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MANO A MANO LAUNCHES *MEXICANIDAD*: MEXICAN ARTS AND CULTURE CLASSES AND MOVES TO NEW LOCATION AT BROOKLYN MUSIC SCHOOL

New York, August 11, 2010 -- Mano a Mano: Mexican Culture Without Borders is thrilled to announce the launch of ***Mexicanidad***, an exciting new program of Mexican arts and culture at the historic **Brooklyn Music School**. Beginning in the Fall Semester of 2010, Mano a Mano will inaugurate a rich series of programs for children, teens and adults, and relocate its administrative offices to 126 Saint Felix Street in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn – conveniently located near the Atlantic Avenue Station and close to the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM).

Classes for singers, dancers and musicians of all ages, from beginners to experienced students, will be taught by an outstanding faculty of New York-based teachers and performers on four weekday afternoons and evenings, as well as Sunday afternoons.

"Mano a Mano embarks on the next phase of its program offerings by providing a center for the traditional arts of Mexico for New York, serving the communities of Brooklyn and beyond, to be enjoyed, studied and practiced with some of the leading performers and artists in their fields," said Emily Socolov, Executive Director. "We are so pleased to have found a home at the Brooklyn Music School, which will serve as a bridge for cross-cultural programming and provide an inspiring model for community-based learning in the arts. As the Mexican community and interest in Mexico grows, we want to create programming that captures *Mexicanidad*: the inventiveness and passion of Mexican creative arts."

"Brooklyn Music School is thrilled to partner with Mano a Mano. This relationship strengthens our commitment to art as an essential part of basic education, and a means by which individuals can identify with their creative selves. Joining together with Mano a Mano, we will share our commitment to lifelong teaching and learning in music and dance without regard to income, age, or professional aspirations. In particular, we seek to help those whose artistic voices are least often heard in our society. It is our hope that we can expand our services to the neighboring communities," said Frank Alvarado, Executive Director of Brooklyn Music School.

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The initial series of classes includes instrumental music, dance, song and visual arts, will be taught by these artists and performers:

- José Refugio González and Monica Guevara of the Ballet Folklórico Mexicano de Nueva York will teach **Folkloric Dance** at beginner and advanced levels on Mondays.
- Álvaro Paulino Jr and Maegan Pacheco of the Mariachi Tapatio de Álvaro Paulino will teach **Mariachi Instrumentalism, Voice and Ensemble** – for beginners and experienced musicians on Tuesdays.
- Visual artist Ariel Alejandro Rodriguez will teach **Mexican Visions**, a survey of the historic movements of Mexican muralism, combined with studio art classes, in two sessions, for teens and adults on Wednesdays.
- Gabriel Guzmán and Julia del Palacio of Radio Jarocho will introduce students to the Afro-Caribbean rhythms of **Son Jarocho** and its string instruments (*jaranas*) and spirited *zapateado* dance steps on Fridays.
- Singers of all ages will join tenor Alejandro Olmedo and explore classic and folkloric songs of the **Mexican Songbook** on Sundays.

Sunday afternoon **Tertulias**, monthly programs of performance, exhibition and discussion, will highlight aspects of Mexican culture with visiting artists and specialists, for students, their families and the general public. Our series will include a workshop on indigenous **Aztec Dance** with Gustavo Arias and members of Atl Tlachinolli.

Additionally, Mano a Mano will continue its free Monday evening **Creative Writing** workshop, held in collaboration with the New York Writers Coalition.

Private and Semi-Private/Small Group lessons may be arranged, subject to the schedule of the instructors.

Registration begins on Monday, August 23. Classes begin on Monday, September 13, 2010 and run through June 18, 2011.

OPEN HOUSE: An open house for prospective students and their families to meet the instructors and learn more about the classes will be held on Saturday, August 28th from noon to 2:00 pm. Information on the purchase/rental of instruments and dance shoes will be available.

Complete information about courses, faculty and registration is available at www.manoamano.us/mexicanidad.html. Schedule is subject to change.

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This program is initiated and directed by Mano a Mano's new leadership team: Emily Socolov, Executive Director; Luz Aguirre, Program Manager; Juan Carlos Aguirre, Program Director; Emmanuel von Arx and Ariel Alejandro Rodriguez, Program Associates.

About Mano a Mano <http://www.manoamano.us>

Mano a Mano celebrates Mexican culture in the United States and promotes the understanding of Mexican traditions among immigrants, artists, educators and the general public. Through annual celebrations of holidays (Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos; Christmas/Posadas y Pastorelas), as well as festivals, concerts, performances, processions, installations and seminars, Mexicans and New York area residents celebrate the richness and diversity of Mexican arts in five key areas: music, dance, visual arts, verbal arts and ritual, and culinary traditions.

About Brooklyn Music School <http://www.brooklynmusicschool.org>

The Brooklyn Music School is a community school for the performing arts, founded in 1912 as the Brooklyn Music School Settlement. It owns and operates an historic four-story building in Fort Greene neighborhood, (identified as the Downtown Brooklyn Cultural District) that contains twenty-four classrooms, three dance studios, and a professional 266-seat Spanish Style theatre. The Brooklyn Music School is a long-standing member of the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts and is funded by National Grid and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

Mano a Mano wishes to thank our funders for their generous support of our programming: New York State Council on the Arts, A State Agency, National Endowment for the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.



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