



## Sol y Canto

It's taken more than two decades for this Latin music with a bilingual sensibility to arrive in Miami, but at last, Sol y Canto made it. Tonight at 7:00 p.m. the Pan-Latin sextet will be heard at the North Shore Band Shell in Miami Beach.

"It's been a long wait," laughs Rosi Amador, the vocalist who founded the group along with her husband Brian. "We've visited many other places in Florida – Tampa, Tallahassee, Clearwater, West Palm Beach, to name a few – but never Miami." The Boston-based group is coming to town thanks to the Miami Dade College's Cultura del Lobo, an opportunity Amador appreciates especially because the college is not only presenting the performance but also hosting workshops with the group for local students.

"We didn't just come to put on a big show," Amador explains. "We went to an elementary school on Wednesday and taught the children five songs from our most recent bilingual album, *Twice as Many Friends* (El Doble de Amigos), that celebrates bilingualism. We rehearsed the songs with them because they are going to be our special guests during the performance." But the concert is not just for kids, clarifies the singer (who is also the mother of 10-year old twin girls).

"The concert we're planning for Miami Beach combines various strands of our careers and our cultural work," Amador continues. "There's something for everyone."

That eclecticism is typical of Sol y Canto's sound, which since the group's first release *Sancocho* in 1994, could be described as a Caribbean and Latin American sancocho (stew).

That mix is found among the musicians as well. Amador is the daughter of a Puerto Rican mother (actress and singer Josefina Del Mar) and an Argentine father. Her husband, a native of New Mexico, is Chicano. The rest of the band is rounded out by a Panamanian, a Peruvian, an Argentine, and a Brit raised in Puerto Rico.

"Our goal in Sol y Canto is to play songs with folkloric roots, integrating elements of Latin jazz," Amador explains. "We're not a Latin jazz group, and we don't pretend to be, because we are very much tied to our roots. But our sound is also very contemporary."