

BAY LIFEE

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007 • THE TAMPA TRIBUNE • TBO.COM

THINGS TO DO



SOUNDS OF SECADA

Grammy winner Jon Secada joins The Florida Orchestra for a night of Latin, jazz and pop music.

WHEN: 8 tonight

WHERE: Ford Amphitheatre, 4802 N. U.S. 301, Tampa

HOW MUCH: \$25 to \$75; (813) 286-2403

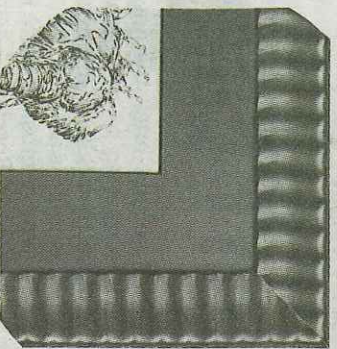
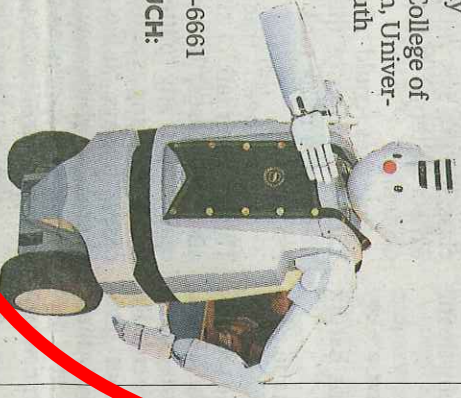
I, ROBOT

The public is invited to view robotics projects and see dancers perform with robotic devices at the USF Robotics Conference.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today

WHERE: College of Education, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa; (813) 966-6661

HOW MUCH: Free



SHOW YOURSELF

Learn how to properly show your creative side at a how-to program on displaying artwork. Also enjoy a museum tour.

WHEN: 4 to 8 p.m. today

WHERE: Tampa Museum of Art, 6000 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa; (813) 274-8130

HOW MUCH: Free

'X' MARKS THE SPOT

Cuban coloratura soprano **Xiomara Alfaro**, who performed with **Celia Cruz** and danced with **Katherine Dunham**, enjoys sharing the music of her homeland.



By CLOE CABRERA
The Tampa Tribune

TAMPA — As a young girl, Xiomara Alfaro dreamed of becoming a nurse. She wanted to help heal people. She never went into health care, but she does make people feel better.

"I'm happy when I sing, and I make others happy," said Alfaro, 71, speaking in Spanish. "I'm a very spiritual person. I try to transmit that to my audience when I sing. God gave me a gift. And when God gives you something, you use it."

The legendary coloratura soprano known as "El Ruiseñor de America Latina" ("Latin America's Nightingale") headlines her first concert here Sunday at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

Alfaro and her husband, Panamanian pianist Rafael Benitez, will perform music from careers that span more than 50 years.

Born in Buena Vista, Cuba, Alfaro wanted to follow in the footsteps of her cousins — all of them nurses. But she had a voice. And she enjoyed showing it off at friends' parties around the neighborhood.

"I never imagined I would be the only one in my family to become a singer," says Alfaro (whose first name is pronounced "See-oh-ma-ra"). "I really don't know where I got my voice from. I guess you never really know what God has in store for you."

See **LATIN 'NIGHTINGALE'**, Page 3 ►
Her first U.S. appearance was at the *Flamingo* in Las Vegas.

Esta noche... TROPICANA

El estelar más lindo del mundo, es el presente en presencia de un millón de ojos, dos maravillosas espectáculos, en dos países diferentes, en dos fabulosos lugares.

En Nueva York...

La última creación de ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ "Waldorf", que se presentará hasta el 4 de Noviembre en la Coreografía de la C.S.T.A. que se celebra en el Waldorf Astoria.

En la Habana...

En el "Oscar", con la presentación estelar de Xiomara Alfaro, la genial voz según, que en nombre de Dios ha encendido a toda el continente.

Reservaciones:
2494 1 22124

¡Gólate el Tropicana CASINO!
¡Cocktail, comida con entretenimiento!
¡Comentarios toda la noche!

¡MÁS DE LA FORTUNA!
¡Solo por este \$10.000.000!
¡Domingo: Un Cheque de \$5.000.000!

Singer **Xiomara Alfaro** has recorded 28 albums, toured more than 32 countries and appeared in several movies. She was a star in Havana in the 1940s and '50s but has visited only once since Fidel Castro rose to power. Above is a publicity poster for one of her appearances at the Tropicana nightclub.