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## Spreading some Latin fusion around the island *Sabor Dance School marks five years with a new dance studio*

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Sabor Dance School director  
Angela Hayward. \* Photo  
supplied

Sabor Dance School will celebrate five years as 'a family' by cutting the ribbon on its new dance studio this weekend.

From its humble beginnings with two instructors teaching just four students one night a week, Sabor has gone from strength to strength and now teaches several dance disciplines almost every night of the week. As well as salsa, students can now learn to cha cha, merengue and bachata.

The school prides itself on developing people with a passion for Latin dance into international performers or simply excellent social dancers.

And to celebrate the Latin fusion they have brought to the island, the team is adding some spice and fancy footwork to their fifth anniversary celebrations.

Past and present students, sponsors and friends have all been invited to the new dance studio at the old Berkeley Institute (known as the Berkeley Institute Cultural Centre) at 7pm on Saturday (April 12).

The fun kicks off with a cocktail reception and a ribbon cutting ceremony by the Minister of Culture and Social Rehabilitation Dale Butler. Then guests will then really start to let their hair down with performances by the Sabor Dance School Professional Dance Company, the celebrities from Bermuda's own version of Dancing With The Stars and international performers. And don't think you'll be getting to bed early, as the social dancing will continue until about 11pm.

And even if you aren't there in person, you can still enjoy the celebrations by tuning in at home as all the activities will be broadcast live on the radio. Tune into Salsa Mania's Latin Flavours radio programme on Magic 102.7FM from 7pm to 9pm.

Sabor director Angela Hayward said the electrically charged energy of Latin music and dance led her to set up the school.

"There's this balance between your inner soul and the music and it brought out in me a dormant energy that I had in regards to dance, music, exercise and a way to connect with people socially. I wanted other people to have the opportunity to feel the same way, and so I thought, what better way to do that than to teach!"

She added: "It's so rewarding when I feel that I'm able to give the same things I found in the dance to other people. When we watch the movement of students from the dance school out onto the social scene, it's truly rewarding."

Grammy award-winning Latin jazz musician Poncho Sanchez inspired the name of the dance school, when he visited Bermuda in 2003. He was heard to say 'Sabor' which in Spanish means flavour or taste.

Moving to Berkeley has enabled them to create "a personalized home" for students and staff and more room to expand their programmes and social events.

Ms. Hayward said: "We are so grateful for this opportunity to celebrate five years of hard work and dedication to the development of this dance school.

"We started out at Bermuda College teaching four students - three adults and one child - on Thursday nights, and now we offer several classes almost every night of the week."

She added: "What is beautiful is that we have a great team here at Sabor, from our instructors to our administrators whom have all assisted in creating the familia (Spanish for family) vibe all sharing the passion and vision of this very special Latin dance school."

In addition to the grand opening on Saturday, there will also be local and international performances at the Veranda Bar at Elbow Beach tonight (Friday) with a free instructional class in salsa, cha cha and bachata.

Sabor Dance students usually have their first taste of performing at the annual Mambo Nights Latin Dance showcases in Bermuda, before going on to grace the stages of Toronto, Montreal, New Jersey and Boston.

Mambo Nights is a big event on the Sabor social calendar and this year's shows have already been pencilled in for Friday, August 15 and Saturday, August 16. It's at Fairmont Southampton's Mid-Ocean Amphitheatre and get ready for a hot show as it's entitled Bodies in Motion.

The Sabor Dance School is the instructional division of BermudaSalsa.com Group.

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