



HOLLYWOOD BALLROOM DANCE SENSATIONS AND ORQUESTA ARAGON HOST 'AFTERNOON IN HAVANA'

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ST.PETERSBURG, FL (June 6, 2013) – Three internationally-renowned professional ballroom dance sensations, Mary Murphy, Tony Dovolani, and Maksim Chmerkovskiy, backed by one of Cuba's most popular bands, take over St. Petersburg's historic Coliseum Sunday, June 23, for a celebration of Cuban culture and Latin dancing to benefit St. Petersburg's arts community. "*An Afternoon in Havana*" will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Coliseum, in downtown St. Petersburg at 535 Fourth Avenue North.

Murphy, of *So You Think You Can Dance* fame, along with *Dancing with the Stars* Tony and Maks will introduce and perform with some of the world's best Latin, Salsa, and Mambo dancers and the newly-crowned 2013 World Latin dance champions. *A portion of the proceeds benefits the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to raising money and advocating for our entire creative community – artists, arts and cultural organizations, and creative businesses.*

Music will be provided by Cuba's legendary Orquesta Aragón, featuring vocalist Julio Fernandez Colina and world-renowned percussionist Amadito Valdes. Fernandez Colina and Valdes, part of a group known as the Buena Vista Social Club, performed on the 1998 Grammy-winning recording of the same name, which is considered the best-selling world music album of all time. Showgirls flown in from Havana's Tropicana Club will also entertain. Guests are invited to dance during the concert, sample authentic Cuban food and drink, or enjoy a cigar in the outdoor Cigar Lounge.

"St. Petersburg is honored to welcome the Orquesta Aragón and some of ballroom's biggest stars for this event," said St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster. "World culture has played a significant role in our city's development, from its architecture, museums, theatrical influences, and the Florida Orchestra's cultural exchange with Cuba, to our eclectic collection of independent galleries. This visit is just one more reason to celebrate St. Petersburg's development into a premier Southeast arts mecca."

For tickets, visit www.afternooninhavana.com/tickets. Event sponsors include Florida Blue, AT&T, Advantica, Visibility Management, Fred Astaire Studios, Pasadena Yacht and Country Club, the Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg Resort & Golf Club, Tampa Bay Magazine, and Davidoff Cigars. Sponsorships are still available and include a VIP reception and

meet-and-greet with musicians and dance professionals. Visit www.AfternoonInHavana.com or call (727) 538-7750 for information.

UPDATE (August 5, 2013)

Afternoon in Havana at the St Petersburg Coliseum was a phenomenal success. The Orquesta Aragon from Cuba and the Tropicana Dancers evoked the Buena Vista Social Club. Television's top dance personalities and the World Latin Dance Champions made this the dance event of the year Pictures are turning up all over the web, and our musicians from Cuba & our international dancers tweeted us around the world all afternoon! It was a terrific coming out party for the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance and a great showcase for the Coliseum which never looked better.

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