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The *Setenta* album features original artwork by Nery Orellana of Cal State LA.

Cal State LA Afro Latin Ensemble captivates with new *Setenta* album

Album features classics with new arrangements and original compositions

The renowned Cal State LA Afro Latin Ensemble has released its second album, *Setenta*, a vibrant compilation of beloved classics and new compositions that represent the past and future of the genre.

Under the guidance of band director Professor Paul De Castro, the Cal State LA Afro Latin Ensemble has produced a passionate, sophisticated work that revels in its cultural tradition. Breezy flutes and bright trumpets, nimble and intricate percussion work, and a sultry modern take on Leonard Bernstein's *Maria* are just a few of the delights this joyful album packs.

"The goals were very high. I didn't accept second-rate anything," Mr. De Castro said of the album. "We had the best arrangements, great guest stars, and I put the pressure on the students."

Setenta, or Spanish for seventy, was named to commemorate Cal State LA's 70th anniversary and is the second release from Aerie Records, which was launched in 2014 by Cal State LA President William A. Covino and his wife, Debbie Covino.

"The roots of Cal State LA's Afro Latin Ensemble reach deeply into Los Angeles, and *Setenta's* rich connection to the cultural fabric of our region has culminated in a work that is timeless," Mr. Covino said.

The group began in 1999 as a Latin jazz ensemble, founded by students who sought the advice of Mr. De Castro, a Cal State LA alumnus and faculty member in the College of Arts and Letters.

As a well-respected scholar of Afro Latin music and a talented professional pianist, Mr. De Castro was an ideal faculty advisor for the fledgling Latin jazz ensemble. He incorporated traditional Caribbean rhythms, particularly those from Cuba, and invited vocalists to join the group.

Wearing signature guayabera shirts featuring the Cal State LA logo, the ensemble has enthralled audiences at venues such as the Autry Museum and Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles. In 2000, the 22-person ensemble performed in Cuba, and 10 years later, they played before an appreciative audience of 2,000 in China.

To create *Setenta*, Mr. De Castro relied on alumni and friends of the program. He points to one of his favorite tracks on the album, *Trombonático*, as an example of that collaboration. For the trombone section, Mr. De Castro relied on former students, including Luis Bonilla, one of the premier trombone players in the world.

"*Setenta* is the fruit of a collaborative effort between students, faculty, alumni, and guest musicians, the type of which could only take place at Cal State LA," said the album's executive producer Jose A. Gomez, Cal State LA executive vice president.

The album also features the unmistakable vocal work of Grammy award-winning Cuban artist Iris Sandra Cepeda, the percussive expertise of timba specialist Calixto Oviedo, and the studied trombone stylings of Cuban musicology scholar Edgar Hernández, all of whom serve as part-time faculty at Cal State LA.

"Our main goal," Mr. De Castro said, "is to make people feel happy, to make people want to move and dance."



Two generations operate The Shredded Carrot Bakery, 2428 W. Valley Blvd., Unit D, and offer up sweet treats from tried and true family recipes. From left are co-owner Brent Bullock, co-owner Suzanne Egli, Amber and Michael Carey, and Marci and Frank Yurkovich.

How sweet it is



By Glenn Barnett

Suzanne Egli and her two sons, Brent and Jonah, all grew up in Alhambra. They all went to Marguerita School and graduated from Alhambra High School. Beginning in March, they were all in business together. Where else would they open their business than their home town and right in the old neighborhood.

The two generations now operate The Shredded Carrot Bakery, 2428 W. Valley Blvd., Unit D, and offer up sweet treats from Suzanne's own tried and true family recipes and her 30 years as a baker. Suzanne is the owner and head baker, and her sons work the counter. As the name implies, Suzanne bakes up her signature (and in some circles, famous) carrot cake along with other favorite treats like chocolate cake, varieties of cheese cake, pineapple upside down cake, layered tres leche, and Salvadorian quesadilla.

In addition, there are muffins, cookies, brownies, cake pops, cupcakes, and bread puddings, tarts, and pies (try the key lime pie — very good). Everything is made from scratch, including the specialty dog treats for your canine friends. To wash it all down, they sell Don Raúl Colombia Coffee for less than that place that has all the stores everywhere you look.

For more information, call The Shredded Carrot at 626-660-6071, and visit their website at theshreddedcarrot.com, where you can learn about everything they have to offer.

The Shredded Carrot's hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.



The Shredded Carrot bakes custom-ordered cakes for birthdays, weddings, quinceañeras, gender reveal, and other events. They also offer a variety of baked goodies, including cookies, cupcakes, and pies.