



Gema Corredera, *vocalist*
Ahmed Barroso, *guitar*

For today's program, Ms. Corredera will be announcing her selections from the stage.



Raised on a hearty dose of Cuban rumba, son, "Filin," bolero and Afro-Caribbean rhythms, Gema Corredera's sound is as much influenced by her Cuban roots as it is by jazz, Brazilian music, opera, and flamenco. Her voice moves fluently across these genres creating a rich contemporary fusion of jazz and Cuban music that stands on its own, unsubordinated to any specific genre. With a stage presence that is unassuming yet captivating, Gema is an earthy, yet sophisticated singer with an amazing vocal range and versatile interpretative style that is intimate, smooth, funky, playful and seductive. Using her voice as her ultimate instrument, she masterfully integrates song, scat and improvisation. Gema is the quintessential Cuban vocalist of the post Cuban-Filin generations.

Gema's musicality and singing prowess began to unfold early on. At age seven, Gema made her debut singing performance at the Hubert De Blanc Theater in Havana, and at age ten she began studying classical guitar. Her first introduction to jazz came at age 12 when her music teacher told her that there were traces of Ella Fitzgerald's voice in her singing—a distinctive quality organic to Gema, and which later audiences have come to know and love. Indeed, Gema was scatting before she knew what scatting was.

Following her relentless passion for music and the arts, Gema graduated from the Escuela Nacional de Música de La Habana with a degree in Music, specializing in Guitar. She went on to earn a degree in Musicology from Instituto Superior de Arte de La Habana, with a core concentration in contemporary Cuban composition; folkloric Cuban music (emphasizing rumba); and the works of classical composers Bach, Vivaldi, and Tchaikovsky. During this time, she also pursued studies in Bel Canto with the distinguished Cuban Professor Carmen Godoy.

Continued on reverse side

Sunday, April 22, 2012
3:00 p.m.

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Williamstown, Massachusetts

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As a teenager in Cuba she met singer/songwriter and guitar virtuoso Pavel Urquiza, with whom she later formed the duo Gema y Pavel. After leaving Cuba in 1992, Gema moved to Madrid, from where she launched a new era in her professional career.

During that time she toured extensively throughout Europe, the United States, and Latin America, performing at such prestigious festivals and venues as: Frankfurt Opera House; Arezzo Wave Festival in Italy; Nice Jazz Festival; International Skopje Jazz Festival; Le Printemps de Bourges in France; Festival de Guitarra de Córdoba; and Festival Pirineo Sur. She has shared the stage with an extensive range of international artists and Grammy-award winners of diverse genres, including: Andy Montañez, Alejandro Sanz, Angelique Kidjo, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Jarabe de Palo, Lenine, Ketama, Pablo Milanés, Tito Puente, and Willy Chirino.

When Gema is not on stage performing she is teaching: passing a legacy of excellence to the next generation of artists. She has given master classes, combining lectures and performances in the United States and Spain, at such institutes as: Casa de América de Madrid, Universidad Menéndez Pelayo de Santander, Academia del Arte, Escuela de Nuevas Músicas de Madrid; Universidad de Cáceres, Miami Dade College, University of Georgia, Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, Rutgers University, New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida. In 2010, Gema successfully launched El Curso de Canto, an on-line voice studio using Skype® technology, offering singing lessons, vocal coaching and improvisation to students from all over the world.

Upcoming Events:

See music.williams.edu for full details and to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

4/23	1:10pm	Songwriting Master Class: Gema Corredera	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
4/25	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
4/27	8:00pm	Williams Jazz Ensemble with guest artist Sean Jones, trumpet	Chapin Hall
4/29	3:00pm	Visiting Artist: Composers & Their Laptops	Chapin Hall
4/30	3:00pm	Student Recital: Casey McLellan '14, percussion	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/2	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
5/2	4:00pm	Violin Studio Recital	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/3	7:30pm	Brass Bash	Chapin Hall
5/4	8:00pm	Williams Concert Choir	Thompson Memorial Chapel
5/4	8:00pm	Kusika and the Zambezi Marimba Band	'62 Center, MainStage **
5/5	2:00pm	Kusika and the Zambezi Marimba Band	'62 Center, MainStage **
5/5	4:00pm	Jazz Vocal Studio Recital	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/5	6:00pm	Violin Studio Recital	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/5	8:00pm	Kusika and the Zambezi Marimba Band	'62 Center, MainStage **
5/6	7:00pm	Student Recital: Robert Yang '15, cello	'62 Center, MainStage **
5/7	8:00pm	Student Recital: Taylor Halperin '14, jazz piano	Chapin Hall Stage
5/8	4:15pm	Cello Studio Recital	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/8	7:30pm	Senior Recital: Tiffany Yu '12, piano	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/9	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC <i>In C</i>	Chapin Hall
5/9	4:00pm	Vocal Studio Recital	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/9	7:00pm	Small Jazz Ensembles	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/10	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
5/10	7:00pm	Student Recital: Sam Mazzarella '12 & Sarah Lenfest '12	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/11	4:00pm	Piano Studio Recital with Students of Doris Stevenson	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/11	8:00pm	Williams Symphonic Winds	Chapin Hall
5/12	2:00pm	Student Recital: Matt Crimp '12, violin	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/12	4:00pm	Senior Recital: Laone Thekiso '12, piano	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/12	6:00pm	Vocal Studio Recital	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/12	8:00pm	Williams Student Symphony	Chapin Hall
5/13	4:00pm	Senior Recital: Dan Kohane '12 & Laone Thekiso '12	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/14	4:00pm	Piano Studio Recital with Students of Elizabeth Wright	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
5/15	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
5/15	7:00pm	Jazz Guitar Studio Recital	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
6/2	11:00am	Senior Class Day Recital	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall