

# ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL



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## Latin jazz violinist plays El Rey

BY DAVID STEINBERG  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

**S**usie Hansen likes to spread the word about her band anytime, anywhere.

Which is why Hansen wanted to come to Albuquerque next week: The 2005 Western Arts Alliance conference is here.

The Latin jazz violinist will showcase her band Thursday, Sept. 8, at El Rey Theater.

Hansen's band is one of seven "chamber" ensembles performing at El Rey.

"It's a real great opportunity to expand our horizons in terms of touring," she said in a phone interview from her home in Los Angeles.

"We play mostly in New York, L.A., Chicago and Toronto so the WAA conference is good because it's mostly people from the West Coast."

In fact, the conference has promoters and presenters from all the Western states plus Alaska and Hawaii.

The other ensembles at El Rey include the Jupiter String Quartet, Prairie Winds, the San Francisco Guitar Quartet, the Edward Simon Trio, the Nashville Mandolin Ensemble and the Del Sol String Quartet.

Chamber Music America is presenting the showcase partnership with Chamber Music Albuquerque.

Hansen came to Latin jazz after first studying classical and then jazz violin.

"I was playing with my own band in Chicago for the Taste of Chicago (festival) in 1987. The band before us was led by Victor Parra, who was a public radio DJ for a popular Latin jazz show," Hansen said.

"He had just fired his violin player and stayed and listened to my band."

Parra invited Hansen to join his group, which she did, reluctantly and briefly.

"I said, 'What do I know about Latin music?' He said, 'You'll get it and you'll love it.'"

As it turned out, Parra was right.

And the violin, Hansen learned, has been a central element in Cuban popular music, thanks to the charanga music of the Orquesta Aragon.

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The KiMo Theatre, at Fifth and Central NW, also is hosting several evenings of WAA showcases.

Here are those showcase performances:

- Expressions Dance Company of



SUSIE HANSEN SHOWCASES LATIN JAZZ THURSDAY AT EL REY THEATER.

Australia performing "Virtually Richard 3" at 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8. Tickets are \$10 general admission at the door

- Juried showcases featuring Robert Moses' Kin, Kanata Native Dance Theatre, Delfos Danza Contemporanea, Otis Taylor and The Wailin' Jennys. Performances start at 2:15 p.m. Free and open to the public.

- Juried showcases featuring Danza Floricanto, 3 Leg Torso, The Second City and Tap Kids. Performances start at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. Free and open to the public.

### Chamber Music America Ensemble Showcase



**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8

**WHERE:** El Rey Theater, Seventh and Central SW

**HOW MUCH:** Free