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HCC set to present original multimedia opera

The Community College Public Humanities Center at Holyoke Community College will present "Quiero Volver: A Xiacanx Ritual Opera," Friday at 7 p.m. in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater.

"Quiero Volver," which in Spanish means "I want to return," is a 60-minute multimedia performance and

theatrical reading that features original music, poetry and documentary video by Northampton resident Diana Alvarez, a guitarist, vocalist and performance artist who created the show as part of her doctoral dissertation at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where she is in the electronic arts program.

Alvarez said she created "Quiero Volver" in honor of "women, non-binary, and genderqueer people of color." "A small ensemble of five performers will read and

perform sonic rituals, meditations, and poems for the audience," said Alvarez.

"Their performances will be interwoven with my own original songs and documen-



tary footage from my dissertation research."

Alvarez previously performed at HCC earlier this year in "Latinas con Pluma," a musical and theatrical pro-

Diana Alvarez, of Northampton, created "Quiero Volver: A Xiacanx Ritual Opera," as part of her doctoral dissertation at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. It will be presented at HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater Friday at 7 p.m.

years in the making as I meditated on the constrict use of the word "volver" in Mexican music and Spanish-language songs in general," said Alvarez, who is originally from Corpus Christi, Texas.

She said she developed an interpretation of the word that is, in part, a meditation on grief.

"Xiacanx people - Mexican Americans - and people of color as a whole have many reasons to grieve," she said. "We experience the long-standing effects of racism, colonization, and exploitation on a daily basis. The goal of my piece is to create a space to honor those most affected by these injustices and to share with the audience our rituals of healing and preservation."

More information about the artist and the show is available at diana-alvarez.com/quierovolver.

The performance is sponsored by the Community College Public Humanities Center at HCC, with grant support from Mass Humanities and the National En-

document for the Humanities, along with Northampton Community Television and the School of Humanities at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANA ALVAREZ