**Get up and Dance with Calle 66**

Although it’ll be the first time Calle 66 has played at Music on the Hill, it’s not as though they haven’t experienced Santa Fe—or St. John’s—before. Lead vocalist Jackie Zamora, the so-called “princess of salsa,” was up here just a couple months ago. And, though she’s not all that familiar with the curriculum of St. John’s, she’s no stranger to academics. “I’m working on my master’s in civil engineering,” says Zamora, who also has four kids and three jobs.

Invited by longtime jazz man and president of the Santa Fe Music Collective (one of MoTH’s sponsors) John Trentacosta (who also sat in on drums for Doug Lawrence, who opened this summer’s MoTH program), Calle 66 may be fairly new but the band has plenty of seasoned musicians. Most of whom Trentacosta has seen (or played with himself).

“John knows a lot of the guys in my band and has seen us perform live,” says Zamora, who’ll be getting people fired up with both contemporary and traditional forms of salsa, as well as cumbias, meringue, and bachata. “Plus, I did a performance up there at St. John’s a couple months ago and the campus to me, I can’t help but think of how disconnected we are from nature, and how the campus there brings you back to that connection.”

Music also connects her—to her roots, to her audiences. “Performing salsa is the closest thing to a soulful connection to my culture and to connecting to other people,” says Zamora, who’s originally from Peru, but who also speaks fluent Portuguese.

“I love the music of my ancestors,” she says. “And I’m excited about playing there. I’m looking forward to that Santa Fe energy—open hearts, open minds. Making people dance.”