

*Fabiola Méndez, B.M is a Puerto Rican cuatro player, singer, composer, and educator. Her artistic vision and original music focus on the exploration of her culture, her ancestry, and her identities. Native to Caguas, PR, Fabiola Méndez began playing the cuatro when she was 6 years old. She was a student at the Hogar del Cuatro Puertorriqueño in Manatí, the Humacao Musical Institute, the Antonio Paoli School of Music in Caguas, the Conservatorio de Artes del Caribe, and Berklee College of Music, where in 2018 she graduated as the first student to play the Puerto Rican cuatro as principal instrument. She has worked with organizations such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance in Chicago, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, among many others. She has collaborated with artists such as the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, Totó La Momposina, Pedro Capó, Andy Montañez, Decimanía de Puerto Rico, Chicago Philharmonic, and the Boston Landmarks Orchestra. She has recorded and been featured on many albums, foremost among them are Andy Montañez's "Boleros que Cantó el Sonero Mayor" (2023), Luis Sanz's "Cuatro Sinfónico" (2019), Banco Popular Special ECO (2008), and her three own: Afrorriqueña (2021), Al Otro Lado del Charco (2019), and Herencia Criolla (2009) - her latest two albums being part of the best 20 productions of 2019 and 2021 consecutively, according to the National Foundation for Popular Culture. In 2022, she produced her first documentary "[Negrura](#)", showcasing Afro-Latinx stories on topics around colorism and discrimination within our own communities. In recent years, she's had the honor of receiving recognition such as the Quincy Jones Award, ambassador for the Puerto Rican Day Parade in NYC, a motion from the PR House of Representatives as the first cuatro player to graduate from Berklee, the Whippoorwill Arts Fellowship 2022, and the ASCAP Foundation Lucille and Jack Yellen Award 2022. Currently, Fabiola presents her original music nationally and internationally and her compositions and performances are featured on PBS Kids and HBO Max, representing proudly with her cuatro and Puerto Rican culture wherever she goes.*