

PREGONES PRTT

Rosalba Rolón, Artistic Director
Alvan Colón Lespier, Jorge B. Merced,
Associate Artistic Directors
Arnaldo J. López, Ph.D., Managing Director
PRESENTS

MARCH ISMUSIC 2022

MARCH 4-27, 2022 at 575 Walton Ave, Bronx

9 IN-PERSON CONCERTS - FREE, \$15 and \$5

Dedicated in memory of HÉCTOR 'TITO' MATOS



Production Manager

Stage Manager/Board Op

Sound Engineer

Sound Technician

Graphics & Artwork

Livestream Producer

Series Curator

JESSICA MOYA

EDUARDO RESENDIZ

MILTON RUIZ

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PregonesPRTT.org | 718-585-1202

5 FREE & 4 LOW-PRICED CONCERTS!

MARCH 4 **VIVA LA MÚSICA** feat.
Tim Ries & Desmar Guevara *Jazz & Fusión*

MARCH 6 **NELSON OJEDA & Friends** *Classical*

MARCH 12 **ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN** with
BRONX ARTS ENSEMBLE *New Music*

MARCH 13 **SARAH TUAN** *Classical*

MARCH 18 **PLENA SENTADA**
for Héctor "Tito" Matos *Afro Puerto Rican*

MARCH 19 **RICARDO PONS** *Tropical Jazz*

MARCH 20 **GABRIELLE CHOU** *Classical*

MARCH 26 **JARANA BEAT** *Mexican-Afroamerindian*

MARCH 27 **ENRIQUETA SOMARRIBA** *Classical*

MARCH IS MUSIC



Photo by Marisol Díaz

WELCOME!

2022 marks the 16th anniversary of March is Music at Pregones Theater in The Bronx. Throughout its run we have been able to present musical talent of the highest caliber covering a wide variety of musical genres. Since its inception our music series has aimed at broadening our understanding and enjoyment of music.

We have presented Grammy winners and nominees, contemporary classical, traditional, jazz and music from the Americas. We have welcomed seasoned players and hit makers of renown, and also made room for upstarts of phenomenal talent and promise. We like to reach far and wide for the love a music – a love that is in the blood of the artists who call Pregones/PRTT home, and in the blood of the audiences who cheer us.

This year March Is Music harbors ten spirited concerts, each and everyone one a showcase of world-class artistry and testament to the powers of the musical imagination.

We humbly dedicate this year's series to our dear friend and colleague, Héctor Tito Matos, who died just a few weeks ago. ¡Te queremos y recordaremos siempre!

Thanks for taking the leap with us, and have fun with the rhythms! Enjoy!

Alvan Colón Lespier
Associate Artistic Director
Lead Curator for March Is Music



Follow us on Social Media
#MarchIsMusic

Concert #6
**RICARDO
PONS**



Saturday, March 19, 8PM (Latin Jazz)

A soulful reed player known for his skilled mastery of the saxophone and the flute, Ricardo Pons is also a gifted arranger, composer and teacher, musical director of contemporary Bomba y Plena sensation Viento de Agua (with Tito Matos), and former musical director of Pregones Theater. He has worked with legends like Chick Corea, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, Mario Bauzá, Willie Colón, and Celia Cruz. He has played many of the great Jazz and Folk festivals around the world, from Sydney to Chicago to New York. Now based in Puerto Rico, Pons travels to his former creative home in The Bronx to perform new and recent compositions for Latin Jazz ensemble

PROGRAM

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>Una amazona en la ciudad</i> | 6. <i>Amalia Isabel</i> |
| 2. <i>Beatus ile</i> | 7. <i>Antillano</i> |
| 3. <i>Las huellas de tu amor</i> | 8. <i>Morelania</i> |
| 4. <i>Muchas cosas</i> | 9. <i>Exu Odara</i> |
| 5. <i>Palabra rebelde</i> | 10. <i>El líder</i> |

All compositions by **RICARDO PONS**.

Additional: *Libre De Dolor* 2022

Multicultural Music Group's commissioned work based on the 2nd Movement of the Ponce Massacre Suite by **DESMAR GUEVARA**, made possible with the support of the NYSCA Recovery Fund.

PERFORMERS

EDSEL GÓMEZ, piano

ALEX AYALA, bass

ANTHONY CARRILLO, percussion

FERNANDO GARCÍA, drums

(Special Guest) **ALÍ BELLO**, violin

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

RICARDO PONS (*Composer*) A multi-instrumentalist Ricardo plays the whole saxophone family, clarinet, flute and various percussion instruments. His educational background in Classical Music, Jazz and his ample experience in traditional Caribbean genres make him quite a versatile interpreter. At age 19 he was invited as part of the "Young Virtuoso" series in the prestigious Casals Festival in San Juan, Puerto Rico. As an performer he has also participated in venues such as the Chicago Jazz Fest, San Francisco Jazz Fest, San Jose Jazz Fest and the Charlie Parker Jazz Fest.

Ricardo is a founding member of the fusion avant garde group **Viento de Agua** with which he produced 5 recordings, including *OPUS IV* (2014 - Latin Grammy nominee). He also has several recordings as a soloist in various genres and has received numerous awards for his productions by the *Fundación Nacional para la Cultura Popular*. Ricardo has shared the stage with artists such as Chick Corea, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, Mario Bauz , Willie Colón and Celia Cruz among many others. He has played in many Jazz and Folk Music Fes-

COVID-19 Visitor Safety

These in-person performances are open to the general public.

Key to NYC mandates requires

ALL VISITORS

including

children over 12 years of age
to present proof of vaccination
against COVID-19

together with valid government-
issued personal identification.

**Use of face masks at all times
is also requested.**

tivals throughout the world from Sydney, Australia to the Chicago Jazz Festival and Charlie Parker Festival in New York City. He has an MA in Jazz Performance from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, NY, and teaches at the Music Department of the Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico and the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico. He served as Pregones' Musical Director from 1990 to 1998.

EDSEL GÓMEZ (*Piano*) Grammy nominee Edsel Gomez is today one of the premier Latin pianists in the world. His highly personal approach to fusing jazz, Latin, and Brazilian music gives him a unique personality and musical voice. His record *Cubist Music* pioneered an original improvisational concept based on Cubist Art. He arranged and directed Dee Dee Bridgewater's Grammy-winning *Eleanora Fagan: To Billie with Love*. He has worked with many more luminaries including Don Byron, Celia Cruz, Gary Burton, Olga Guillot, Jack DeJohnette, and Caetano Veloso.

ALEX APOLO AYALA (*Bass*) Puerto Rican bassist and composer, Ayala just released his latest CD *Bámbula* (Truth Revolution Records – Feb 2022) to great acclaim. Ayala has established himself as an in-demand and distinctive artist on the New York City Latin Music and Jazz music circuits. His impressive resume includes performance credits with renowned Latin music giants such as Gilberto SantaRosa, Roberto Rohená, Richie Ray & Bobby Cruz, Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Mambo Legends Orchestra, Paoli Mejias, Ralph Irizarry, Giovanni Hidalgo, Edsel Gomez, and many, many others. Currently, he plays with the Antonio Hart Quartet, Mike Eckroth Latin Jazz Quartet, Trombeatz, Flavio Silva's Break Free, and serves as the Musical Director of Los Pleneros de la 21. He was one of the featured artists of PregonesPRTT's 2021 Stage Garden Rumba outdoor concerts.

ANTHONY CARRILLO (*Percussion*) is a multi percussionist of proud Puerto Rican musical heritage. He has been a musical artist for Pregones/PRTT for more than 12 years. Recent Pregones/PRTT credits include *Aloha Boricua*, *Game Over*, *The Harlem Hellfighters on a Latin*

Beat, Betsy and *I Like it Like That*. Other musical credits include performances with renowned musicians Eddie Palmieri, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Paul Simon and Harry Belafonte as well as being an integral member of famed Puerto Rican groups, Batacumbelé and PUYA. Anthony has released 3 CD's featuring the first recordings of rumba from Puerto Rico. Both his latin jazz group, AA team and his latin big band, YÁMBAWA released two EP's in 2018.

FERNANDO GARCÍA (*Drums*) Born in San Juan and raised in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, García studied guitar at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico and drum-set at Micheo Music Academy (Santurce), while later receiving a bachelor's degree in *Música Popular* from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (May 2011). He was awarded the Juan Luis Guerra Scholarship to complete a master's degree in Contemporary Performance at Berklee College of Music, Valencia, Spain (July 2013). In May 2018, García completed a second master's degree in Music Education at the prestigious Teachers College Columbia University. In NYC, he has established himself as a drummer, percussionist, composer, and educator. Throughout his career, he has worked equally as a band leader as well as a sideman. Some of the musicians García has toured and/or recorded with include Abraham Laboriel, Perico Sambeat, Ricardo Pons, Héctor Matos, Pepe Rivero, Alain Pérez, Guillermo Klein, Julio Montalvo, Victor Mendoza, John Benitez, Ximo Tébar, Nathaniel Townsley, Jim Ridl, Boris Koslov, and Miguel Zenón among others. As a band-leader, García has produced three studio recordings: *Desde Arriba* (Fernando García Music, 2012), *Subidor* (Montalvo Records, 2013), and *Guasábara Puerto Rico* (ZOHO Music, 2018).

ALÍ BELLO (*Violin*) Venezuelan born Alí Bello has become one of the most dazzling and sought after violinists. Since his surge from El Sistema, the musical education program of his country, and after building upon years of experience in New York, he has become a Latin jazz music figure to be reckoned with. He has collaborated and performed with Paquito D'Rivera, Johnny Pa-

checo and, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orch., Orquesta Broadway, Típica '73, Africando, Alfredo Naranjo y El Guajeo, La Clave Secreta, and Los Jóvenes del Barrio. He has become a sultry sound in tango, regularly performing with Grammy winner bandoneonist Raúl Jaurena, and a regular collaborator on scores with flamenco guitarist Pedro Cortés. He has also infused the violin into the popular rhythms of R&B, performing live with The Roots, Beyoncé, and Jay-Z. His violin has backed up amazing singers of the stature of Mercedes Sosa, Susana Baca, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Alejandro Fernández, and Cheo Feliciano among others. His last album *Connection Caracas - New York*, was named "Top 50 Jazz CD's" of 2013 by JazzTimes Magazine.

**COMING UP
in Manhattan**



PUERTO
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RICAN

A New Play by

**GABRIEL
HERNANDEZ**

Directed by

JORGE B. MERCED

April 14-24, 2022

**At The Puerto Rican Traveling Theater
304 W 47th Street, New York, NY**

GABRIELLE CHOU



FREE Bronx Piano Sunday

Sunday, March 20, 4PM Gabrielle is a NYC-based pianist and violinist seeking to defy genres and break barriers in performance. A graduate of The Juilliard School, she has been a soloist with orchestras in the US, Austria, Italy, Spain, and Taiwan. She has performed in venues such as David Geffen Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, National Sawdust, and the Taipei National Theater and Concert Hall. Gabrielle is an avid proponent of new music and contemporary collaborations and teaches at Weissman/Baruch College and Juilliard.

PROGRAM

Frederic Rzewski (1938 -2021)

Down by the Riverside

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

from *The Seasons*:

January- At the Fireplace

February- Carnival

J. S. Bach (1685 -1750)

Allemande from Partita No. 4

Tchaikovsky from *The Seasons*:

March- Song of the Lark

April- Snowdrops

J. S. Bach (1685 -1750)

Sarabande from Partita No. 1

Tchaikovsky from *The Seasons*:

May- White Nights

June- Barcarolle

William Bolcom (1938 -) *The Garden of Eden*

I. Old Adam

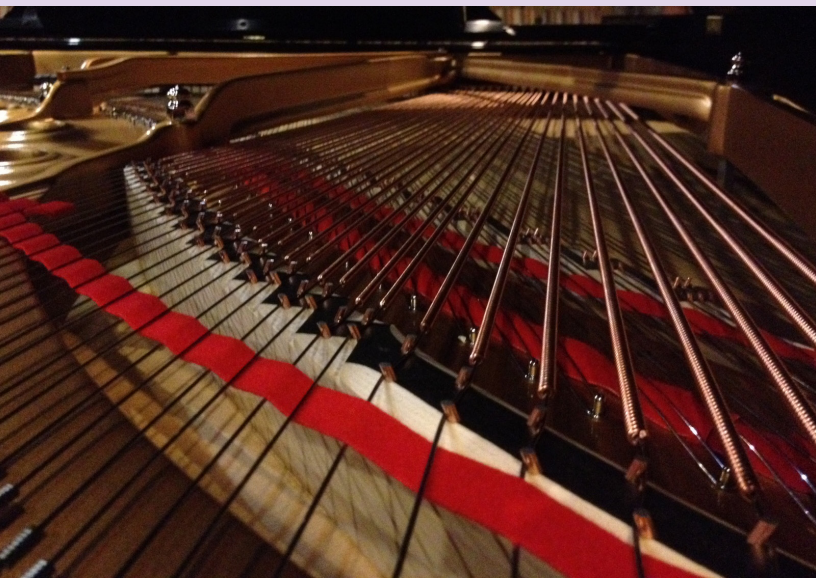
II. The Eternal Feminine

III. The Serpent's Kiss

MORE ABOUT GABRIELLE

Gabrielle Chou is a New York-based pianist and violinist. Gabrielle attended the Colburn Young Artists Academy as their Marilyn Caldwell Scholar before being accepted on both piano and violin to The Juilliard School, where she received her BM and MM degrees where she was a A&C Levy Scholarship and Natalie and Bernard Selinger Scholarship winner as well as the recipient of the Susan Rose Fellowship recipient. She is currently a candidate for the DMA degree at the Graduate Center at the City University of New York as a Tuition Fellowship recipient, and serves as adjunct music faculty at Baruch College as well as staff pianist and teaching fellow at Juilliard.

Gabrielle has been a piano and violin soloist with orchestras in the US, Austria, Italy, Spain, and Taiwan, and has performed in venues such as David Geffen Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Weill Hall and Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall, National Sawdust, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the Taipei National Theater and Concert Hall. Gabrielle is on the roster at the Center of Musical Excellence and was a winner of their 2018 International Performing Arts Grant; She is a winner of numerous competitions and awards including the Yamaha Silver medal in the USASU International Senior Piano Competition, Bronze Medal in the Schimmel International Piano Competition as well as the Chopin Foundation Scholarship Prize, and the American Prize Solo division award to name a few.



Master Pianist
ALFONSO FUENTES
during our 2014
concert series



Photo by Marisol Díaz

FREE
BR♥NX
PIAN♥
SUNDAYS

4pm

Every Sunday In March

Special thanks to
CARRIE FEINER

MARCH IS MUSIC LEAD PRODUCTION TEAM



MILTON RUIZ (*Sound Designer*) is an audio engineer and occasional guitarist. He earned his BA in Music Performance & Sound Recording Technology from UMass Lowell. He has been doing sound for Pregones/PRTT since 2006 where his credits include: *The Beep*, *Caravana/Migrants!*, *Fly Babies*, *Game Over*, *Aloha Boricua*, *Harlem Hellfighters*, *Dancing in My Cockroach Killers*, *Marchers*, *¡Guaracha!*, *Evolution of A Sonero*, and *We Have Iré* as well as recording and mixing the annual March Is Music concert series. He has also recorded and mixed albums for Rebio Diaz (Yuxtayacientes, HaciaContraDesde, El Septimo Diente) and Albert Marqués (Live In The South Bronx) among many others. He is currently working as audio engineer at NY Public Radio (WNYC/WQXR).



JESSICA MOYA (*Production Manager*) is a graduate of City College-City University of NY, Department of Theater. Pregones credits include: *Evolution of a Sonero*, *Quarter Rican*, *El Apagón*, *Blanco*, *Sissy*, *Betsy*, *El bolero fue mi ruina*, *Game Over*, *El ultimo rosario de Medea*, *The Beep*, *The Blackout*, *Migrants!*; *Suzan-Lori Parks' 365 Days/365 Plays*, *The Red Rose*, *Aloha Boricua*, *The Harlem Hellfighters On A Latin Beat*, *Neon Baby*, and all of Pregones Theater's Presenting productions since 2006. She is recipient of a TCG New Generations/Future Leaders Mentorship.



ALVAN COLÓN LESPIER (*Series Curator*) is seasoned stage director, playwright, and producer with 30 years of experience, and one of two Associate Artistic Directors at Pregones Theater. He is instrumental in the ongoing development of the ensemble's original repertory, multidisciplinary Presenting program, and professional facility. He curates the March Is Music series. Pregones directing credits include: *Voices of Steel*, *Fables of the Caribbean*, *La otra orilla*, *Medea's Last Rosary*, *Peccatoribus*, *Game Over*, and *The Desire of the Astronaut*.

ABOUT PREGONES/PRTT



PREGONES PRTT

PREGONES/PRTT / Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater is an award-winning acting and music ensemble, multidiscipline arts presenter, and owner/steward of bilingual arts facilities in The Bronx and Manhattan. Our mission is to champion a Puerto Rican/Latinx cultural legacy of universal value through creation and performance of original plays and musicals, exchange and partnership with other artists of merit, and engagement of diverse audiences. Our year-round programs offer attractive and affordable opportunities for arts access and participation to NYC residents and visitors alike.

Pregones was founded in 1979 when a group of artists led by Rosalba Rolón set out to create and tour new works in the style of Caribbean and Latin American colectivos or performing ensembles. Established as a South Bronx resident company soon after, Pregones remains in the vanguard of an arts renaissance radiating throughout and beyond The Bronx today.

Spurred by stage and film icon Miriam Colón, PRTT was founded in 1967 as one of the first bilingual theater companies in all the U.S. It is credited for nurturing the development of hundreds of Latinx artists, legitimating creative connections throughout the Spanish-speaking world, and pioneering models for lasting community engagement.

Following merger in 2014, Pregones/PRTT plays a decisive role in empowering diverse artists and audiences to claim their place at the front of the American theater.

PREGONES PRTT

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Associate Artistic Directors
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JORGE B. MERCED

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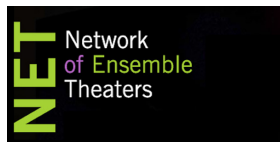
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Special Thanks

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21 Islands
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FREE - GRATIS

7PM - EVERY 1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Join us online and on Bronxnet for our monthly screenings of independent films, Q&As with Latinx/POC filmmakers, and lots of boogie down film love!

Presented in collaboration with
PRIME LATINO MEDIA



FILM FESTIVAL
WATCH OUR 2022 WINNERS

6th Edition of our annual *21 Islands International Short Film Festival*, featuring films from 21 Islands around the globe, competing for the top prize. Panels, workshops, Q&A's with filmmakers, and the chance to vote for the Audience Favorite Award!

575 Walton Avenue in The Bronx!