

MEDIA RELEASE

Storyteller Dianne de Las Casas
P.O. Box 2656
Harvey, LA 70059-2656
<http://www.storyconnection.net>

For more information contact:
Dianne de Las Casas
(504) 368-1831 (ph/fax)
e-mail: dianne@storyconnection.net

Award-winning Storyteller and Acclaimed Jazz Musician Team on Children's CD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

¡Baile! ¡Canta! Dance! Sing! It's a World Fiesta! Blow up the balloons and hang up the streamers! Award-winning Storyteller Dianne de Las Casas teams up with acclaimed jazz musician, Betsy Braud the Jazz Nurse, in a lively fusion of storytelling and music. *World Fiesta ~ Celebrations in Story and Song* celebrates cultures around the world with tales from Mexico, India, Greece, the United States, Africa and Germany complimented by cool, jazzy music. Hang on to your hats. It's going to be a big party! ¡Olé!

Dianne de Las Casas has lived and traveled worldwide. De Las Casas has an international family: her mother is from the Philippines, her step-dad is from Cajun Louisiana, her mother-in-law is from Honduras, and her father-in-law hails from Cuba. As a multicultural citizen of the world, she appreciates the people, the food, and the music of other cultures and loves sharing it with others. Her performances are delightful retellings of world folktales full of fun audience participation for the entire family. A leader in the arts community, de Las Casas has co-founded several arts organizations and is a Louisiana Touring Directory Artist. She encourages families to spend time together and highlights "Together Time" activities in her monthly email newsletter, Story Connection Express.

Talented multi-instrumentalist Betsy Braud hails from Thibodaux, Louisiana, deep in bayou country. Her jazz is influenced by the flavor of her Cajun upbringing. Braud plays the flute, saxophone, piccolo, and piano. She enjoys teaching music to kids and truly encourages creative self-expression as well as honoring your family's cultural heritage. A protégé of Alvin Batiste, Braud has been gracing the Louisiana jazz scene for over two decades. Braud's combo, The Jazz Nurse Prescription, showcases her unique musical style, Latin-Flavored Bayou Jazz.

De Las Casas says, "Working with Betsy has been an incredible experience. She made me see possibilities in my stories I never knew existed. *World Fiesta* is a true collaborative effort and we learned a lot from each other's creative process. Our goal was to create a CD that truly honored children and the rich cultural heritage of all of our families. I hope we accomplished that."

De Las Casas and Braud believe that music and stories have the power to connect people of diverse cultures in a celebration of love and life. They hope *World Fiesta* serves as a passport into the imagination, bringing world cultures to life through the magic of stories and song. *World Fiesta* can be ordered at www.storyconnection.net.