

THE NEW TROPIC

Meet the guitarist fusing genres from classical to Latin jazz

Plus, sending our best wishes to a Miamian headed to Rockefeller Center.

By Grace DeWitt

Monday morning greetings to ya, Miami.

Do any of you read your newsletter with music playing in the background? If so, might I suggest [this song](#) as the perfect soundtrack to today's read?

For as often as we feature longtime residents of the 305, we're due to switch things up a bit by introducing you to someone who's a more recent arrival to the Magic City. Today's local to know is a fan of switching things up himself — pursuing a fusion of classical music with Latin jazz, instrumental music, and Latin American music with his guitar. Without further ado...

Locals to know: Meet classical guitarist, composer, and instructor **Alberto Puerto**



📷 Photo by Miri Paez Bolet

¡Hola, Alberto! Let's start with the basics: Who are you? What do you do?

I'm the founder of Alberto Puerto Music and AP Guitar School. As a performing artist and composer, I partner with local artists to create new works of classical and guitar music, provide guitar lessons to the next generation of musicians and aficionados, and organize musical events.

How does Miami help you do what you do or influence your work?

The interaction with artists of other nationalities who have different training and come from other points of view continually renovates the language of my art.

Wax poetic for a minute and tell us: what brings you most alive about this city?

Miami has become a series of "Miamis." There are many Miamis to enjoy, many "pockets" of this young city, each with their own energies. Their sum total emerges at large scale, causing a state of constant creative flux. The need to adapt to this makes Miami one of the most vibrant places for emerging artists and new arts.

What's your favorite Miami memory?

As a new immigrant artist playing at Miami Art Week during the events surrounding Art Basel, the impact of seeing so many thousands of people sharing in art was nothing less than inspirational. This was before the pandemic, and I was overwhelmed to see so many people enjoying the arts together, visiting fairs, galleries, and museums — it was powerful and motivating to see so many thousands in cultural dialogue with each other.

If you could eat only one meal from a local restaurant for the rest of your life, what would it be?

I would put myself in the film "Ratatouille" again and eat the Filet Mignon at *Pascal's on Ponce*. At Pascal's, you can find elaborate and powerful cuisine, but in an aesthetic and homey restaurant.

Outside of the obvious stop above, share your other top three destinations for where you'd go on your perfect Miami day.

I would start the day at the *Arsht Center* for a morning concert with fab acoustics, then head over to *Books & Books Gables* for the outdoor cafe and to enjoy Raul's hospitality and neighborhood chatter, and I would wrap up the evening with a coffee or wine and some jazz at *The Globe*.

What's a project you're working on and how can our readers help you with it?

I am in the process of recording my second album, a *Latin American songbook*, where I am moving popular Latin American songs to the classical and jazz space. In the spirit of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, readers can help by donating via [this link](#).

What's an unpopular opinion you have about the city?

I grew up hearing that Miami was a "cemetery" of the arts. I have to confess that I was even somewhat afraid to move here. But my experience has shown me different. In fact, since I have come to Miami, I've been welcomed, and I've lived from my art from the first moment that I became part of this community in 2017.

What's your favorite local social media account (Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, or etc.) to follow and why?

I follow *Sanctuary of the Arts* on Instagram. I like the fact that they are an artist-led institution, which was greatly needed in the Coral Gables "pocket" of Miami.

If you could give any one piece of advice to locals, what would it be?

I would ask locals to attend live concerts. I think it's a very different situation when you hear music live, and in a specialized space that also has the correct audio for music. There is nothing like experiencing all of the impact that sound can truly offer in person.

What are you looking forward to this year?

Publishing the album and playing it live! My first album was launched online, and admittedly I really missed the interaction with an appreciative audience.

That's a wrap on this week's Locals to Know, sponsored by Alberto Puerto Music. Know someone who ought to be featured or would like to be featured yourself? Reach out by sending an email to hello@thenewtropic.com with the subject line "TNT Locals to Know 2022." If chosen, you might just see yourself or a friend in a future newsletter.

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Things to do

Submit your events to our calendar.

Today

🎸 Learn to play and dance to Afro-Brazilian rhythms as Miambloco starts its fall community workshop series ([Miami Beach](#))

Tomorrow

💰 Join Engage Miami at the FY 2022-23 county budget hearing and tell our Mayor and Commissioners how you'd like to see our \$10 billion budget spent ([Downtown](#))

🧑‍🌾 Mark National Hazing Prevention Week with The Antonio Tsalas Leadership Foundation during their free presentation of "A Journey from Hazing to Compassionate Leadership" ([Online](#))

🍄 Celebrate National Mushroom Month with five courses of funghi during this special dining experience hosted by TUR Kitchen and Gratitude Garden Farm ([Coral Gables](#))

Wednesday

🧑‍💻 Connect, engage and learn from the local data science, AI and machine learning community and join the most cutting edge conversation happening in this space at Data Science Salon Miami ([Downtown](#))

🍺 Step into Unseen's transformed taproom for an Oktoberfest celebration featuring beer releases, traditional German food, live music and festival games **through Sunday** ([Bird Road Arts District](#))

Thursday

🖼️ Join the opening reception of the solo exhibition "Strange Territory" by visual artist Nadia Huggins at The Betsy Hotel ([Miami Beach](#))

🤝 Unify through laughter and good food at a comedy show, featuring a diverse line up of South Florida's hilarious comedians ([Aventura](#))

🎸 Join PAMM and III Points for a night of discussion, community, and music, bridging the gap between industry leaders and the up-and-coming generation of aspiring artists in Miami ([Downtown](#))

👤 Catch a UM School of Architecture student exhibition, "Architectural Visions For The West Grove," at the Woman's Club of Coconut Grove ([Coconut Grove](#))

👏 Connect with small business owners and potential clientele at Chamber South's Network @ Night event ([South Miami](#))

Friday

📺 Enjoy never-before-seen footage, performances and music in the new documentary "Moonage Daydream," which explores David Bowie's creative, spiritual and musical journey ([Little Havana](#))

🍷 Enjoy music, food and wine at Venetian Pool to benefit Coral Gables Community Foundation ([Coral Gables](#))

👻 Give yourself goosebumps while the haunted houses and scare zones Horrorland Scream Park ([Watson Island](#))

🎨 Meet artists from around the world at this month's Fountainhead Residency Open House ([Morningside](#))

Saturday

🌱 Scoop up a new seedling at the county's last Adopt-a-Tree giveaway of the season ([Cutler Bay](#))

🧘 Wake up to your weekend with free yoga on Española Way with Synergy Yoga ([Miami Beach](#))

👧 Kick off the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida with program partners, sister Girl Scouts at their Troop Booths, a guest presenter from AstraFemina, and more at G.I.R.L. FEST ([Pinecrest](#))

Sunday

🚗 Get to know your electric vehicle options at the county's first EV Explore Sunday Fun Day, featuring test drive opportunities ([Westchester](#))

🎵 Enjoy the Venezuelan folk and contemporary jazz sounds of Latin Grammy award winners C4 Trio at this outdoor Baroque Jazz Club concert ([Allapattah](#))

👉 One more thing...

Sending muchán felicitades to a local you may already know, Marcello Hernández!

The Miami native, local comic, and one of the major forces behind @OnlyinDade is joining the cast of *Saturday Night Live* this season. We can't wait to tune in and know Marcello will rep us well!

That's a wrap for this Monday, Miami. See ya back here again tomorrow!

— Grace at The New Tropic

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