



Totó la Momposina plays the Hult Sunday along with Mariana Montalvo and Belo Velloso.

Latina Legends

South of the border sounds in Eugene.

For the past decade or so, CDs from the Putumayo label have been introducing Americans to the riches of music from beyond our borders. Now the company is launching its first tour, starring **Totó la Momposina** from Colombia, **Mariana Montalvo** from Chile and **Belo Velloso** from Brazil. The trio, featured on the splendid new Putumayo release *Women of Latin America*, plays the Hult Center on Sunday, Nov. 21.

Belo's smooth, breezy vocals flutter over samba, bossa, and even some reggae rhythms. Montalvo, who has lived in exile since the U.S.-instigated overthrow of the democratically elected Chilean government in 1974, accompanies her traditional-based tunes with Andean folk instruments like the charango guitar and quena flute.

La Momposina's danceable music incorporates the African, Cuban and Native American influences of Colombia's coast. Together, they'll provide a delectable sampler of South American sounds. Congrats to Putumayo and the Hult for continuing their efforts to broaden our musical horizons.

A couple of other musical Latinas are also in town this month. **Tish Hinojosa's** siren voice and smart, socially conscious songwriting made her one of my favorite Austin musicians when I lived there. The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Hinojosa also has a knack for irresistible hooks and hummable tunes that, but for country radio's straitjacketed formats and (perhaps) her surname, should have sent her to the top of the charts.

Whether singing in English or Spanish, for kids or adults, with a symphony orchestra, a rock band, or solo, she's one of the finest musicians from Texas, and her show at Café Paradiso on Thursday, Nov. 18, is a must for fans of country, women's, folk, and just about any other music.

A pair of great Latino musicians comes to town on Thursday, Nov. 6 when the Brazilian-born brothers **Sérgio and Odair Assad** perform at the Shedd. The world's finest guitar duo has performed with orchestras all over the world as well as with many of the preeminent classical musicians, including Yo-Yo Ma and Dawn Upshaw. Composers such as Astor Piazzolla and Terry Riley have written for the Grammy-winning siblings and they also play original compositions as well as music

by Bach, Villa Lobos, Gershwin, and more. Fans of classical music, world music, and guitar wizardry should see this one.

Two other brothers play Brazilian guitar music at the Shedd on Nov. 17 when the **John Pizzarelli Trio** (featuring John's brother Martin on bass and pianist Ray Kennedy) returns to play tunes from their new *Bossa Nova* album. Pizzarelli has become the Harry Connick Jr. of jazz guitar, adding stage charm and smooth vocals to his six-string swing.

Latino music is on tap at the UO's Beall Hall, too. On Monday, Nov. 22, the **Oregon Percussion Ensemble**, using indigenous and traditional Mexican and Aztec instruments, performs some of the earliest all-percussion works, including classics by Mexican composers Amadeo Roldan, Carlos Chavez and more. The ensemble will be joined by Eugene Symphony musicians on flute, piccolo, clarinet and trombone for "Xochipilli-Macuilxochitl," Chavez's "sonic reconstruction" of pre-conquest Aztec instrumental music. On Nov. 14, another Latino, ESO Music Director **Giancarlo Guerrero**, conducts the **Oregon Wind Ensemble** in yet more Latino-oriented music by Chavez and "La Fiesta Mexicana" by Owen Reed.

Speaking of Guerrero and winds, his main band performs Frank Martin's *Concerto for Seven Wind Instruments*, a 20th century masterpiece that highlights the Eugene Symphony's Nov. 18 concert at the Hult Center. The Swiss composer blends French classical style, modern harmonic exploration, and a bit of jazz in a powerful work that'll show off the talents of the ESO's wind soloists. The concert also features Mendelssohn's *Scottish Symphony* #3.

Brand new music by some of our own young composers resounds on Nov. 17 when the Oregon Composers Forum presents new works by UO composition students at Beall Hall. On Nov. 20 **Future Music Oregon** brings works by UO faculty member, composer and media artist **Joey Bargsten** as well as student works. And on Nov. 13 when two of Eugene's most exciting new arts institutions — DIVA (Broadway & Olive) and the Eugene Composers Collective — combine for an evening of a dozen world premieres, ranging from music for robotic percussion instruments to a violin sonata. ECC's full house show at Sam Bond's earlier this year bodes well for this trailblazing group. **EW**

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