

Manhattan Opera Repertory Ensemble



presents

A promotional poster for MORE Opera's Juneteenth Jubilee 2024. The background is a collage of images showing people at a community event, including a man playing a drum and a woman singing into a microphone. The text is overlaid on the images. At the top left, it says "MORE Opera's Juneteenth Jubilee 2024". To the right is a smaller version of the MORE OPERA logo. Below that, a blue rounded rectangle contains the text "Celebrate Juneteenth with spirituals and folk songs!". The date and time are "Monday June 17th, 2024 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM". The location is "Bella Abzug Park between W 34th and W 35th St at Hudson Yards". At the bottom, it says "Sponsored by:" followed by logos for the Howard Gilman Foundation, LMCC, and HYHK. Below the logos is the NYC Cultural Affairs logo.

**MORE Opera's
Juneteenth
Jubilee 2024**

**MORE
OPERA**

*Celebrate Juneteenth with
spirituals and folk songs!*

**Monday June 17th, 2024
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

**Bella Abzug Park
between W 34th and W 35th St
at Hudson Yards**

Sponsored by:

HOWARD
GILMAN
FOUNDATION

LMCC

HYHK

**NYC Cultural
Affairs**

Monday, June 17, 2024

4:00 PM

Bela Abzug Park, NYC

Patricio Molina, Music Director/Pianist

Cheryl Warfield, Producer

PROGRAM

Through Moanin' Pines

Harry Burleigh

*Along de desolate roads we pass
Thro' lonely pines and whither'd grass
De win' moans in de branches tall
An' a heavy sadness broods o'ver all
--L.A.B.*

Patricio Molina, piano

Lift Every Voice and Sing

J. Rosamond Johnson

MORE Opera Combined Choruses

I Have a Dream

Mary Donnelly

MORE Opera Community Chorus

I Wanna Sing/Swing Low/When the Saints Go Marchin' In

Traditional

Oh, Freedom

Traditional Spiritual

Michael Row the Boat Ashore

Traditional

Oh, What a Beautiful City

Traditional

MORE Opera Combined Choruses

Prayer

H. Leslie Adams

Emmanuel Cruz, tenor

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Harry T. Burleigh

Cheryl Warfield, soprano

Hay Una Antilla

Unknown/Dominican

Emmanuel Cruz, tenor
MORE Opera Combined Choruses

'Tis Me, O Lord arr. Patricio Molina
Elizabeth Moulton, Mezzo-Soprano and MORE Opera Chorus

I Am Seekin' for a City arr. Patricio Molina
Veronica Lewis, Soprano and MORE Opera Chorus

Negro Dance Nr. 1 Florence Price
Patricio Molina, Piano

Night Florence Price
Emmanuel Cruz, Tenor

My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord Florence Price
Cheryl Warfield, Soprano and MORE Opera Combined Choruses

The Sacred Tree Scott Joplin
Rachel Silverstein, Soprano

Wrong is Never Right Scott Joplin
Emmanuel Cruz, Tenor

A Real Slow Drag Scott Joplin
MORE Opera Combined Choruses

Manhattan Opera Repertory Ensemble



Artists

Cheryl Warfield, Producer

Dr. Patricio Molina, Music Director

MORE Opera

Sydney Ali
Emmanuel Cruz
Ricardo Figueroa
Samuel Flores
Veronica Lewis
Patricia McGovern*
Ed Moulin*
Elizabeth Moulton
Sarah Polen
Rachel Silverstein
Nino Spallacci
Mayan Summer*
Judy Swartz*
Troy D. Wallace
Cheryl Warfield

MORE Community Chorus

Grace Amoye
Richard Blot
Vera Daniel
Alisha Diamond
Rose Janvier
Sung Kim
Mercella Matthews
Colleen Pappas
Ray Pultinas
Daisy Rivera
Kaspar Schroeter
Raquel Solomon
Mary Speciale
Sharon Wolfe

Bronx Music Heritage Chorus

Francis Acevedo
Shakhima Bellamy
Amirah Brown
Alfredo Campio
Crisbelly Contreras
Natalie Jordan Mark
William Marshall
Raymond Moreta
Sibil Owusu
Desiree Pagan
Donovan Ramkissin
Alex Tavaras
Katherine Vicente

* Guest Chorister from West End Collegiate Church

Not all choristers from the roster appear at today's performance

Manhattan Opera Repertory Ensemble



A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER:

Greetings!



I am Cheryl Warfield, founder and artistic director of ADVANCE/MORE Opera, a performing arts and educational not-for-profit based here in Manhattan. We strive to bring quality programming to underserved communities throughout New York City and beyond, emphasizing Black themes and providing performing and learning opportunities for all.

We welcome you and are so pleased to present a Manhattan performance of Juneteenth Jubilee 2024 at the beautiful Bela Abzug Park. What a wonderful way for us to follow our mission bringing high quality outreach performances to Manhattan communities. Giving professional, emerging, and amateur artists alike an opportunity to perform while making opera and classical music accessible for all is our mission.

We would like to acknowledge all the individuals and entities that have helped to make this program possible, with special recognition to the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) Please enjoy this performance.

All the best,



Cheryl Warfield

Artist Biographies :

Emmanuel Cruz, Tenor

Emmanuel Cruz, tenor (b. 1988, Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA) has had the privilege of performing the Star-Spangled Banner at Yankee Stadium, Madison Square Garden, Izod Center, and for distinguished guests including President Bill Clinton, film director Spike Lee, boxer Oscar de la Hoya, and Senator Hillary Clinton. He has performed opera roles including Polidoro (*La finta semplice*), Bill (*A Hand of Bridge*), Don Curzio (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Orpheus (*Orpheus in the Underworld*), Monostatos (*Die Zauberflöte*), Dorvil (*La scala di seta*), Contino Belfiore (*La finta giardiniera*), Eddie Fislinger (*Elmer Gantry*) and High Priest (*Saul*).

Emmanuel has performed extensively as a soloist/choir member at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and has performed in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, California, Houston, Texas, and Moscow & St. Petersburg, Russia. He has performed as a lead vocalist in various Latin ensembles throughout the New York City area, a reflection of his Puerto Rican and Cuban heritage.

Emmanuel received a master's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Houston, and a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Montclair State University.

Outside of music, Emmanuel is a self-professed multifaceted geek, who enjoys researching and discussing various aspects of pop culture while combining his musical training and knowledge.

Dr. Patricio Molina, Music Director

Named a "a gifted artist" by the New York Times, Dr. Patricio Molina has gained a reputation as a composer, pianist, and educator. The Cleveland Institute of Music is one of many institutions that have acknowledged his artistic accomplishments by naming him a 2021 Future of Music Faculty Fellow. Patricio regularly appears on stages such as Carnegie Hall and OPERA America. Dr. Molina is a Yamaha Artist.

The New Jersey Youth Symphony and White Snake Projects are among the many institutions who have recognized his talents with commissioned works. His body of work embraces a wide variety of instrumentation including solo voice and piano, chamber orchestra, brass ensemble, piano trio, opera, and ballet. Inspirations for his compositions include his Chilean Syrian heritage, mythology, and literature, as well as his experience as a DREAMer immigrant from the age of thirteen for over ten years. An album of his own compositions for piano performed by the composer will be released in 2022.

Patricio is committed to serving marginalized communities by creating new works in collaboration with other artists from underrepresented groups, performing underrated works, and working toward decolonizing academic research. His accomplishments in the field of arts education have been recognized by the New Jersey Education Association with their esteemed Award for Excellence.

Dr. Patricio Molina (cont'd)

Patricio is in demand as a lecturer on a wide variety of topics including composition, Arabic music theory and performance, youth engagement in the arts, piano performance, and teaching composition for performers. He has presented his research and expertise at institutions such as the College Music Society National Conference, the International Ekmelic Music Society, and the Diaz de Moral Foundation.

Patricio holds a master's degree with distinction from the Manhattan School of Music, a D.M.A. in Piano Performance, and a Ph.D. in Music Composition from Rutgers University. He serves as Associate Director of the Conservatory for Newark School of the Arts, and Music Director at St. Thomas the Apostle Church of Bloomfield, New Jersey. He serves as Adjunct Professor of Music at Passaic Valley Community College. He is co-founder and President of Notes for Growth Foundation, a foundation that creates access to music education for underprivileged children as well as creates performance opportunities for artists from underrepresented groups.

Rachel Silverstein, Soprano

Soprano Rachel Silverstein is a New Jersey based performer and a voice teacher with Hillsdale Music and Arts LLC. She received her Master of Music in Opera from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and was awarded the Michael's Fardink Memorial Award for Outstanding Vocalist upon her graduation in 2022.

Cheryl Warfield, Soprano

Soprano Cheryl Warfield is the founder and artistic director of Manhattan Opera Repertory Ensemble (MORE Opera), an NYC-based nonprofit blazing a trail in culturally responsive musical programming and arts education to make opera and classical music accessible to underserved audiences. For more than 25 years, MORE Opera has offered free performances and educational initiatives, and community choral training to ensure people from all socio-economic backgrounds and age groups can realize the social, cognitive, and health benefits of exposure to the arts. MORE's offerings are tailored to meet the needs of the communities it serves, including bilingual Spanish and English programming, and interactive choral training for adults aged 60 and over.

In addition to her work in the nonprofit sector, Cheryl runs an opera program for sixth graders at a public STEAM middle school and is a private vocal coach. She is certified as a Minority Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) by the M/WBE Program at the NYC Department of Small Business Services.

Cheryl began classical vocal training at the age of 13. She continued her musical studies after graduating from the Ohio State University with a degree in business administration, at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Known as the 'The Oprah of Opera,' she has captivated audiences with her performances of some of the most recognized soprano roles in renowned opera houses around the world and on Broadway.

She is proud member of multiple performing arts unions, including Actor's Equity, SAG-AFTRA, and AGMA.

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