

Happy Almost-Spring, Summerglen friends, and welcome to
The **Salsa** Issue!

To celebrate the birth of the Triangle's newest salsa band, the Tropic Orchestra, we devote this issue to the exciting musical style we know as salsa. Check out the back page for a list of musical happenings, creativity boosters, and even a Summerglen Economic Stimulus Package just for you! We hope you enjoy this spicy little issue, and have a wonderful March!



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March 2009

Introducing... The Tropic Orchestra!



The Tropic Orchestra, Andrew and Christina's newest musical project, is a 10-piece band that plays classic salsa from the 1960s and 1970s. We performed our first two shows in February, and now have a standing engagement every Second Saturday night at Carmen's Cuban Cafe/Touch Nightclub in Morrisville!

So, what is salsa anyway?

Modern salsa was created in New York City in the 1960s when Puerto Rican and Cuban immigrants combined the music of their homelands with the jazz and soul styles they found in the U.S. Musicians like Willie Colón and Hector Lavoe traveled back and forth between NYC and Puerto Rico, combining music of Afro-Cuban and Puerto Rican cultures with the sounds of the U.S. This musical combination became salsa, an exciting style of music that celebrates Latino culture both here and abroad.

Salsa is an extremely energetic and rhythmic style that begs the audience to get up and dance. The majority of a salsa band is comprised of percussion instruments: bongos, congas, timbales, maracas, and cowbells. Although the piano and bass provide harmonies, they're also used like percussion instruments to play highly syncopated rhythms. Salsa bands also feature brass instruments, like trombones and trumpets, and several vocalists. Our band, the Tropic Orchestra, features two trombonists, just like the famous group led by Willie Colón in the 1960s and 1970s!

Let's Meet Some Salseros!

Hector Lavoe

Known as "El Cantante de los Cantantes," Lavoe was a celebrated Puerto Rican salsa singer. Lavoe recorded over 40 albums and was known for his excellent improvisation abilities.



Willie Colón

A trombonist, singer, writer, and producer, he played with Hector Lavoe in the 1960s and 70s, and had a successful musical career thereafter. Today, he's involved in politics in New York.

Ray Barretto

Known as King of the Hard Hands, conguero Ray Barretto was a Grammy Award-winning Puerto Rican jazz musician. Many credit him as the godfather of Latin jazz.



Celia Cruz

One of the most successful salsa singers of the 20th century, with twenty-three gold albums to her name. She's known worldwide as the "Queen of Salsa."

Oscar D'Leon

A Venezuelan singer and bassist known as "El Sonero del Mundo" (the Improviser of the World). We perform one of his most famous songs, *Llorarás*.



Creativity Corner! - *SO YOU THINK YOU DON'T HAVE A CREATIVE BONE IN YOUR BODY? THINK AGAIN!*

As responsible, productive adults, it can be easy to forget how creative we really are. In this monthly section, we'll share tips to help you bring more creativity into your daily life.

This month's task: Change Your Scenery

Last month, we learned that creativity is a natural trait that all human beings have, and that we can make it easier to discover our creative talents just by shifting our perspective! But did you know that changing your daily habits, even just a little bit, can invite more creativity into your life as well? When we alter our normal routines or make slight changes to our environment, we stimulate our brains to think in different ways and make new connections. We experience our lives in a new light, and this often leads us to generate lots of exciting ideas. This month, try these easy ways to stimulate your brain by shaking up your routine!



Feeling a little **BROKE?**

CHECK OUT SUMMERGLEN'S ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN!

Want to put some money back in your pocket this month? When you refer an excellent student for private lessons here at Summerglen, and your referral signs up for a month of lessons, you get a lesson

FREE!

Speaking of Creativity...

Be on the lookout for Christina's first book, *Women Embracing Creativity: A Guide to Unleashing Your Inner Artist!* Christina has just finished writing the book, and is in the process of publishing it on Lulu.com. Look for details about the book, and Christina's book signing party, in our next issue!

Originally created as the workbook for Christina's course by the same name, *Women Embracing Creativity* is a simple guide that helps women uncover, develop, and use their true creative talents. The book presents both the spiritual and practical sides of creativity in a way that's accessible to everyone, and guides you step-by-step toward discovering your unique creative style!

Concert Calendar

Some family-friendly concerts in the Triangle area

Weds., March 4 at 2pm, Bone Hall, Biddle Music Bldg, Duke East Campus

Masterclass with Joe Alessi, principal trombonist with the NY Philharmonic.

YOU **NEED** TO GO TO THIS!!! It's only \$10!!!

Saturday, March 7 at 8pm at Meymandi Hall, Progress Energy Center, Raleigh

Triangle Brass Band with Demondrae Thurman, euphonium. \$10

Sunday March 8 at 3pm, Meymandi Hall, Progress Energy Center, Raleigh

North Carolina Wind Orchestra with the Leesville Road High School Symphonic Band. \$15 adults, \$5 students/kids

Sunday March 22 at 3pm at the Durham Arts Council

Brass Quintet, Jazz Piano and the NC Youth Tap Ensemble present *Tap Your Feet To A Brassy Beat*, with music by Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, & more. \$18.

March 26-28 (@ 8 p.m.) & March 29 (@ 2 p.m.) at Carolina Theatre, Durham

Durham Savoyards present *The Gondoliers!* <http://www.durhamsavoyards.org/>