

the

# novacane quartet

presents

## **iBailamos! Rufino Tamayo's *Dancers Over the Sea***

Latin America has a rich history of dance—one deeply rooted in the cultures of its people. Dancing has a long and complicated history in these cultures, drawing on three principal influences: Native American dance, dance of the European elite, and African dance. This program explores various dance music of Latin America—some are exclusive to particular regions and others have achieved popularity throughout the world.

Venezuelan composers Beatriz Lockhart and Jorge Montilla draw musical inspiration from the rich history of Latin American creole dances. The following dances are byproducts of cultural intermingling in post-Columbian Latin America. Though each dance has roots in a particular country, all have gained popularity throughout the continent.

MERENGUE – Dominican Republic | SON – Cuba | BAMBUCO – Colombia | JOROPO – Venezuela

The CHORO is a popular music genre from Brazil, and *Tico-Tico*, composed in 1917, is one of the most popular songs in that style. At the premiere the composer noticed the commotion it caused on the dance floor—the people were dancing so vigorously to the happy tune that he said they looked like “*sparrows in the cornmeal*”, which is how the piece got its name.

Another creole dance resulting from European and African traditions is the TANGO. Originating in Argentina, it is one of the most well known dances of South America. The music of Ástor Piazzolla revolutionized the tango by incorporating elements of classical music and jazz into the tango. His *Histoire du Tango* in particular illustrates the history and evolution of the tango in four movements.

Composed for the Novacane Quartet in 2014, JunYi Chow's *Let's Snap* is based on the FLAMENCO, a Spanish folk dance from the Andalusia region in southern Spain. Spanish dances like the Flamenco played an important role in the complex evolution of Latin American dance traditions.