

PREGONES  PRTT

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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
JESSICA MOYA**

**Sound Design
MILTON RUIZ**

**Curated by
ALVAN COLÓN LESPIER**

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 **CHANTAL BALESTRI** *Classical*

MARCH 18 **PLENA SENTADA** (Varios)
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



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#MarchIsMusic

Concert #1

VIVA LA MUSICA

MARCH
IS MUSIC

Friday, March 4, 8PM (International Jazz & Fusión)

A live celebration kicking off a two-year international collaboration between The Rolling Stones' saxophonist **Tim Ries**, pianist and Pregones/PRTT's Musical Director **Desmar Guevara**, and high-octane NYC-based artists including vocalist and violinist **Jasia Ries**, guitarist **Rez Abbasi**, bassist **Álvaro Benavides**, drummer **Jerome Jennings**, percussionist **Anthony Carrillo**, and Flamenco masters **Sonia Olla** and **Ismael Fernández**. The ensemble will jam, and preview works in development inspired by real and imagined travels and adventures. Realized in association with Netherlands-based producer **Arno Brouwer**.

Program will be announced from the stage.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



TIM RIES (Saxophonist, composer, arranger, producer and educator) Tim Ries received degrees from both The University of North Texas (BM) and The University of Michigan (MM). He has had a unique and varied career, which began in 1983 with the great Maynard Ferguson. Tim moved to New York City in 1985 and since that time his performing and recording credits include a who's who of jazz, rock, pop and world music icons: The Rolling Stones from 1999 to the present, Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon, Donald Fagen, Michael Jackson, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Rod Stewart, Lyle Lovette, and jazz greats Red Garland, Donald Byrd, Hank Jones, Jack DeJohnette, Phil Woods, Tom Harrell, Chico Hamilton, Michael Brecker, Joe Henderson, Tony

Bennett, Louie Bellson, Dave Liebman, Al Foster, John Patitucci, Danilo Perez, Bela Szakcsi Lakatos and Maria Schneider. Tim was a member of the Prism Saxophone Quartet from 1993-2003. He has released 9 CDs as a leader. His last two discs, Tim Ries Quintet and Tim Ries Quintet Vol II, are live performances at Smalls Jazz Club. In 2005 and 2008 respectively, he released The Rolling Stones Project (Concord) and Stones World (Sunnyside), both are his versions of Stones classics arranged in jazz and world music genres. Both CDs have drawn rave reviews across the globe. Some of the guest artists featured on these discs include: all four Rolling Stones, Norah Jones, Sheryl Crow, Milton Nascimento, Sara Baras, Bill Frisell, John Scofield, Jack DeJohnette, Lisa Fischer, Bernard Fowler, Larry Goldings, Franck Amsalem, Eddie Palmieri, Brian Blade and Ana Moura. His latest collaborations are performing with the great flamenco dancer Sara Baras and with The East Gypsy Band from Budapest. Tim has taught saxophone and composition at The New School, Rutgers University, The City University of New York and The University of Toronto. Tim Ries plays Francois Louis mouthpieces, reeds and ligatures and The Virtuoso tenor and alto saxophones by RS Berkely.

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.**



DESMAR GUEVARA (*Piano*) is Resident Composer and Musical Director of Pregones/PRTT. He is a recognized champion of new music idioms in Latin jazz, a composer of experimental and non-traditional music for live theater and film, and an in-demand pianist with numerous concert, touring, and recording credits. He is founding director of chamber jazz ensemble Taller Sicá, founding member of Afro Puerto Rican ensemble Viento de Agua, and has collaborated with many musical luminaries including Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Tito Nieves, Xiomara Fortuna, Andy Montañez, Soledad Bravo, and Danny Rivera. Recent premieres include *Grados Inefables*, which delves into the esoteric symbolism and philosophies of Freemasonry, co-commissioned by arts presenters in New York, Colorado, and California.



REZ ABBASI (*Guitarist, composer*) 2021 Guggenheim Fellow Rez Abbasi is among a rare breed of artists that continue to push boundaries from within the traditions he has embraced.

Consistently placing on DownBeat's International Critics Poll in guitar alongside luminaries Bill Frisell and Pat Metheny since 2014, Abbasi continues to forge new ground with his multi-dimensional projects. Born in Karachi, Pakistan, migrating to Southern California at the age of four, schooled at the University of Southern California and the Manhattan School of Music in jazz and classical music, along with a pilgrimage in India under the guidance of master percussionist, Ustad Alla Rakha, Abbasi is a vivid synthesis of all the above stated influences and genres. With fifteen albums and multiple composition grants, Abbasi's wide-ranging projects continue to capture provocative sounds rarely heard in today's music. His recent *Django-shift* recasts legendary guitarist Django Reinhardt's lesser-known compositions into a modern light. In 2019, commissioned by the New York Guitar Festival, he released his live score to the 1929 Indian/German silent film *A Throw of Dice* and in 2018, his long-standing group featuring bandmates Vijay Iyer and Rudresh Mahanthappa released

Unfiltered Universe, the third in a trilogy of albums that set out to explore South Asian musical influences with jazz. 2022 will see his sixteenth album release, a collaboration with American sitarist Josh Feinberg.



ÁLVARO BENAVIDES (*Bass*) is a Venezuelan born bassist residing in New York City since 2004. He first moved to the USA in 1996 with a Best Entering Student Award Scholarship from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. He worked with many local musicians in the Boston years, and since living in New York he's performed with many bands, musicals and theaters. He was part of The Pedrito Martinez Group with whom he recorded two studio albums; one live album picked a Grammy nomination in 2015. Touring credits: New Orleans, Newport, Montreaux; Wynton Marsalis, John Scofield, Steve Gadd, Rubén Blades, Issac Delgado and many more. Today you can hear him in NYC playing with various artists and his own project Alvaro Benavides & Radio Club.



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*, *Firefighters*, *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, Batacumbela 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



JEROME JENNINGS (*Drummer*) is an activist, bandleader, composer, sideman, educator and Emmy winning composer. His recording, 'Solidarity', (2019) was recognized by NPR

as best music that spoke truth to power of 2019. To date Jerome has performed, toured and recorded with legendary musicians like Sonny Rollins, Hank Jones, Gerald Wilson, Christian McBride, Ron Carter, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Wynton Marsalis (J@LC), The Count Basie Orchestra, Philip Bailey, Henry Butler, and countless others. He has also made recordings and shared the stage with contemporary musicians Sean Jones, Camille Thurman, Jazzmeia Horn, Christian Sands, Charnee Wade, and Bokani Dyer to name a few. He earned a MM from the prestigious Juilliard School in 2007. Jerome has been the Resident Director of The Juilliard Jazz Orchestra since fall 2017. He is one of the most successful artists in the field of Black American music education with artistic residencies including UNC Greensboro, John Hopkins Peabody Institute, Rutgers University, The Juilliard School, Jazz Music Institute (Brisbane, AU), Sydney Conservatory of Music, Xavier College (Melbourne, AU), University Of Ghana - Legon School Of Performing Arts, Rockport Jazz Workshop, Universidad Sergio Arboleda (Bogota Colombia) and The National Taiwan University of The Arts.



JASIA RIES (vocals, violin) is a singer, theatre artist, and writer who has performed and recorded as a jazz and ensemble vocalist in New York and around the tri-state area. She has been

proud to sing with and write for Universal Spirits since its inception at the 2016 Human Rights Defenders forum in Atlanta, where the group played for President Jimmy Carter. She earned her Bachelor's from Rutgers University and studied at the London Dramatic Academy. As her website is under construction, the best place to connect with her and receive updates about current and upcoming music and theatre projects is on Instagram: @thejasia



SONIA OLLA & ISMAEL FERNÁNDEZ FLAMENCO COMPANY

Hailed by The New York Times as "a furnace of earthy sensuality", Sonia Olla was born and raised in Barcelona

when she earned a degree in Spanish Dance and Flamenco at the esteemed "Instituto de Teatro y Danza" in Barcelona. She has toured as company member and soloist with flamenco greats such as Antonio Canales, Eva la Yerbabuena, Rafaela Carrasco, Merche Esmeralda, María Pagés, La Farruca, among others.



Ismael Fernández has been described by The Washington Post as the "most charismatic performer" and praised for his "connection to the Gypsy source." Ismael was born in Seville, is of Gypsy descent, and grew up performing in flamenco festivals throughout the world with his internationally renowned family, "La Familia Fernández". His career began in Spain's premier flamenco tablaos such as El Cordobes in Barcelona, La Carboneria in Seville and other famous flamenco cuevas of Granada. In 2004, Ismael won the National Contest of Cordoba, singing for the famed dancer Soraya Clavijo and was a finalist in the Festival De Cante De La Union. Throughout his career, Ismael has worked with flamenco legends such as Antonio Canales, Farruquito, Marina Heredia, El Torombo, the prestigious Orchestra director Gustavo Dudamel and Rafaela Carrasco. For several years, Ismael has been a featured company member of internationally acclaimed dancer Maria Pages, performing at The Joyce Theater (New York), Sadler Wells Theatre (London), Esplanade Theatre (Singapore), Orchard Hall and Bunka Mura (Japan), Teatro La Zarzuela (Madrid), Teatro Real (Madrid), and the Gran Theater del Liceu (Barcelona).

Sonia and Ismael currently reside in New York, where they combine dance classes with performance in venues such as The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Le Poisson Rouge, and Instituto Cervantes (Chicago). The couple was tapped by the pop-icon Madonna to choreograph the worldwide "Rebel Heart Tour" 2015-2016, with Ismael providing vocals. They provided the same for Ricky Martin for the Lola Lola Flamenco choreography in his Las Vegas concert All In!

Concert #2
**NELSON
OJEDA**

Women of Romanticism



Sunday, March 6, 4PM (FREE Bronx Piano Sunday)

Led by celebrated pianist **Nelson Ojeda**, this special FREE concert titled *Women of Romanticism*, highlights historically underrepresented musical works by composers Clara Wieck Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Josephine Lang, and Ethel Smyth. Nelson will be joined onstage by pianist **Christopher Bradshaw**, soprano **Stefanie Izzo**, and cellist **Kate Dillingham**.

FREE
BRONX
PIANO
SUNDAYS

4pm
Every Sunday
In March

WOMEN OF ROMANTICISM

PROGRAM

Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1896)

Four Fleeting Pieces Opus 15

Larghetto

Un poco agitato

Andante espressivo

Scherzo

Josephine Lang (1850-1880)

Two Selected Songs

Am Flusse Opus 14

Mignon's Klage Opus 10 No. 2

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (1805-1847)

Two Selected Songs

An Suleika (1825)

Suleika (1825)

März from Das Jahr

Cecile Chaminade (1857-1944)

Pieces Romantiques Opus 55

Primavera

La Chaise á Porteurs

Idylle Arabe

Sérénade D'Automne

Danse Hindoue

Rigaudon

Ethyl Smyth (1858-1944)

**Sonata in A Minor for piano
and cello Opus 5**

Allegro moderato

Adagio non troppo

Allegro vivace e grazioso

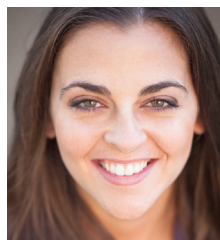
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ABOUT THE MARCH 6, 2022 ARTISTS



NELSON OJEDA VALDÉS, has been a soloist with the Pacific Symphony, Southeast Symphony, California State University Fullerton Wind Ensemble, and Lloyd Rodgers' Diverse Instrument Ensemble. He has performed at the Yamaha Resort (Nemunosato, Japan), Yon Sei University (Seoul, South Korea), Esterhazy Palace (Eisenstadt, Austria), Ateneo de Madrid (Madrid), The DiMenna Center for Classical Music (NYC), Disney Hall (Los Angeles), Meng Concert Hall (Fullerton, CA), and Segerstrom Center for the Arts (Costa Mesa, CA). His 2021-22 season includes a complete performance of Olivier Messiaen's *Catalogue d'oiseaux* presented by Piano Spheres (LA), a chamber recital at the Steinway Society of Puerto Rico (San Juan), a performance of Paul Jared Newman's "Por la noche me llaman" at Ballet Hispanico (NYC), the premiere of Janet Emmons's "Requiem for Gaia's Children" at the New York Society for Ethical Culture (NYSEC), participation in Dr. Lisa Yui's series "Lives of the Piano" at Manhattan School of Music, performances of "Women of Romanticism" featuring the music of Clara Wieck Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Josephine Lang, and Ethel Smyth at Pregones (Bronx), Redeemer Concert Series (Astoria), St. Boniface (Brooklyn) and NYSEC, and Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto on tour with the Puerto Rico Summer Festival Orchestra. He holds degrees from California State University Fullerton and Manhattan School of Music. His primary teachers have been Earle Voorhies, Susan Svrcek, and Constance Keene. For more information please visit nelsonojeda.com



STEFANIE IZZO (*Soprano*) has been hailed as possessing a "gorgeously rich and full sound" for her work in opera and musical theatre. Her recent performance of Maria in *West Side Story* with St. Petersburg Opera was deemed "ideal in every way," and garnered a Theatre Tampa Bay Award nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical. Stefanie made her off-Broadway debut in 2012 as Monica

in Menotti's *The Medium*, and her international debut in 2011 as Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* with Musica Viva Hong Kong. She was chosen as the inaugural recipient of the National Italian American Foundation's Andrea Bocelli Music Scholarship, and holds a B.M. from NYU and an M.A. and Advanced Performance Certificate from CUNY Queens College. In addition to operatic repertoire, Stefanie devotes a significant amount of her time to art song, particularly that of female composers, and maintains an active concert schedule in the NYC area. She is a co-founder of the chamber ensemble *The Astoria Music Project*. www.stefanieizzo.com



CHRISTOPHER BRADSHAW

(*Pianist*) has performed solo and chamber music in the USA, Spain, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. He teaches piano in New York City, and frequently performs as a soloist and in collaboration with other instrumentalists, singers and choirs. He is music director at Church of the Redeemer in Astoria, Queens, and is artistic director of the Redeemer Concert Series. www.bradshawpiano.com



KATE DILLINGHAM (*Cellist*) is a soloist, recording artist and an avid proponent of the music of living composers. She has performed as a soloist with The St. Petersburg Philharmonic, The Moscow Symphony Orchestra, The Salzburg Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra and The Brno Philharmonic (Czech Republic). She has appeared at Carnegie Hall, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Lincoln Center in New York City. Kate was a student of Bernard Greenhouse at Rutgers University and of Maria Tchaikovskaya at the Moscow Conservatory. A long association with Mr. Greenhouse led to collaboration on an edition of the Sonatas for Violoncello and Keyboard, BWV 1027-1029 by J.S. Bach, published by G. Schirmer Inc., which she presented in a combined concert and lecture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and recorded with renowned harpsichordist Jory Vinikour for Affetto Records. Kate has produced and record-

ed albums of varied repertoire from Haydn to Higdon which are available at iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify. Kate is the Executive Director of ArtsAhimsa: Music for Peace, and Founder of MyBlueSkies.net, an online platform for teaching and streaming in high resolution audio. Kate also serves as President of the Violoncello Society of New York (VCS).



**COMING UP
in Manhattan**



A New Play by
**GABRIEL
HERNANDEZ**

Directed by by
JORGE B. MERCED

April 7-17, 2022

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

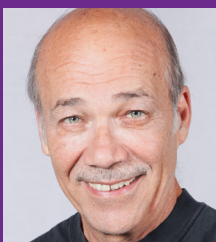
PRODUCTION TEAM



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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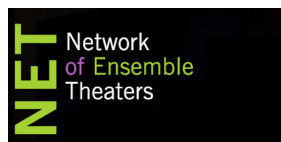
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Programs supported by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the NYS Legislature, and New York State Regional Economic Development Councils; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Pregones/PRTT is recipient of capital funds from the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative in partnership with New York State Homes and Community Renewal.

Supporting Elected Officials

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Special Thanks

Mark McKew, Esq.; Steve Hernández & ACE Construction; our neighbors and volunteers in The Bronx and Manhattan!

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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
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FILM FESTIVAL

WATCH 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!