

COMMUNITY NEWS

LPO presents Fiesta Sinfonica on Saturday

Leaving Mardi Gras behind, cultural activities in New Orleans have included lively Latin American music. Last week, it was the sensuous Argentine tango ballet dancers of Estampas Portenas, brought to town by the New Orleans Ballet Association. The sold-out performances were held at Tulane University's Dixon Hall.

This week, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra presents Fiesta Sinfonica, joined by Mariachi Cobre on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Dixon Hall.

LPO's artistic Mexican music director **Carlos Miguel Prieto** will conduct the concert, collaborating with the 12-piece ensemble of violins, trumpets and guitars of Mariachi Cobre, conveying the richness and emotional power of mariachi music, a vital part of Mexico's cultural identity.

Founded in 1971 by **Randy Carrillo**, Mariachi Cobre is celebrating its 37th anniversary this year.

Saturday's performance is the first of five annual Fiesta Sinfonica concerts underwritten by a grant from New Orleans-based Pan American Life. Cuban native **Jose S. Suquet**, chairman of the board, president and CEO of Pan-American Life Insurance Group Inc., has been contributing to the cultural and civic life of the city since he arrived here.

Before moving to New Orleans, he lived in New York, where he served as a director of the Greater New York YMCA and as a trustee of the Browning School. Previous to that, Suquet was prominent in Miami's civic and business

affairs.

In New Orleans, Suquet serves on the board of trustees of the United Way of the Greater New Orleans Area, the Ochsner Health System and Greater New Orleans Inc. and the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region. Suquet and his



NUESTRO PUEBLO

Ana Gershanik



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wife, **Eliana**, have been actively supporting the arts and Hispanic organizations.

Tickets for Pan American Life's Fiesta Sinfonica 2008 are available at www.lpomusic.com or by calling (504) 523-6530.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana will hold

a networking meeting with business owners, marketing executives and professionals on Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Rio Mar Restaurant, 800 S. Peters St., corner of Julia St. in the Warehouse District. For information, call (504) 885-4262.

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