

Discover Angelitos Negros

A Celebration of
African American and
Latino Musical Traditions

PRESENTED BY

THE DISCOVERY
O!RCHESTRA
Break Through Classical Music

MO
RE OPERA

Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 3PM
Grace Church, Newark, NJ

Program

Welcome

Lift Every Voice and Sing.....J. Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson
MORE Opera Chorus

Discover Angelitos Negros

Hay Una Antilla en Medio del Mar Caribe.....Trad. arr. Molina / J. A. Hernandez
with Discovery Exploration by George Marriner Maull
Emmanuel Cruz, tenor
MORE Opera Chorus
Leslie Johannessen, violin

Angelitos Negros

Caribbean

Hay Una Antilla en Medio del Mar Caribe / Sarambo.....Trad. arr. Molina / J. A. Hernandez
Emmanuel Cruz, tenor
MORE Opera Chorus
Leslie Johannessen, violin

Linda Cubana.....Eduardo Sánchez de Fuentes
Mallory Molina, soprano

Compadre Pedro Juan.....Luis Alberti
Gabriel De Los Santo, vocalist
Justin Vedovelli, percussion

Por Amor.....Rafael Solano
Cheryl Warfield, soprano
Gabriel De Los Santos, vocalist

Program

Caribbean

Pregón.....Patricio Molina
Emmanuel Cruz, tenor

Acana.....Patricio Molina
Emmanuel Cruz, tenor

South America

Kecha Tregülfe.....Patricio Molina
Rachel Silverstein, soprano

O Nume splendente (aria from *Lautaro de Caupolican*).....Eliodoro Ortiz de Zárate
Cheryl Warfield, soprano

North America

Escúchame (aria from *Florencia en el Amazonas*).....Daniel Catán
Cheryl Warfield, soprano

I Am Seekin' for a City.....Spiritual / arr. Molina
Veronica Lewis, mezzo-soprano
MORE Opera Chorus

Your World (*commissioned by The Discovery Orchestra*).....Patricio Molina
Cheryl Warfield, soprano



Acknowledgments

Discover Angelitos Negros is made possible in part with funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, the New Jersey Arts and Culture Renewal Fund, the KearnyBank Foundation, the Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation, the F.M. Kirby Foundation, and the Kosloski Family Foundation.

The following individuals helped sponsor this event:

- Sandra Braddy-Hall
- Dyan Bryson
- Susan Head
- Robert & Sandra Brown Sherman

Special thanks go to the following:

- Grace Church in Newark, and especially the Reverend Fr. Brent Bates (Rector) and Wolff Roos (Director of Music) for their support and encouragement
- Cheryl Duncan & Co. for their publicity and promotion of this event
- JDV Music and Design, videographer
- Amanda Brown Photography
- Laura Forero, Spanish translation
- Brandan Oliver and David Wiles; Attorneys, Thomson Reuters

Accessibility

The Discovery Orchestra makes every effort to accommodate the needs of individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities for all its programs and activities as well as at its administrative office. Upon request, and with two weeks notice, specific accommodations will be made subject to our available resources. All programs (except for contributor's list) are printed in large print font size. Please see a Discovery Orchestra staff member at the concert venue before the performance begins for any other accommodations.



About "Angelitos Negros"

In 2021, MORE Opera, under the leadership of founder and soprano Cheryl Warfield, presented an outdoor concert titled *Angelitos Negros* for African American and Latino communities in Upper Manhattan and Harlem that had been hard hit by the COVID pandemic. The program, designed to bridge communities, was inspired by a poignant moment in the 1948 Mexican film of the same name in which a young child asks why there are no paintings by the great masters of black angels. MORE Opera's *Angelitos Negros* showcased opera, musical theatre, and Caribbean folk music in tribute to the eleven African American and Latino recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors for lifetime artistic achievement in opera ranging from 1978 (Marian Anderson) to 2021 (Justino Diaz).

An acclaimed second iteration of *Angelitos Negros* was presented in December 2023, with composer/pianist Dr. Patricio Molina as musical director. The goal of this performance was to continue bridging African American and Latino communities, with an additional focus on classical songs from indigenous cultures and countries in South America.

In February 2025, a third adaptation of *Angelitos Negros* will be presented in Newark, NJ and will showcase a collaboration amongst Cheryl Warfield, Patricio Molina, and George Marriner Maull of The Discovery Orchestra. This adaptation, being performed in recognition of Black History Month, will again feature songs from African American and Latino traditions, and will include a Discovery Concert exploration of the traditional Dominican poem set to music, "Hay una Antilla en Medio del Mar Caribe," arranged by Patricio Molina.

Musicians

Manhattan Opera Repertory Ensemble

Yudy Alveartaborda

Michael Conway

Emmanuel Cruz

Gabriel De Los Santos

Diana Estevez

Emily Estevez

Samuel Flores

Veronica Lewis

Mallory Molina

Rachel Silverstein

Nino Spallacci

Mayan Summer

Laura Forero Torres

Ellen Walterscheid

Cheryl Warfield

Leslie Johannessen, violin

Justin Vedovelli, percussion

Cheryl Warfield, Producer

Dr. Patricio Molina, Music Director

George Marriner Maull, Discovery Exploration

About the Musicians



Dr. Patricio Molina, named a “gifted artist” by *The New York Times*, has gained a reputation as a composer, pianist, and educator. He regularly appears on stages such as Carnegie Hall and OPERA America. Dr. Molina is a Yamaha Artist. The New Jersey Youth Symphony, White Snake Projects, and Ulysses Quartet are among many who have recognized his talents with commissioned works.

Inspiration for his compositions include his Chilean-Syrian heritage, and his experience as an immigrant. His accomplishments in the field of arts education were recognized by the New Jersey Education Association with their prestigious Award for Excellence. He earned the first double doctorate in the history of Rutgers University. He is Founder and President of the Pan-Global Music Initiative (501c3). Patricio is engaged in a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Universidad Católica Nordestana (DR) and is writing a book for student pianists based on Caribbean melodies (2026). Learn more at www.patriciofmolina.com.



Cheryl Warfield, soprano, is a New York City based opera singer, educator, concert producer, and the founder and artistic director of Manhattan Opera Repertory Ensemble (MORE Opera), a nonprofit blazing a trail to make opera and classical music accessible to underserved audiences. Cheryl’s mission is to help people from all backgrounds and age groups understand and appreciate opera and

vocal music through programming that enlightens and educates audiences as they are entertained. Her model of excellence pairs professional artists with well-trained community choristers in concert. 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. www.cherylwarfield.nyc

About the Musicians cont.



George Marriner Maull is the founder and Artistic Director of The Discovery Orchestra. A three-time Emmy-nominated public television personality, George has helped individuals nationwide to heighten their classical music listening pleasure through his *Discovery Concerts™* distributed by American Public Television and available on Amazon Prime and PBS Passport. Currently in its 7th season, his public radio show *Inside Music* is broadcast on WWFM—The Classical Network in central New Jersey (89.1 FM) and may be streamed worldwide at wwfm.org. Maestro Maull's New Jersey musical affiliations began when he was appointed Assistant Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra for the 1979-80 season and founding Music Director of the New Jersey Youth Symphony that same season. He led the NJYS for eighteen years until 1997, including three performances at Carnegie Hall and four European tours. Additional posts have included Music Director of the Louisville Ballet, Louisville Singers, Heritage Theater of Louisville, Plainfield Symphony, Bloomingdale Chamber Orchestra, Eastern Suffolk Symphony, and Philharmonic Orchestra of New Jersey. He has appeared as a guest conductor with the Kentucky Opera, New York Virtuosi Chamber Symphony, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Washington Square Festival Orchestra in New York and the orchestras of the Aaron Copland School of Music and the University of Louisville School of Music. His CD recordings conducting the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra are on the Naxos label.

Emmanuel Cruz, tenor, has had the privilege of performing “The Star-Spangled Banner” at Yankee Stadium, Madison Square Garden, Izod Center, and for President Bill Clinton, Spike Lee, Oscar de la Hoya, and Senator Hillary Clinton. 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. Emmanuel has performed extensively as a soloist/choir member at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and has performed in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, and Houston, as well as in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 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. 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.

About the Musicians cont.

Gabriel De Los Santos started singing at a young age and was one of the youngest contestants of Telemundo's "La Voz Kids." From there he was accepted on full scholarship into the Carollo program at the Newark School of the Arts and NJPAC, where he studies voice with Nadine Herman who is also the music director. Gabriel's performance credits include *Showtime at the Apollo* with Steve Harvey and Music Director Ray Chew. He has also won the Celia Cruz award at the Emmy Award-winning Hispanic Youth Showcase. Gabriel had the opportunity to be selected as a performer for grand opening of the Grammy Museum at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. He also made his debut at BergenPAC as an opening act for "The Celia Cruz All Stars," and is a six-time winner at Amateur Night at the famous Apollo Theater.

Veronica Lewis, mezzo-soprano, has been fortunate enough to travel around the world singing with the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble and as Annie in *Porgy and Bess*. She is a member of both SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity. Veronica has done commercial work, including a Budweiser commercial with Chris Rock. She is the host and co-producer of a YouTube travel show called "Let's Go Dutch." Veronica just recently got back from Japan, where she filmed two upcoming episodes for the show.

Mallory Molina, lyric soprano, is a licensed music educator based in New Jersey. A Connecticut native, she graduated Magna Cum Laude as a double major in Music Education and Voice from the University of Connecticut. She has appeared in venues such as OPERA America, Carnegie Hall, and the Lincoln Center Library. Mallory has enjoyed several years of teaching Vocal and General Music in Connecticut and New Jersey public schools. Notably, in 2018 her choir won a statewide competition and appeared for a live performance on a national television network. Mallory actively serves many causes including recently as an Ambassador and Grant Writer for Notes for Growth Foundation. She is dedicated to causes that promote access to music education, and artistic programming that helps to redefine classical music in the modern age. In partnership with the Pan Global Music Initiative (PGMI), a nonprofit foundation dedicated to promoting classical music from underrepresented cultures, she has recently embarked upon a project in which she will perform and record Chinese-language art songs and folk songs, with the goal of bringing this music to a new Western audience.

Listening Guide

Hay Una Antilla

Anonymous

Arranged for Soloist and Chorus by Patricio F. Molina (b. 1989)

Form: Verse

Listening Guide

A

1. Soloist  Hay u - na^an - ti - lla__ en me - dio del mar ca - ri - be__ etc. (etcétera)

What is the **CHORUS** singing at #1?

A

2. Raise hands when **MELODY** at #1 repeats with text "Ninguna en el nuevo continente..."



Nin - gu - na__ en el nue - vo con - ti -

B

3.



pue - de le - van - at la fren - te__ con mas bri - llo^y ma - jes - tad__ nin -

4. **DESCENDING SEQUENCE** of ___ **STEPS**



- gun - no por sus lau - ra - les__ en me - dio del mar ca - ri - be__ luz

5.



mas bri - llan - te re - ci - be__ del sol de la li - ber - tad

___?

6. Music is "like" #___? "Si nuestra union montenemos y vivimos como hermanos se-

Listening Guide cont.

A

7.



-re - mos Do - mi - ni - ca - nos_ del mun - do la^ad - mi - ra - ción__ de^e

B

8. Again—2-STEP DESCENDING SEQUENCE



-terna Concordia y paz
por siempre aquí gozaremos

9.



y^an - te^al - mun - do^ex - cla - ma - re - mos

10. What's different about the ending of "B" the second time?



que vi - va la li - ber-tad !

About the Musicians cont.

Rachel Silverstein, soprano, has a passion for both opera and musical theater. Throughout her career, she has had the privilege of performing a variety of roles that have allowed her to explore the emotional depth and storytelling power of music. Previous roles include Despina in *Così fan tutte* (LOH Summer Opera Workshop, 2023), Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts, 2022) and Lady Billows in *Albert Herring* (Miami Classical Music Festival, 2021). In addition to her performing work, Rachel is a dedicated voice, piano, and musical theater teacher with Hillsdale Music and Arts. As a teacher of musical theater, she works with students to help them develop their vocal technique, gain confidence, and explore the artistry of performance. Rachel earned her master's in Opera Performance from Mason Gross School of the Arts and is a recipient of the Michael Fardink Memorial Award for Outstanding Vocalist.

Leslie Johannessen, violin, began studying at the age of eight. Two years later, she joined the New Jersey Youth Symphony, remaining an active member for eight years. Throughout high school, Leslie studied with Brennan Sweet, the associate concertmaster of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and Deborah Buck, formerly of the Lark Quartet. In 2015, Leslie received her Bachelor's degree from Montclair State University studying under the first violinist of the Shanghai Quartet, Weigang Li. In 2019, Leslie earned her Master's Degree studying with Eszter Haffner at The Royal Danish Conservatory. Leslie has performed in prestigious venues including NJPAC, Trinity College, East China Normal University, Bargemusic, Carnegie Hall and others. From 2015 to 2019, she performed extensively with the Faroese Symphony Orchestra, Copenhagen Philharmonic and Royal Danish Opera Orchestra. In recent years, she has performed with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on a substitute basis. In addition to teaching privately and freelancing, Leslie devotes her time to playing on the worship team of her church. She currently resides in Far Hills with her husband and three young children.

Justin Vedovelli, percussion, was born and raised in Western Massachusetts and started playing the drums when he was six years old. Justin graduated with a Bachelors of Music in Jazz Performance in May of 2023 from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. While currently living in New Jersey, Justin performs all over the northeast. He is on faculty at the Newark School of the Arts and The Institute of Music For Children. He also performs with Music For All Seasons, an organization that provides programs for at-risk youth, veterans, seniors, and hospitals.

Song Lyrics (English)

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Song Lyrics (Spanish)

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson

Spanish translation by Laura Forero

Alzen cada voz y a cantar

Hasta'l cielo y tierra resonar

Resuena con la amonía de la libertad;

Que nuestro gozo en su vuelo

Alto como el oyente cielo

Resuene tan fuerte como el turbio mar.

Canta una canción llena de fe, que un pasado oscuro nos ha enseñado

Canta una canción lleva de esperanza, que el presente nos ha dado.

De cara al sol naciente en nuestro nuevo día

Marchando hasta que la victoria sea obtenida.

Dios de los años engorrosos

Dios de callados sollozos,

Tú que nos has traído tan lejos en esta vía;

Tú que con tu vasto poder

Nos dejas la luz conocer

Déjanos en tu camino, te oramos.

Para que nuestros pies no se vayan de los lugares llenos de ti

Para que nuestros corazones embriagados nos se olviden de ti

En la penumbra de tu mano

Esperamos por siempre estar

Fieles a nuestro Dios

Y a nuestra tierra natal.

About ADVANCE - MORE Opera

The Association for the Development of Vocal Artistry and Neighborhood Cultural Enrichment (ADVANCE) is a charitable organization that began presenting culturally responsive classical musical programming and arts education in New York City 25 years ago to reach new audiences who otherwise may not be afforded the opportunity for exposure to opera and classical music.

Doing business as the Manhattan Opera Repertory Ensemble (MORE Opera), the nonprofit offers free performances, 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 Opera's offerings are tailored to meet the needs of the communities it serves, including bilingual Spanish and English programming, K-12 music residencies, and interactive choral training for adults aged 60 and over.

In 2025, MORE Opera will present outreach concerts throughout the year honoring the 125th anniversary of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," written by brothers James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson through music and historical narrative. If you or your organization would like to host a concert, contact Cheryl Warfield at www.moreopera.com/liftourvoices.

For more information, please visit www.moreopera.com.

Follow MORE Opera



moreopera



moreopera#



@moreopera



Use this QR Code to Donate to MORE Opera

About The Discovery Orchestra

We believe listening to classical music and perceiving its many expressive aspects evokes compelling emotional responses within us. These intimate encounters with classical music help us fully experience our own feelings, as well as appreciate those of others – beginning with those of the composer! Attentive listeners discover more deeply the treasures music conveys. However, the incessant, 24/7 presence of electronically-reproduced music in contemporary society has trained generations of people to merely *hear* music as a background accompaniment for virtually every activity in our daily lives. As a consequence, people have been conditioned to *ignore* music, rather than be *completely present* with it. To address this, The Discovery Orchestra teaches the listening skills that help people *deeply* connect with classical music.

Originally founded in 1987 as the Philharmonic Orchestra of New Jersey, The Discovery Orchestra provides listening interactions for all ages, from novices to classical music enthusiasts. Beginning with our first *Discovery Concert™* in 1996 and culminating with our mission and name change in 2006, all of our programs are now educational by design. Artistic Director George Marriner Maull has helped literally millions of people be transformed by the dynamic power of classical music through our live *Discovery Concerts™*, public television and radio programs, educational Discovery Chat videos, and other digital content including our free game app *AHA! Classical*. The Discovery Orchestra also presents Community Engagement programs for students and seniors in collaboration with our educational partners, reaching underserved audiences in six New Jersey counties.

For more information, please visit www.discoveryorchestra.org.

Follow The Discovery Orchestra



ahaclassical



DiscoveryOrchestra



@DiscoveryOrchestra



The Discovery Orchestra



Use this QR Code to Donate to The Discovery Orchestra

Upcoming TDO Events



Academy of St. Martin in the Fields,
featuring pianist Bruce Liu



Classical Overture with Maestro Maull
included with your ticket purchase

Saturday, March 8, 2025
2:00 PM Overture with Maestro Maull / 3:00 PM concert
New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC)
1 Center St, Newark, NJ

Discover the Music of Virginia Johnston

Join Our Live
Broadcast Audience!



Johnston's Suite for Clarinet and Piano

Friday, March 14, 2025

8:00 PM

Princeton Seminary Chapel
64 Mercer St, Princeton, NJ



Virginia Johnston
composer & clarinetist



Enriqueta Somarriba
pianist



George Marriner Maull
Host of "Inside Music"

Patrons' Dinner Gala 2025



Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Park Savoy, Florham Park, NJ • 6:00 PM

featuring

award-winning classical guitarist Celil Refik Kaya
violinist Amanda Braud Kaya

2025 Discovery Award Honorees:
Bob and Cynthia Hamburger

Discover Symphonic Masterworks with the Maestro



Aaron Copland's
*Appalachian
Spring*

Saturday, May 17, 2025
6:30 PM

Grace Episcopal Church
4 Madison Ave, Madison



You Gotta Be Here

Check out behind-the-scenes stories of shows like this & get exclusive ticket deals!

JerseyArts.com

PRESENTED BY



Co-founded by, and currently supported by funds from, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



Creating our future, together.



Break Through Classical Music

THE DISCOVERY ORCHESTRA

Board of Trustees

Susan Head, *President*
B. Bruce Hogg, *Vice President*
John P. Wargacki, *Secretary*
David A. Williams, *Treasurer*
Sandra Braddy-Hall
Dyan Bryson
Nadya Geniush
Charles Kramer

Staff

George Marriner Maull, *Artistic Director*
Rick Kaller, *Executive Director*
Virginia Johnston, *Finance Director*
Christopher Barrett Politan, *External Relations Director*
Christine Thorsen, *Project Manager*
Michael Avagliano, *Operations and Outreach Coordinator*





Ambassadors

Fotini Allteni	Jee-Hoon Krska
Brian Braytenbah	Patricio F. Molina
Ken Browne	Judith Musicant
Tom Davison	Stephen Reynolds
Dave Emmerling	Marjorie Rich
Dennis A. Estis	Sandra Brown Sherman
Elizabeth C. Gump	Richard Somerset-Ward
Caitlin Haughey	Tricia Tunstall
Mary G. Horn	Rachel Weinberger
Vina Isaac	

Contact Us

Oakes Center, 120 Morris Ave
Summit, New Jersey 07901
Phone: 973-379-2200
Email: info@DiscoveryOrchestra.org

Follow Us

 [ahaclassical](#)
 [DiscoveryOrchestra](#)
 [@DiscoveryOrchestra](#)
 [The Discovery Orchestra](#)