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## **AFRO-COLOMBIAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE LA CUMBIAMBA eNeYé PERFORMS AT WESLEYAN'S CENTER FOR THE ARTS ON JUNE 28**

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CFA'S SUMMER SERIES KICKS OFF WITH A FREE OUTDOOR DANCE PARTY

**Middletown, Conn., June 15, 2007**— *Cumbia*, a sweetly syncopated dance music from the Atlantic coast of Colombia, has its roots in the intermingling of African, Native American and European cultures. In Colombia, *Cumbiamba* is a familiar word that denotes an outdoor celebration with live cumbia music, or the bands that perform at them. Evoking this lively atmosphere, La Cumbiamba eNeYé was created by a group of New York City musicians who share an enthusiasm for investigating, and performing cumbia and other related styles. They perform a free outdoor concert in the courtyard of Wesleyan University's Center for the Arts—located at 283 Washington Terr. in Middletown—on Thursday, June 28 at 7pm. For more information on this concert, visit [www.wesleyan.edu/cfa](http://www.wesleyan.edu/cfa) or call 860-685-3355.

Assembling musicians and dancers from Colombia and New York, **La Cumbiamba eNeYé** specializes in Afro-Colombian folk music of both the Atlantic and Pacific coast regions. Lead vocals and call-and-response chorus are central, with an intense brass and woodwind sound (gaita, trumpet, bombardino or euphonium, trombone, soprano sax), together with tiple, guitar, bass, marimba, drum set and Afro-Colombian percussion.

In constant demand among Colombians and other Spanish-speaking audiences in the New York metropolitan area, La Cumbiamba's popularity (as one of at least a dozen local Colombian ensembles) underscores how Afro-Colombian genres have gained growing acceptance in Colombia and in the Latin diaspora, particularly with younger audiences. Energetic performers, they win over audiences with their articulate, passionate style and percussive, irresistibly danceable repertoire. Quite distinct from standard Latin fare, this band is for anyone wishing to expand their awareness of the breadth of contemporary South American music.

For more information on La Cumbiamba eNeYé, please visit <http://www.lacumbiambaeneye.com>

The Center for the Arts ([www.wesleyan.edu/cfa](http://www.wesleyan.edu/cfa)) is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance, and also film studies classes and activities. It serves as a cultural center for the region, the state and New England. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, the World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

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