



Justice John Charles Thomas and a VCU Jazz Combo perform during the VCU Jazz 4 Justice™ concert, Feb. 2017. Photo by Rebecca Schwartz.

Want to help advance the careers of future jazz musicians?
Make a donation to the VCU Jazz Students fund!

Your generous financial gifts will help provide scholarships, equipment, travel funding for students/ensembles and fees for visiting artists. Your gift at any of the following levels will help us secure these opportunities for our students: \$1000+ (Jazz Orchestra), \$500 - \$999 (Big Band), \$250 - \$499 (Quartet), \$100 - \$249 (Duo), \$1 - \$99 (Soloist).

To learn more or to donate by credit card, visit go.vcu.edu/jazzfund. Checks can be made payable to "VCU Jazz Students Fund" and mailed to Antonio Garcia, VCU Music, PO Box 842004, Richmond, VA 23284-2004.

VCU Jazz CDs on Sale in the Lobby!

"Leap of Faith" was recorded live in the U.S. and South Africa as part of the initial year of VCU Jazz's collaborative project with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (Durban, South Africa). The CD features students and faculty from VCU and UKZN in various combos, plus performances by guest artists Plunky Branch (sax) and Madala Kunene (guitar and vocals), four newly commissioned compositions, and many new arrangements from the first year of our exchange project, "A Jazz Bridge to Greater Understanding," funded by grants from VCU's Global Education Office and VCUarts and spanning three years. Also available is VCU Jazz's album "Front Burner," also recorded entirely live, featuring the Jazz Orchestra I, a Small Jazz Ensemble, the Faculty Jazz Septet, and guests John Riley (drums) and Taylor Barnett and Graham Breedlove (trumpet). All proceeds from CD sales benefit the VCU Jazz Students Fund.



Department of Music | School of the Arts | Virginia Commonwealth University
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DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

VCU JAZZ ORCHESTRA II

Stephen Cunningham, director

"SALSA FOR SOCIAL CHANGE"

with guest soloist

John Santos, percussion

and special guests

**Tony Martucci, percussion
Rei Alvarez, Ophelia Anwah
& Timika Garnes, vocals**

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 8 p.m.

Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall

W. E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts

Virginia Commonwealth University

922 Park Avenue | Richmond, VA

arts.vcu.edu/music

vcuarts

Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University

The VCU Jazz Studies program provides students with outstanding opportunities to pursue jazz performance and writing. VCU Jazz alumni have experienced great success, including: Steve Wilson (sax, Chick Corea's Origin); James Genus (bass, Saturday Night Live Band; recordings with Dave Douglas, Michael Brecker, Mike Stern and John Abercrombie); Victor Goines (sax/clarinet, Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra; director, Northwestern Jazz Studies); Alvester Garnett (drums, recordings with Abbey Lincoln, Cyrus Chestnut, James Carter); Mark Shim (sax, Blue Note recording artist, member of Terence Blanchard sextet); Al Waters (sax, featured with Ray Charles); Alvin Walker (trombone, Count Basie Orchestra), Daniel Clarke (pianist, Mandy Moore, k.d. lang); and Emre Kartari (drums; formerly Jazz Department, Yasar University, Izmir, Turkey). For more information visit jazz.vcu.edu.

VCU Jazz Faculty

Taylor Barnett: Jazz Improvisation, Trumpet	Wells Hanley: Piano, Jazz Masterclass
Carlos Chafin: Affiliate Faculty (In Your Ear Studio)	Darryl Harper: Jazz History
Reginald Chapman: Small Jazz Ensemble	Emre Kartari: SJE
Steven Cunningham: Jazz Orchestra II	J.C. Kuhl: Saxophone
Victor Dvoskin: Bass	Tony Martucci: Drum Set, SJE
Michael Ess: Guitar, SJE	Randall Pharr: Bass, SJE
Antonio García: Director of Jazz Studies, Trombone, Jazz Orchestra I, SJE, Jazz Theory, Music Industry	Doug Richards: Arranging
	Rex Richardson: Trumpet

Stay in the loop — join our mailing lists to receive our free e-newsletters!

VCU Jazz E-Newsletter: E-mail ajgarcia@vcu.edu

VCU Music General E-Newsletter: E-mail music@vcu.edu

...The international members of our community enrich our academic, research and clinical missions while serving to actualize VCU's core value of diversity. Our commitment to our international students, faculty, staff and patients is unwavering. We will continue to do everything within the law to support and advocate for the international members of our community.

Sincerely,

Michael Rao, President, VCU and VCU Health System
Marsha Rappley, VCU Health System CEO and Vice President, VCU Health Sciences
Gail Hackett, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
January 29, 2017

...I write to reaffirm once again Virginia Commonwealth University's commitment to the long-standing core values and principles of equity, inclusion and fairness that define, guide and unite us. As a university, we will continue to demonstrate these values. Our commitment to them is unbreakable. To honor this commitment, we must provide a living-learning-working environment that considers and respects the needs of all members of our community.

We will continue to invest in diversity and inclusion, building pathways and bridges of access and helping every person who comes to VCU to feel respected and emboldened to succeed. We will always be a place relentlessly focused on integrity and accountability.

We will continue to value and champion the freedoms that have made our nation and our university exceptional: the freedoms of speech and peaceful assembly, the freedom to be proudly who you are, the freedom to pursue academic truths, the freedom to create and discover, the freedom to respectfully question and disagree and the freedom to listen to and learn from each other.

We will always ensure that our community of scholars can widen the arc of human knowledge protected by academic freedom within a supportive and inclusive environment. At VCU, you can always conceive what's new, create what's beautiful and do what's difficult. In fact, it is your charge....

VCU has been committed to compliance in the areas of rights and liberties, but our dedication to supporting the civil and human rights of all members of our community is a matter of principle that need not—and will not—waver. These efforts and commitments make real what I continue to remind people of: VCU embraces all people.

*I appreciate the many voices I hear across VCU who are committed to ensuring that all members of our community feel welcome, safe and empowered. And I encourage you, as private citizens, to continue to advocate for the principles and actions that you believe are right, whether they are here at the university, in your broader communities, or in the nation or world....
For important resources and information available to the VCU community, please visit inclusive.vcu.edu.*

Sincerely,

Michael Rao, President, VCU and VCU Health System
February 23, 2017

In light of recent restrictions on entry to the United States, by Presidential Executive Order, affecting people possessing visas and green cards from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, I want to alert you to the message sent on Sunday by Virginia Commonwealth University. In it, President Rao and Vice Presidents Rappley and Hackett affirm that, "We have joined with hundreds of other higher education leaders to call for continued protections and access for our students affected by the DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] program, and the university is working broadly to examine how we can support our community members affected by this new executive order." Likewise, we in the School of the Arts are committed to the members of our expansive community. We are defined by our students, faculty, and staff. We are, because you all are. We are proud to be at an institution and in a state that vows to advocate on behalf of its community members. We are steadfast in our resolve to support their positive efforts.

Sincerely,

James Frazier, EdD, MFA (Professor)
Interim Dean, VCU School of the Arts
Special Assistant to the Provost for VCUarts in Qatar
January 30, 2017

VCUarts Inclusion Infusion Initiative

John Santos' three-day residency has been funded by the VCUarts Inclusion Infusion Initiative, exploring how current and historical social issues have been variously experienced and interpreted, informed in part by aspects of individual or group identity. It also exposes students to ways that the arts expand our awareness of diversity, celebrate a multitude of identities, and challenge us to redress inequities. Jazz is a multicultural music; and this residency has amplified for our students and community the connection between music and message, between passion and art, between art and life.

Prof. Antonio García, Director
VCU Jazz Studies Program
March 21, 2017

jazz orchestras of Maria Schneider and Darcy James Argue.

More recently, Ingrid has been performing with the Grammy-winning Terri-Lyne Carrington and her Mosaic Project. Ingrid is also a featured soloist on the Christine Jensen Jazz Orchestra's JUNO award-winning album "Treelines" (2011) and its successor, "Habitat" (2013). She has performed with a multi-generational cast of jazz legends ranging from Clark Terry to Esperanza Spalding, also alongside British R&B artist Corrine Bailey Rae on Saturday Night Live, and recorded with Canadian pop icon Sarah McLachlan. In addition to her busy sideman and featured-soloist schedule, Ingrid leads her own quintet, quartet, and organ trio. Her own bands have garnered glowing reviews and a loyal fan base in Australia, South Africa, most countries in Europe, across Canada, the U.S., South America (including Brazil, Peru, and Chile), Japan and Mexico.

A dedicated jazz educator, Ingrid has taught trumpet at the University of Michigan and Peabody Conservatory, performed and lectured as a guest artist with the Thelonious Monk Institute High School group (featuring Herbie Hancock), The Centrum Jazz Workshop, The Dave Brubeck Institute, the Banff Centre Workshop in Jazz & Creative Music, Geri Allen's All-Female Jazz Residency and the Stanford Jazz Camp. She won the Carmine Caruso Trumpet Competition in 1991 and has twice served on the judges' panel. She is regularly invited to trumpet festivals around the world, including a prestigious invitation in 2011 to work with classical trumpet maestro Håkan Hardenberger and the Swedish Wind Orchestra.

Said Marian McPartland: "Ingrid plays trumpet and flugelhorn with all the brilliance and fire of a true virtuoso, following the spirit of the muse as she creates...warm, sensitive, exciting, and totally honest..." We agree! Make plans now to join Ingrid Jensen and the VCU Jazz Orchestra I on Tuesday, April 11! For more information, visit ingridjensen.com.

VCU Jazz Calendar

*All concerts \$7 advance; \$10 at door; free for VCU students
and take place in the Concert Hall unless noted.*

Every Friday, 7 - 9 p.m. — VCU Jazz at Emilio's

VCU ensembles and other combos of VCU students perform every Friday at local restaurant/jazz venue Emilio's, 1847 W. Broad St. \$5 minimum, all ages welcome.

WED 3/22, 7 p.m.—VCU Music Faculty Showcase, including jazz. *Free admission.*

TUE 4/11, 8 p.m. — VCU Jazz Orchestra I w/ trumpet guest Ingrid Jensen

THU 4/20, 7:45 p.m. — Jazz Orchestra I, Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival. Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, Newport News. *Free admission.*

SAT 4/22, 6:40-7:30p — VCU Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band, Titan Jazz & Art Festival. Trinity Episcopal School, Richmond. *Free admission.*

MON 5/1, 8 p.m. — VCU Small Jazz Ensembles. *Free admission.*

SAT 5/6, 1p—VCU Greater Richmond High School Jazz Band. *Free admission.*

Visit ARTS.VCU.EDU/MUSIC/EVENTS to purchase tickets or for more information. Come join us for a great series of jazz concerts!

Victor Haskins is a trumpeter and electronic wind instrument (EWI) player, improviser, composer/arranger, bandleader, and educator. He has worked directly with a diverse cross-section of masters of improvised music, including Craig Handy (Herbie Hancock), Roger Lewis (Dirty Dozen Brass Band), Lonnie Liston-Smith, Jason Moran, and Phil Wiggins. He has been featured at numerous jazz festivals and is the creator of ImproviStory, a musical genre based on melodic improvisation. He released his debut album of all original compositions, "The Truth" (32 Bar Records) in March of 2013. In 2012, he was a guest teacher and performer at the inaugural VCU Izmir International Jazz Camp in Izmir, Turkey, and he has served as the Director of the Jazz Outreach program for the Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts National Symphony Orchestra Education Department since its inception in 2014. Some of Victor's activities have been supported by grants from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and he is currently Instructor of Jazz Trumpet at the College of William & Mary. Victor holds a Jazz Studies Performance degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, the only person to have completed the Program in three years. He is sponsored by Eclipse Trumpets and Denis Wick mouthpieces.

Roger Pouncey, Jr. is a guitarist, composer/arranger, and music educator based in Richmond. He graduated summa cum laude from VCU in 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Performance. During his time in the Jazz Studies program at VCU Roger received multiple scholarships and grants, including Richmond Jazz Society's Joseph J. Kennedy, Jr. Jazz Music Scholarship. In his junior and senior years at VCU Roger was involved in "A Jazz Bridge to Great Understanding," a partnership between VCU Jazz Studies and the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Jazz and Popular Music in Durban, South Africa. This partnership explored the shared history of racism and civil-rights activism of America and South Africa through collaboration between VCU and UKZN students and culminated in performances in both Richmond and Durban. (Victor Haskins also was a member of the VCU/UKZN experience, but in a different year.)

With Appreciation

Thanks to VCUarts for its Inclusion Infusion Initiative grant support; to Prof. Anita Nadal (Assistant Professor of Spanish, School of World Studies; Faculty Fellow for Campus and Community Inclusion, Office of the Vice President for Inclusive Excellence) for her assistance in bringing the talents of Ophelia Anwah and Timika Garnes to our attention; to Music Chair Dr. Darryl Harper, Music Administrative Director Linda Johnston, and Concert Hall Manager Curt Blankenship for their logistical support; to Héctor Báez for the loaning of his batá and güichara; to Prof. Justin Alexander for his providing additional instruments and serving as a liaison; and to all our composers, arrangers, directors and performers today for their musicianship and commitment.

Guest Artist Ingrid Jensen Coming to VCU Jazz

Trumpeter Ingrid Jensen will guest teach and perform at VCU this April, culminating in the April 11 VCU Jazz Orchestra I concert with her as guest. Born in Vancouver and raised in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Ingrid Jensen has been hailed as one of the most gifted trumpeters of her generation. After graduating from Berklee College of Music in 1989, she recorded three highly acclaimed CDs for the ENJA record label, soon becoming one of the most in-demand trumpet players in the global jazz scene. After a teaching stint in Europe in her early twenties (as the youngest professor in the history of the Bruckner Conservatory in Linz, Austria), Ingrid settled in New York City in the mid-1990s. There she joined the innovative

Program

Robot Portrait.....Billy Byers, arr. Quincy Jones
 Splanky.....Neal Hefti
 Modupue.....John Santos, arr. John Calloway & Roger Pouncey, Jr.*
 spoken word: "I am Resistance (All of the Youth)".....Rico Pabón
 La Juventud.....John Santos
 arr. John Calloway, John Santos, & Steven Cunningham*

— Intermission —

Pleasingly Plump.....Quincy Jones
 Perseverance.....John Santos, arr. Wayne Wallace & Victor Haskins*
 Duet
 Mi Plena De Libertad.....John Santos
 arr. John Calloway, John Santos, & Myrick Crampton*

* = world premiere of commissioned arrangement

VCU Jazz Orchestra II

Saxes: Zach Hanna (alto), Baffour Gyamfi (alto),
 Cameron Smith (tenor), Matthew Glasgow (tenor),
 Emily Avesian (baritone)**

Trumpets: Mason Klein, Robert Williamson III,
 Marshall Klimmek, Oakley Bonney, Tyler Zaprazny

Trombones: Bryan Gonzalez, Byron Maldonado,
 Vincent Guzman, Matthew Alvarez (bass)

Rhythm: James Baxter (guitar), Julio Taylor (piano),
 James Joyner (bass), Bryan Connolly (drums)

Guest: Peter Vincenti (percussion)

** = guest alumna

Please silence cell phones and other electronic devices.
 Photography and recording (audio/video) are prohibited.

I AM RESISTANCE (ALL OF THE YOUTH) by Rico Pabón

I sing for all of the youth who are seeking the truth, and seeing right through the costumes,
who know that when the mainstream news crews do interviews, they're human cartoons,
just paper thin, ink and imagination, man's creation,
more like subliminal training or political campaigning,
Nation's opinions daily swaying with justification of slayings,
I wonder why does it coincide with the high rise of the homicides that we're facing?

Deterioration of education, it takes a back seat to world domination,
that's why we hustle in the back streets, plus, even pack heat just to eat, no exaggeration.

On the front lines, that's where they station our bloodlines to die,
when, today, right here in the western hemisphere, they're still living in fear of you and I.
Immigration come crack down, concentration camps all around.
Now, more reason to keep increasing policing, decreasing the freedoms of blacks and browns.

Upon every town, in every desert, ghetto and mountain range, times are strange,
glorification of impatient ways.
Who's really to blame, colonization and crusades?
Insane cowboys stakin' claim, human beings sharin' the pain.
All of the youth, right? All of the youth.

LA JUVENTUD by John Santos

La juventud de hoy, es la esperanza del mundo

Juventud divino tesoro, así lo dijo el poeta, y yo te digo que esta juventud es inteligente,
esta juventud se respeta.

La juventud de hoy, es la esperanza del mundo

Mira que le digo a la juventud de hoy, no pierdas la esperanza.

Juventud bella flor del barrio, esta es nuestra vanguardia la que manda.

La juventud de hoy, es la esperanza del mundo

Ay mira que la juventud de hoy tiene los pies sobre la tierra. Ella quiere echar palante,
quiere construir, quiere la paz ay mira no quiere la guerra.

La juventud de hoy, es la esperanza del mundo

Chivo que rompe tambo con su pellejo paga.

Con su pellejo paga

Tiene que avanzar

Avanza, si tu no avanzas atrás te quedarás.

Tiene que avanzar

Día a día paso a paso caballero seguro que vas a llegar.

Tiene que avanzar

Si tu no avanza, si tu no avanza mira no podrás triunfar.

Tiene que avanzar

No hay que llegar primero, pero hay que saber llegar.

Tiene que avanzar

Sigue pa'lante y triunfarás.

Tiene que avanzar

Y atrás ni pa' coger impulso, tu tienes que avanzar.

La juventud de hoy, es la esperanza del mundo.

La juventud de hoy.

Timika Garnes is from Chesapeake, Virginia and a junior at VCU majoring in foreign language with a concentration in Spanish. She will study abroad in Cuernavaca, Mexico this summer to improve her Spanish fluency. Next year she intends to begin the certificate for the Spanish/English Translation and Interpretation Program, hoping to work in the medical field as an interpreter. She sang in church choirs and as her talent in the Miss Chesapeake, Miss Peninsula and Miss Virginia Pageants. Being chosen as Miss Chesapeake 2013 opened up many doors for her to sing at many events, including the National Anthem at a Navy Seal Team Four change-of-command ceremony.

Tony Martucci is Adjunct Instructor of Drums at VCU, where he teaches private drum set lessons and Small Jazz Ensemble as well as tours with VCU's Mary Morton Parsons Jazz Masters. His collaborators include such artists as John Abercrombie, Pearl Bailey, Michael and Randy Brecker, Charlie Byrd, Joe Henderson, David Liebman, and Sonny Stitt. Of his work, Coda magazine stated: "Tony Martucci is a world-class drummer, vigorous yet refined—considerable percussive skills." *The Washington Post* offered, "Martucci brings both color and drive to his first-class, cliché-free, ensemble effort." *Talking Drums* stated that "Tony Martucci is a drumming musician who plays with his ears wide open, never intruding into other musicians space, but still managing to make his presence felt in a hundred little ways. Sonically, this recording is a joy." And *JazzTimes* summed up his playing as follows: "Martucci and friends function as truly revolutionary artists forcing us to hear and think and feel anew. On top of that, it's just damn good playing.... Tony Martucci is an exciting yet sensitive player with chops, taste and 'big ears'—one of Washington's well-kept musical secrets." Connect with him online at dcjazz.com/tonymartucci or tmartuccidrums@gmail.com.

Steven Cunningham is an Adjunct Instructor of Jazz at VCU, where he teaches Jazz Orchestra II. A gifted composer/arranger as well as a formidable trumpeter and improviser, Steven has had the opportunity to work with Josh Groban, El DeBarge, Maestro J, Black Masala, The KG Experience, Brass of the Potomac, Joye B. Moore, The Brotherhood, The Peacherine Ragtime Orchestra, The Flavor Project and Brunswick. He has performed in high-profile venues such as Carnegie Hall, DAR Constitution Hall, The Kennedy Center, Washington National Cathedral, The Tower Theater, The National Orchestral Institute, Musikfest, New York Gypsy Festival, International Trumpet Guild Conference, National Trumpet Competition, American Bandmasters Association Convention and The Richmond Jazz Festival. He performed as lead trumpet for the 2014 Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Jazz Orchestra, third trumpet in 2015 and second trumpet in 2016. Steven earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2011, studying with Prof. Rex Richardson. In Spring 2014, he merited his Master of Music degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, where he is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Trumpet Performance, studying with trumpeter Chris Gekker.

Myrick Crampton retired from industry and now is a freelance musician in the Richmond, Virginia area. He leads the Central Virginia Jazz Orchestra, co-leads the jazz quartet PXXL, and plays in several other groups in the area including The Nashville Avenue Stompers, the American Saxophone Quartet, and the Altissimo flute choir. He is an active composer and arranger for big band, combo, and chamber groups. After studying mathematics and computer science at Indiana University and the University of Texas at Austin, he enjoyed a long career developing software in domains as diverse as aerospace, supply-chain optimization/factory scheduling, and short-term predictions and trading in finance. During that time, he played in the Charleston Wind Ensemble, several community bands, and a jazz set here and there. After retiring, he returned to his first love and received a Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University. He lives in Goochland, Virginia with his wife, three children, and menagerie.

and Angel Luis Torruellas.
Long live Truco y Zaperoko
and the Pleneros del Quinto Olivo, my friend.

Now I'll sing to Chichito,
who's making his requinto sing in the sky.
Now you'll play your plena in heaven
with the elders Rafa and Caridad.
Listen, your plena will never die.

About the Artists

John Santos is one of the foremost exponents of Afro-Latin music in the world today. He was raised in Puerto Rican and Cape Verdean traditions and studied informally in New York, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Brazil and Colombia. His performance credits include Cachao, Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Max Roach, Paquito D'Rivera, Oscar Castro-Neves, Arturo Sandoval and Carlos Santana.

His "Salsa for Social Change" draws upon the historical role of Salsa music and its precursors as documentor of a social reality from the perspective of resistance—and how that positive thread remained vital despite commercial, industry, and other internal and external pressures. Presentation to students during his three-day residency included recorded examples from the last one hundred years, with exploratory dialogue regarding the present.

Santos has presented the music of "Salsa for Social Change" for over 25 years. He is an advisory board member of the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance (NY) and the Oaktown Jazz Workshop (Oakland, California), and a Trustee of SFJAZZ, for whom he served as 2013-2014 Resident Artistic Director. He was a member of the Latin Jazz Advisory Committee of the Smithsonian Institution, is currently on the faculty at several California colleges, and has contributed to the international magazines *Percussive Notes*, *Modern Drummer*, *Modern Percussionist* and *Latin Percussionist*. Honors include the Community Leadership Award from the San Francisco Foundation, San Francisco Latino Heritage Award, Certificates of Recognition from the State Assembly and State Senate, a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives, Man of the Year Award from Brothers on the Rise, the City of San Francisco's "John Santos Day," and a photo of John from 1987 by pioneering Puerto Rican photographer/activist Frank Espada in the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution. To learn more, visit johnsantos.com.

Richmond resident **Reinaldo "Rei" Álvarez** is a singer, songwriter, percussionist, DJ, illustrator, and designer born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Rei has been performing music for 30 years, mainly with the salsa orchestra Bio Ritmo, more recently with the bolero group Miramar, and in projects with many other musicians. From small bars to big stages both in the U.S. and abroad, Rei has performed for a wide variety of audiences. His chosen language for singing is exclusively Spanish, but he has accompanied many different musical styles as a percussionist.

Ophelia Anwah is from Centreville, Virginia and is majoring in Sociology at VCU, minoring in Chemistry and on a Pre-Med track. She is currently in VCU's Emerging Leaders Program, a Representative on Grace and Broad's Community Council, a Laboratory Assistant at the School of Dentistry, and a Conversation Partner. She loves to sing, was in chorus in high school, sang at church, and last year debuted in musical theatre in "Rent" as staged by a youth group in West Germany. She plans to continue singing and performing while pursuing a career as a doctor.

translation: **THE YOUTH by John Santos**

Today's youth are the hope of the world

Youth, divine treasure in the words of the poet
and I say that they are intelligent and merit respect.

Today's youth are the hope of the world

Look, I say to the youth of today, don't lose hope.

Beautiful youth, flower of the 'hood, you are our guiding vanguard.

Today's youth are the hope of the world

You see, today's youth have their feet firmly on the ground.

They want to move forward constructively. They want peace, not war.

Today's youth are the hope of the world

The goat that breaks the drum pays with his skin

With his skin pays

One must advance

Advance. If you don't advance you'll be left behind.

One must advance

Day by day, step by step my man, you will most certainly arrive.

One must advance

If you don't advance, look, you will never succeed.

One must advance

You don't have to arrive first but you must know how to arrive.

One must advance

Straight ahead and you will triumph.

One must advance

Don't even think about falling behind, you must advance.

Today's youth are the hope of the world

Today's youth.

MI PLENA DE LIBERTAD by John Santos

Me da libertad

Me da libertad

A bailar mi plena

Tienes que bailarla

Y tu verás que es buena

Que bonita es mi tierra
perla caribeña, dulce azucena
El pueblo gozando
a compas de la plena
Todo el mundo bailando
en la noche buena.

Contra la injusticia
contra la tristeza, dice Maria Elena
No hay cosa mas fuerte
que mi rica plena.

Me libra de pesares
me libra de dolores
tambien de las penas
Ya no me molestan
cuando bailo mi plena
Tienes que bailarla
y tu verás que es buena.

La plena es la voz de la gente
Que viene del barrio obrero
del pueblo decente. Oyelo bien.
Entonaron el chisme de la calle
pa' que te abre la mente. Mi plena.
La noticia del pueblo es la plena
segun Bumbún y Mon Rivera.
Panderetero.
Cortijo y Maelo la vivían
la plena no morirá. Oye plenero.
En Borinquen plena nació
eso es la voz de la gente.

Para todos los pleneros
y la gente de Tras Talleres
Dulces Labios, Barrio Obrero

y San Antón
Y a los pleneros ausentes
La plena perdurá hasta siempre.

Que viva la plena
Pero que viva la plena camará,
que rica, que rica, que rica esta

Tienes que bailarla, que viva la plena
Oye, que bonita bandera
Oye, que bonita bandera
Esta es la plena Boricua,
bailala y tu veras
Tintorera del mar
se ha comido un americano
Elena Elena yo seguiré con mi plena
plena.

Que viva la plena
Que viva la familia Cepeda
Y Angel Luis Torruellas
Que viva Truco y Zaperoko
Y los Pleneros del Quinto Olivo boncó
Ahora voy a cantarle a Chichito
En el cielo está sonando su requinto
Ahora tu plena en la Gloria la tocarás
Con Don Rafa y Doña Caridad
Oye tu plena jamás morirá.

translation: MY PLENA OF FREEDOM by John Santos

It gives me freedom
It gives me freedom
to dance my plena
you have to dance it
and you'll see that it's good

How beautiful is my country
pearl of the Caribbean, sweet lily
the people partying
to the beat of the plena
everyone dancing
on Christmas Eve

Against injustice
against sadness
there's nothing more powerful
than my beautiful plena.

It frees me of worries
it frees me of pains
and from shame, too.
These things don't bother me
when I dance my plena.
You have to dance it
and you'll see that it's good.

The plena is the voice of the people.
It comes from the workers' hood
from decent folk. Listen up.
They sang the word on the street
for you to open your mind. My plena.
The plena is the news of the town
according to Bumbún and Mon Rivera
pandero player.
Cortijo y Maelo lived it.
The plena will never die. Listen plenero,
plena was born in Puerto Rico:
it is the voice of the people.

For all the pleneros
and the folks from Behind the Factories
Sweet Lips, Workers' Hood

and Saint Anton
and to the absent pleneros
the plena will endure forever.

Long live the plena!
But long live the plena my friend.
How rich, how rich, how rich it is!
You have to dance it, long live the plena!
What a beautiful flag.
What a beautiful flag.
This is the Puerto Rican plena.
Dance it and you will see
a shark has eaten an American.
Elena Elena, I will continue with my plena.

Long live the plena.
Long live the Cepeda family