La Santa Cecilia

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014 . 8PM
INA & JACK KAY THEATRE

The Artist Partner Program presents
La Santa Cecilia

La Marisoul, lead vocals & jarana
Alex Bendaña, bass & vocals
Pepe Carlos, accordion, requinto & vocals
Miguel Ramírez, percussion & vocals
Wally Valdez, drums

Tonight’s program will be announced from the stage. Program is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes with no intermission.

Presented in partnership with the Coalition for Latino Student Organizations, the Latin America Studies Center and the Office of Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy at UMD.
eventually featured in the cable series *Weeds* and in the documentary film *Re-Encounters* (about Oaxacan artist Alejandro Santiago), and elsewhere. The group’s second EP, *Noche y Citas*, was released in 2010 and garnered further critical acclaim, and the group began to tour in Mexico and, eventually, throughout North America. Their third EP featured four covers as well an original song. The covers ranged from Gloria Jones’ “Tainted Love” and U2’s “One” to the late Lhasa de Sela’s “Love Came Here” and “Viento” by Caifanes, displaying not only their range but also their commitment to a variety of music.

With growing popularity at home and abroad, La Santa Cecilia signed to Universal and pared the core of the group down to La Marisoul, Bendaña, Carlos and Ramirez. Their debut album, *Treinta Dias*, was released in May 2013, and became the Hot Shot Debut of the Week on *Billboard*’s Latin pop albums chart and in February 2014, won the GRAMMY award for “Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album.” In March, less than a month after winning, *Someday Now*, their follow-up and its single, “Cumbia Morada,” were released.

— Thom Jurek

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hailing from Los Angeles, *La Santa Cecilia* is a “new thing” Latin group that draws inspiration from all over the world, utilizing Pan-American rhythms from cumbia, bossa nova, rumba, bolero and tango, and marrying them to rock, soul, R&B, ska, jazz and klezmer.

La Santa Cecilia (named for the patron saint of musicians) was formed in 2007 as a sextet. Its founding members were guitarist Gloria Estrada, accordionist and requintero Pepe Carlos, bassist Alex Bendaña, percussionist Miguel “Oso” Ramirez, drummer Hugo Vargas and lead vocalist Marisol “La Marisoul” Hernandez. Its members were either born in or brought to the United States when they were very young. While they all grew up with traditional forms of Latin music at home, they were also exposed to the sounds of American pop culture: rock, soul, blues, jazz, funk, punk, ska, reggae and other world sounds that played freely on the airwaves and in neighborhoods. They played block parties, bars, coffee houses and the occasional opening gig for out-of-town acts and at festivals.

The band recorded its self-titled debut EP in 2009. Aside from terrific songwriting and performances, the CD package revealed something else that was different about this group: they wanted to be part of their community. They sponsored “painting parties” where they would play and design and hand paint their CD covers with friends and fans, using materials that ranged from recycled newsprint to wrapping paper to card stock and beyond. No two covers were alike and were therefore art objects. Local notice spread about the group’s music, and they received local airplay and were able to play more shows and festivals. Their incendiary live performances garnered them a fanatic fan base, and music from the EP was