback, With a simple schoolboy's glee,  
By the yellow canary,  
Whose eye is so very black!  
When I die without a country,  
Nor to any man a slave,  
In my tombstone I want a wreath of flowers and a flag!*

*I want to leave this world, through the natural door: In a cart covered in green leaves, they will take me to die.  
Don't put me in the dark, to die like a traitor: I am good and as a good person, I will die facing the Sun!*

*My love is terrified by the wind: Eve is blonde, Eve is false:  
A passing cloud takes away My love that moans and cries  
It takes my sobbing love, that cloud that passes: Eve has betrayed me,  
Eve will console me still!*