

Joan Soriano, the Dominican Republic's 'Duke of Bachata,' to perform in Little Havana

HIGHLIGHTS

The event is part of the Little Havana Social Club, presented by Miami Dade College's Live Arts program

Joan Soriano, who fashioned his first guitar from fishing line and a discarded metal box, will perform about two hours



BY RODOLFO ROMAN

Special to the Miami Herald

Thanks to a new international arts series in Little Havana, Miamians can dance the night away celebrating their cultural backgrounds.

Miami Dade College's Live Arts will present the South Florida premiere of guitarist Joan Soriano, the Dominican Republic's "Duke of Bachata," at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, at the Koubek Center, 2705 SW Third St.

Joan Soriano Merengue - Belgium Polé Polé - Mujeres ajenas



The event is part of the Little Havana Social Club, a dance party concert series at the Koubek Center, dedicated to bringing the community together through culture and dance. The series features live bands, pre-concert series lessons, specialty cocktails, vendors and more.

MDC Live Arts Executive Director Kathryn Garcia says the goal is to make the Koubek Center an epicenter for Latin American dance and culture.

“We want everything from film, literature, dance and film. We want the Koubek Center to become the focal point for Spanish art in Miami,” she said. “The Koubek Center is a hidden gem in Little Havana. It has been inactive for many years. We want to launch it in a big way with these dance parties.”

The series started in October with an event dedicated to cumbia, a music form that originated in Colombia but became popular throughout Latin America.

The coming event pays homage to bachata, music that originated in the Dominican Republic. Soriano says he is excited to bring his sounds to the Koubek Center.

“I await for everyone in the concert,” he said in a phone interview. “You will all dance to the music.”

Soriano was born near Santo Domingo and has been playing bachata since he was in his teens, even fashioning his first guitar from fishing line and a discarded metal box.

He will perform a musical set for close to two hours, he said.

Garcia says the series attracts music fans from all nations.

“There aren’t much opportunities to get out and dance to Latin music in the community to celebrate our traditions,” she said. “We want the Koubek Center to be a resource to the community.”

The series will also feature a listening lounge, food trucks and domino tables.

Next in the series will be Miami’s own Cuban salsa group, Timbalive, on March 18.

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Koubek Center presents Little Havana Social Club, with Joan Soriano, the Dominican Republic’s ‘Duke of Bachata.’
- **Where:** 2705 SW Third Street, Miami
- **When:** Doors open at 7 p.m. with a dance lesson at 7:15 p.m. and concert at 8 p.m.
- **How much:** Tickets \$10; children 12 & under free

For more information, visit mdclivearts.org



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