



Ara Macao Dance Company is a cultural organisation based in Villavicencio, Meta, Colombia which promotes the Colombian culture through all forms of Dance from Classical Ballet to Jazz, from Contemporary Dance to traditional folklore dance, from Latin Ballroom dance to street dance.

Ara Macao will be bringing to Billingham Festival an extensive repertoire of traditional folklore and Latin dances. A Company of 32 dancers and musicians will be touring Europe (France, Netherlands and UK) in 2012 is led by its Artistic Director and Choreographer Junior Munillo.

Colombian traditional dances are influenced by African, Caribbean, Spanish and Native Indian cultures. Music and dance are very popular in Colombia, with dozens of popular vibrant styles. The most popular local musical styles are [Valleato](#), [Salsa](#), [Merengue](#), [Cumbia](#) and [Bambuco](#). The latter is a very complicated dance with many differently named steps. Cumbia is a mixture of Spanish and African music, the latter brought by slaves. The style of dance is designed to recall the shackles worn around the ankles of the slaves.

Ara Macao has been touring the World since 1985 and is considered to be one of the best traditional and Latin dance companies in Colombia.

