

Coral Cantigas

Washington's Premier Latino Chorus
Uniquely Musical. Seriously Fun. ¡Magnífico!
Diana Sáez, founder and award-winning artistic director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

ANA ASTRID MOLINA: 301-424-8296

NOTE: Black and white photos and interviews with artistic director are available upon request.

CANTO Y POESÍA: JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

Coral Cantigas performs a blend of passionate song and poetry on March 15

Featuring students from the University of Maryland School of Music

accompanied by local musicians

Steve Bloom (percussion), ***Leo Luccini*** (bass), ***Zujey de Jesús*** (cuatro), and ***Richard Miller*** (guitar)

Coral Cantigas, Washington's Premier Latino Chorus, announces its stirring spring concert **CANTO Y POESÍA: JOURNEY OF THE SOUL** on **Saturday, March 15 at 7:00 pm** at **Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church**, 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, Maryland. Some of the world's most exhilarating and brilliant poetry comes to life in a riveting journey of verse, song, soul and passion. The program includes choral music and arrangements from Latin America, Spain and the Caribbean; and readings of poets such as Roque Dalton (El Salvador), Federico García Lorca (Spain) and Manuel Ponce (Mexico). The performance will be in Spanish and Portuguese with bilingual concert program texts. **Tickets:** \$15 - \$25, Free *Niños* Tickets for children ages 12 and under. **For tickets and information, call 301-424-8296 or visit www.cantigas.org.**

The concert features students from the University of Maryland School of Music: Dennys Moura (tenor), Katherine Sanford (soprano), Lena Seikaly (mezzo - soprano), Douglas Yocum (bass), and Alicia Waller (soprano) performing songs from the Spanish and Portuguese repertoire specially prepared for this concert. Coral Cantigas will perform two songs based on poems from 15th-century Spain: *Prado verde y florido* by Francisco Guerrero (Spain), and *A una dama que iba cubierta* by Federico Ibarra Groth (Mexico). The performance will also include songs about lost love, *El violín de Becho* (*milonga*) and *Adiós a la rama* (*candombe*), both from Uruguay. From Puerto Rico, *Cachita*, a hugely popular "guaracha-canción" by Rafael Hernández, swings with the most joyful Latin style. This choral arrangement by Guarionex Morales will be performed for the first time in the metro area. From Cuba, *Penas* by Beatriz Corona, based on a poem by José Martí, and *Rabo de nube* by Silvio Rodríguez. From Venezuela, *Caramba*, a beautiful serenade, and *Pasaje*,

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Join us and discover the rich world of latino music!

CANTO Y POESÍA: JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

Saturday, March 15, 2008 • 7 p.m. • Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD

onomatopoeic sounds of the traditional music instruments for the "joropo" (*arpa llanera*, *cuatro*, and *maracas*). From Mexico, *La llorona*, a traditional melody based on the old legend of a woman who, out of jealousy, killed her children, and later killed herself after realizing the horrible crime. If you listen carefully, you can hear her in the evening calling for her children. Our Coral Cantigas chamber group will interpret two "sambas," *La vida es un carnaval* by Victor Daniel (Argentina) and *Eu sei que vou te amar* by Vinícius de Moraes and Tom Jobim (Brazil).

After this performance, Coral Cantigas will continue its 17th season with

PRAISES IN RHYTHM: DE LAS PAMPAS AL CARIBE

Saturday, June 14, 2008 at 7 PM.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd (Rt. 191), Bethesda, MD

Discover and appreciate diverse musical traditions through excerpts from folk masses of Latin America and other songs of praise. Enjoy such upbeat rhythms as the Dominican *merengue*, Andean *carnavalito*, Brazilian *batuque*, Chilean *cueca*, and more.

Coral Cantigas. Founded in 1991 by Diana V. Sáez, Coral Cantigas is the only chorus in the Washington, D.C. area that specializes in the performance of music from Latin America, Spain, and the Caribbean. Through performances and workshops, Coral Cantigas shares the artistic and cultural diversity of the Spanish-speaking world and serves as a bridge between the Spanish- and non-Spanish-speaking communities. The choir performs in Spanish, Portuguese, and a variety of American languages and dialects such as Nahuatl, Quechua and Creole, with bilingual concert program notes and texts. Coral Cantigas has appeared at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Lisner Auditorium, under the auspices of the Washington Performing Arts Society; The Strathmore Hall; The Mexican Cultural Institute; and as featured artist with the Cathedral Choral Society and the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia. The chorus has presented Washington, D.C. premieres of several works by well-known Latin American and European composers.

Diana V. Sáez is the founder and artistic director of Coral Cantigas. A native of Puerto Rico, Diana earned a Master of Education from Harvard University, and a Master of Choral Conducting from Temple University. She has received numerous awards, including the 2003 *Tony Taylor Award*, presented by the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington for her artistic excellence and noticeable assistance to artists in our region; the Montgomery County *Arts in the Community Award for Excellence 2002*, given by the Montgomery County (MD) Executive Douglas Duncan and Discovery Communications, Inc.; and the 1992 *Poder con Ganas Award*, presented by the Hispanic Democratic Club of Montgomery County in recognition of outstanding and sustained leadership in empowering the Latin American community. Diana has prepared and conducted choirs for the Washington D.C. premieres of several works by well-known Latin American and European composers. She has also presented sessions for regional and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and frequently serves as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator.

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