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AMERICA MD 250

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WITH A MIAMI TWIST

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The story of Miami's unique history in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States, presented by the Alhambra Orchestra and Miami Dade College

June 13, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Freedom Tower
600 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL 33132

Miami Dade College





Welcome!



Dear Guest:

On behalf of Miami Dade College, I am delighted to welcome you to America 250 with a Miami Twist!

As we commemorate the semi quincentennial of the United States, we celebrate not only the Nation's history, but also the dynamic evolution of our Miami community. Our program reflects the rich tapestry of our diverse city, where deeply rooted cultural traditions meet continual reinvention, for an American identity with a unique Miami flair.

Through evocative music, images, and storytelling we'll trace our Miami heritage, reliving the extraordinary history of a city like no other. Along the way, we hope you'll be reminded that this is your story, too, and together, we are Miami.

Thank you for joining us today at the Freedom Tower, a National Historic Landmark, which has borne witness to the countless new beginnings of hopeful masses seeking liberty and self-determination.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. González', enclosed in a blue oval.

Dr. Beatriz González

Event Chair | President, Wolfson Campus

Miami Dade College





Program

WELCOME REMARKS

Beatriz González, Ph.D., president, Wolfson Campus, Miami Dade College

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

INTRODUCTION OF ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA

Daniel Andai, conductor and artistic director, Alhambra Orchestra
dean of Music, New World School of the Arts

AMERICA 250 WITH A MIAMI TWIST: A JOURNEY IN WORDS, MUSIC & PICTURES

Viviám María López, narrator & guide, Miami Dade College
Daniel Andai, conductor, Alhambra Orchestra

- I. First Peoples, Explorers, and a River of Grass
- II. Florida Emerges
- III. Nascent Miami
- IV. Miami Flourishes
- V. Soaring Through the Twentieth Century
- VI. Miami as Safe Haven
- VII. Journey to Freedom Through Civil Rights
- VIII. The Journey to Freedom Continues
- IX. Our Miami





Musical Selections

<i>The Star-Spangled Banner, arr. Arthur Luck</i>	John Stafford Smith (1750-1836)
<i>Hooray, USA Overture</i>	Peter Fuchs (b. 1929)
<i>The Entertainer, arr. David Burndrett</i>	Scott Joplin (1868-1917)
<i>Maple Leaf Rag</i>	Scott Joplin (1868-1917)
<i>Music from Apollo 13, arr. John Moss</i>	James Horner (1953-2015)
<i>Festive Sounds of Hannukah, arr. Bill Holcombe</i>	Traditional
<i>Fanfare for the Common Man</i>	Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
<i>Lincoln Portrait</i>	Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
<i>Overture from West Side Story, arr. Jack Mason</i>	Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
<i>Somewhere, arr. Leigha Turner</i>	Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
<i>Danzón No. 2</i>	Arturo Márquez (b. 1950)
<i>Guantanamera, arr. Víctor López</i>	Joseíto Fernández (1908-1979)

**Most pieces will not be performed in their entirety.*





Performers



VIVIAM MARIA LOPEZ
narrator & production chair

The Davey Award winner and two time Emmy Award-nominated TV host, announcer – and radio personality with over 25 years on the air – is the creator, curator, and host

of Cubaneando with Viviam María (Best Cuban Music Program, Premios Carteles) on 88.9-FM, where she hosted Fusion Latina (Best Latin Music Program, New Times) for 15 years.

López was news editor and announcer for nine Univision America stations in Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago, Las Vegas, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, McAllen, and El Paso.

She is host and research writer for the shows Jazz y Más, All That Is Jazz, and Figure'n the Arts on MDC-TV, among other productions.

López narrated the bilingual interpretations on Gloria Estefan's national special for her Latin Grammy-winning album 90 Millas. She also collaborated with Oscar-winning actor Matt Dillon on the documentary El Gran Fellove – and worked on the film about Bebo Valdés.

As a singer, López recorded on the Grammy and Latin Grammy-nominated album Tradición (Best Traditional Tropical Album). She is the voice of multiple virtual reality apps, including the Berlin Wall monument at MDC, and Amazonia created by MAGIC in partnership with the Museum of Tomorrow in Brazil. A sought after emcee, López has led master classes in public speaking and has lectured at MDC and Florida International University. She serves annually as a judge for performing arts and oratorical competitions.

López is the recipient of the Latin Jazz USA Chico O'Farrill Lifetime Achievement Award and the Honorary Award of the Federation of Cuban Musicians in Exile, signed by luminaries including Celia Cruz. She has twice received the Premios Carteles for her contributions to the preservation and continuity of Latin music.

She serves as Vice President of the Board of Trustees of WDNA Radio and has been a member of Academia de las Luminarias de las Bellas Artes, LARAS and NARAS. At MDC, she is Executive Assistant to the President of Wolfson Campus and was honored with the Miami Dade College President's Excellence Award.



DANIEL ANDAI
conductor & artistic director

Hailed as an "Exemplary Leader" by the New York Times for leading members of New York Philharmonic and Manhattan School of

Music in Carnegie Hall, Daniel Andai has shared his versatile artistry as a soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, concertmaster, conductor and recording artist in major concert venues across 50 countries.

Andai is concertmaster of Miami Symphony Orchestra with whom he performed on a Holocaust Surviving Violin from the Violins of Hope collection and for JAXA Astronaut Soichi Noguchi's induction into Genius 100 Visionaries during his orbit around Earth aboard the ISS. He was concertmaster and soloist of Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas, recorded Billboard rated SONY Classical CDs, and guest concertmaster in Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland, and France. He performed in the sections of New York Philharmonic and Miyazaki Festival Orchestra (Japan).

Andai is an educator and dean of the music division at New World School of the Arts where he is responsible for operating an institutional partnership between MDC, University of Florida, and Miami Dade County Public Schools. He is artistic director and principal conductor of Alhambra Orchestra and served as Artistic Director of Killington Music Festival and violin professor and Marialice Shivers Endowed Chair in Fine Arts at University of Texas in Edinburg. He has participated in over 30 summer music festivals world-wide, including the Verbier Festival Symphony and Chamber Orchestra, with whom he toured across four continents while performing with countless recognized artists in the pop and classical fields.

He has served on boards, as a panelist for Jeb and Columba Bush's Arts4Life organization, and performed for world dignitaries, including Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Lech Walesa, Al Gore, Benjamin Netanyahu, among others.

Daniel Andai is an alumnus of University of Miami (D.M.A.), Manhattan School of Music (B.S. & M.M.), Lynn University (B.M.), New World School of the Arts (H.S.) and Miami Dade College.





Performers



STEFFEN ZEICHNER
concertmaster & violin soloist

Zeichner is a creative violinist who actively performs within jazz, classical, klezmer, and a variety of other musical genres. A native of

Gainesville, Florida, Steffen plays with several ensembles and orchestras throughout the South Florida area. He is the leader of 5 String Swing, a lively jazz violin driven band that regularly presents shows of jazz, swing, and American standards.

Zeichner is a passionate educator with a focus on developing the creative potential of string players, particularly through exposing them to musical genres outside of the classical world and through helping students to develop improvisational and real-world performance skills. He has an international studio of private violin students learning various styles of music with him both in-person and virtually, and is the adjunct Lecturer of Jazz Violin at Florida International University.

Throughout his career Zeichner has shared the stage with many top artists including Chick Corea, Gloria Estefan, Cyrille Aimee, Nestor Torres, Kenny Loggins, Ben Folds, Maria Schneider, Terence Blanchard, and George Benson, with whom he was featured as the violin soloist and concertmaster for Benson's 2013 album, "Inspiration". Steffen is also an experienced studio musician, credited on a Grammy winning CD, multiple Downbeat awarded recordings, and many other albums and commercial releases within a myriad of genres.

He holds a BM in Violin Performance from Indiana University (studying with Henry Kowalski, Federico Agostini, Jorja Fleezanis, David Baker) and a Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Miami (Glenn Basham, Charles Castleman, Gary Lindsay, Stephen Guerra Jr). Steffen has also studied jazz violin with acclaimed jazz violinists John Blake Jr, Mark O'Connor, and Jeremy Cohen.



BRENT MOUNGER
faculty, New World School of the Arts

Brent A. Mounger received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Stetson University. While at Stetson he began an active role in music education. During

the Fall of 2004, he took on the assignment of conducting the school's Brass Ensemble. Later in 2006, he petitioned the faculty, with the help of Dr. Bobby Adams, to create a new ensemble for woodwinds - Chamber Winds.

In 2005, Mounger was president-elect for the Florida Collegiate Music Educator's National Conference and served as president in 2006. While president of FCMENC, he restructured the statewide organization and was able to increase the association's membership. A partnership program was also established where larger universities in Florida were zoned with smaller universities and community colleges to help establish links and communication between future music educators. Mounger also served on the Florida Music Educators Association State Board from 2005-2007.

Currently Mounger is the Wind Ensemble director at New World School of the Arts, and from 2007 until 2011 he served as Director of Bands at Coral Reef Senior High School. While at Coral Reef the Wind Ensemble, he received national acclaim and was invited to perform at the 2011 National Concert Band Festival. Under Mounger's direction, the Coral Reef Senior High band program received Superior ratings at District and State Jazz and Concert Assessments. Graduates from his programs attend the New England Conservatory, Peabody Conservatory, Stetson University, University of Miami Frost School of Music, The Florida State University College of Music, Berklee College of Music and the University of Florida School of Music.

Mounger is the bass trombonist with the Miami Wind Symphony, a professional Wind Ensemble in South Florida. His professional memberships include: the College Band Directors National Association, the National Band Association, the Music Educators' National Conference, the Florida Music Educators' Association, the Florida Bandmasters Association, and Phi Mu Alpha.





Alhambra Orchestra



VIOLIN 1

Steffen Zeichner

Maria Consuelo Armas
Kelvin Clavelo
Chandler Finley
Idanis Gallimore
Teiko Hashimoto
Luz Luque
Ana Ortega
Silvina Parra
Veronica Pereira
Peter Vertes
Roraima Omana

VIOLIN 2

Wendy Ocando

Faye Albert
Xinjuan Bi
Roda Buenconsejo
Joy Castro
Cennet Çevik
Janice Coker
Janet Copeland
Ilene Herscher
Maxine Ismael
Francisco Jimenez

VIOLA

Michelle Sanchez

Robbie Christia
Carolina De Leon
April Queen

Paul Strassburg

Leo Walz

CELLO

Sara Wigderson

Isabelle Mencia
Ruth Smith
Barbara Tria
Pamela Yen

BASS

Joe Yeargin

Paola Garcia
William Mattimore

FLUTE

Carol Naveira-Nicholson

Sophia Camejo
Aldo Fernandez

OBOE

Cesar Rangel**

Emily Exline

CLARINET

Norman Milanese**
Tania Milanese

BASSOON

Gail Harrison

Robert Losinno

HORN

Carlos Briceño

Richard Bayes
Matt Leone
Russell Seifter

TRUMPET

Nelson Martinez**

Miles Lawrence
Emmanuel Lima

TROMBONE

Anibal Hernández Pagan**

Hytritonee Lamp-Moseley
Stuart Lones

SAXOPHONE

Frank Diaz

TUBA

Horby Lopez

PERCUSSION

Lucas Sanchez

Nathan Coffman
Andrey Kovalenko
Brian Lewis
Nancy Milanese

KEYBOARD

Ciro Fodere

Names in bold indicate section principal ** indicates acting section principal



ALHAMBRA ORCHESTRA

Founded in 1990, the Alhambra Orchestra's mission is to harness the power of music to serve, inspire and unify the South Florida community. The organization is dedicated to promoting live classical performances and music education in Miami-Dade County. Its corporate entity, Alhambra Music, Inc., is a tax-exempt nonprofit primarily operated and managed by volunteer musicians. As a result, the orchestra has minimal administrative expenses, with nearly all of its funding going directly into programming. The orchestra strives to provide free or minimal-cost events, ensuring that everyone in the community can experience its performances without barriers. Orchestra management is currently finalizing an exciting 2026/27 schedule, its 37th season.

The orchestra frequently partners with other community groups for projects such as this innovative joint presentation with Miami Dade College. For more information visit: www.alhambraorchestra.org/

MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

Miami Dade College (MDC) is the most diverse institution in the nation, with 167 nations and 63 languages represented in its student body. The college's eight campuses and outreach centers offer over 300 distinct degree pathways, including associate and baccalaureate degrees, certifications and apprenticeships. MDC is the recipient of many top national awards, including the prestigious Aspen Prize, and has been ranked #5 among Top Public Institutions in the Southern Region by U.S. News & World Report. The College changes lives through accessible, high-quality teaching and learning experiences. It is home to the Miami Culinary Institute, the Miami Animation & Gaming International Complex, the Miami Fashion Institute, The Idea Center, the Cybersecurity Center of the Americas, two AI Centers, the Center for Learning, Innovation and Simulation at the Medical Campus, the Business Innovation & Technology Center, the School for Advanced Studies and New World School of the Arts, among others.

MDC alumni and employees contribute more than \$5 billion annually to the local economy, and graduates occupy top leadership positions in every major industry. MDC's renowned rich cultural programming includes the Miami Book Fair, Miami Film Festival, the National Historic Landmark Miami Freedom Tower, Koubek Center Mansion and Gardens, Live Arts Miami at MDC, the Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives, and the Museum of Art and Design. MDC has admitted more than 2.5 million students and counting, since it opened its doors in 1960. Approximately 125,000 students are currently enrolled. For more information, visit www.mdc.edu.



FREEDOM TOWER

The Freedom Tower is a rare historic constant in a city continually remaking itself. Built in 1925 as the headquarters of The Miami News, it was one of Miami's first skyscrapers-an architectural symbol of the city's early ambition. From 1962 to 1974, the building served as the Cuban Refugee Center, assisting hundreds of thousands of Cubans seeking asylum in the United States. These refugees would go on to reshape Miami. After decades of disrepair, the Freedom Tower was rescued by Cuban American community leaders aiming to honor the Cuban legacy in Miami, who donated it to Miami Dade College in 2005. In 2008, the building was designated a National Historic Landmark. Since then, it has continued to serve as a hub for culture, education, and civic engagement-hosting the Miami Book Fair, Miami Film Festival, Live Arts Miami, and the Museum of Art and Design. The Freedom Tower stands as a tribute to the generations who built Miami and an inspiration for the city's future. The story of the Freedom Tower is the story of Miami. In celebration of its centennial, the Freedom Tower has reopened with newly reimagined galleries that explore its multifaceted history and enduring role in Miami's story.

LYNN AND LOUIS WOLFSON II FLORIDA MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVES

Founded in 1984 and based at MDC's Wolfson Campus, the Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives (Wolfson Archives) houses over 35,000 hours of video tape and 23 million feet of film documenting Florida history. The Wolfson Archives is the primary source for original television news materials dating from 1950 through the 1990s from local Florida stations. Other collections include sports, home movies, travelogues, and public affairs programs that capture the dynamic history of our state and region. Most of these unique materials are available for research and reuse. For more information visit: www.wolfsonarchives.org



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- **America 250 with a Miami Twist Committee**
Event Chair: Beatriz González, Ph.D.
president, Wolfson Campus
- **Production Taskforce**
Chair: Viviám María López
Members: Daniel Andai, D.M.A., Carlos Cedano, Hely García, Lou Kramer, Arthur Laks, Jose Lopes-Moreno, Carmen López, Michael Martínez, Gian Melo, Barbara Perales, Rudolph Pierre, Laura Rodríguez
- **Hospitality Taskforce**
Co-Chairs: Zoila De Yurre and William Soto, Ed.D.
Members: Aleny Alvarado, Pamela Alvarado, Milagros Chevalier Constantino, Melinda Fernández, Frances Fraser, Patrick Henry, Daniel Llano, Teresita Martínez, Gabriela Narvaez, Sandye Palacios
- **Campus Services Taskforce**
Chair: Laura Rodríguez
Members: Wolfson Campus Services and Events Team, Custodial Services Team, and Campus Public Safety Team
- **MDC-TV**
Ariel Rubalcava, Alfonso Kohn, Tony Leal, Richard de la Vega, Amed Torrecilla, Daniel Rodríguez
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Helen Hauser, administrative coordinator and script development
Barbara Tria, administrative coordinator
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- Amy Galpin, Ph.D., executive director, Freedom Tower
- Student Government Association and Student Ambassadors
- Miami Fashion Institute (MFI), America 250 garments

To read the historical narrative that was the basis of today's script, please scan this QR code





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College**

Miami Dade College
300 N.E. Second Ave.
Miami, FL 33132-2296

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