Glossary

**Bordonua**
A large, deep-body bass guitar often with three sound holes; it is the third and lowest stringed instrument in the orquesta típica puertorriqueña.

**Boricua**
The Puerto Rican people, the inhabitants and citizens of the Puerto Rico and their descendants, both on the island and in the diaspora.

**Borinquen**
The precolonial name of the island nation of Puerto Rico in the language of the Indigenous Taíno people.

**Borinqueño**
A resident of Borinquen.

**Cuatro**
A ten-stringed musical instrument in the guitar family that is shaped more like a viola; it is the middle voice in the orquesta típica puertorriqueña.
Décima
In Hispanic culture, a poetic form of ten lines, usually performed as a song consisting of forty-four lines with a four-line introductory stanza. In Puerto Rico, décimas are accompanied by the orquesta típica and singers often challenge each other to improvise verses in the rhyming scheme ABBAACCDDC.

Don, Doña
Literally “Mister” or “Missus,” these terms are used as expressions of respect, courtesy, social distinction, or when a person is considered very intelligent or accomplished.

Jíbaro
Refers to the countryside people in the mountains of Puerto Rico who farm the land in a traditional way. The jíbaro is a self-subsistence farmer, and an iconic reflection of the indefatigable spirit of the Puerto Rican people.

Maestro
Teacher or master, often used as a term of respect for wise or learned people.

Mapeyé
A musical term, it refers to “seis mapeyé,” a harmonic style of jíbaro dance music that is closely associated with the décima lyric/poetic form. The well-known Puerto Rican music group Mapeyé takes its name from this form.

Orquesta típica
Sometimes simply called “típica” is a term that varies from country to country in Latin America. In Puerto Rico a típica is a jíbaro musical group that usually features a cuatro, tiple, bordonua, possible guitar, and percussion instruments like a güíro (a dried gourd with scores on it that is scraped rhythmically
with a kind of metal comb) and/or bongo drums. The sound of the orquesta típica is a source of Puerto Rican national pride and cultural unity.

**Pasteles**
A cherished culinary treat in Puerto Rico, especially around Christmastime. The masa (dough) is made of green banana, green plantain, white yautía, potato, and tropical pumpkins known as calabazas. It is seasoned with liquid from a meat mixture, milk, and annatto oil, and is a cousin to the Mexican tamale. Fillings can range from vegetables, poultry, fish, pork, and game.

**Pueblo**
A town where commerce and natural resources are produced and marketed; also, the group of those people who live in a town, region, or country and derive their group cultural identity from that place.

**Tiple**
A twelve-stringed instrument in the guitar family, used extensively in Puerto Rican traditional music; the highest-pitched instrument in the orquesta típica.