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BETHEL WOODS' HERITAGE CELEBRATION SERIES PRESENTS
A Community Collaborative with the DVAA: Quartetto Poesía y Clave

(September 29, 2009) BETHEL, N.Y. – The not-for-profit Bethel Woods Center for the Arts has introduced a four-part **Heritage Celebration Series** which will explore and pay tribute to different cultures and traditions through music, dance and other cultural and performing arts. All Heritage Series performances are held in The Museum Event Gallery and are open to the public at no charge.

The second performance of the series, on Sunday, November 1st, will feature **Quartetto Poesia y Clave**, (Quartet of Poetry and Rhythm) which combines music and poetry in Spanish and English to create programs of broad cultural impact. With this program, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts and Delaware Valley Arts Alliance present the world of Spanish language poet, *Eliseo Diego and the Music that Accompanied Him*. The Quartetto is made up of Brenda Feliciano, voice; Carolyn Steinberg, flute; Sergio García-Marrúz, guitar and Chacho Ramirez, percussion. The program includes poems recited both in the original Spanish language and in English translation, with explanations and background in English, so that listeners can enjoy both languages.

Margaret Hughes, Museum Education Manager explained, “The Heritage Celebration Series at Bethel Woods continues the appreciation for diversity that emerged from the 1960s. Through these performances, Bethel Woods is looking to honor different traditions, and to attract new visitors to the Center.”

As the arts council for Sullivan County, Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) advances the arts in Sullivan County and the Upper Delaware Valley by cultivating local artists' work, supporting programs relevant to all citizens, and providing services to individual artists and arts groups.

The program's music is understood by all: the romantic songs and melodies by some of Cuba's best composers, who were skilled in both the European and folk traditions. Included are the great Ernesto Lecuona (Cuba's Gershwin), Sanchez de Fuentes, who wrote the beautiful “Bayamesa,” and the multi-talented and marvelous songwriter, composer, and performer Paquito D’Rivera.

Elaine Muscara, Community Outreach Coordinator explained, “We are pleased to deliver arts programming with a broad appeal to our audience and feature artists and programs that reflect the diversity of our community.”

Admission is free, but seating is limited to 350, so advance tickets are strongly recommended (Limit 4 tickets per person). Click here www.BethelWoodsCenter.org to print tickets at no charge, or pick yours up at the Bethel Woods Box Office. Community and school groups are also welcome and can obtain tickets by contacting Elaine Muscara, Community Outreach Coordinator at 845-295-2446, or Margaret Hughes, Museum Education Manager at 845-583-2097. Ticketholders must be seated five minutes prior to start

time or forfeit admission. Admission to Museum exhibits is NOT included with Heritage Celebration Series tickets.

About the Performers:

Soprano **Brenda Feliciano** most recently performed at the Jazz@Lincoln Center Rose Theatre as soloist with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Ms. Feliciano likes the challenge of performing jazz and classical music, and has quite an extensive repertoire that takes her from Gershwin's "My Man's Gone Now," Wagner's "Mild und Leise", to "Bachianas Brasileiras No 5" by Villa-Lobos, to Spanish art songs, including the lieder of her native Puerto Rico, and also of Cuba. She was nominated for a Latin Grammy in 2000, as Best Classical recording, for "Music of Two Worlds" with Paquito D'Rivera on clarinet and Aldo Antonazzi on piano, performing Schubert and Guastavino. She is a 2007 Grammy winner as producer of "Paquito D'Rivera – Funk Tango." She has performed as soloist with many orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Simon Bolivar Orchestra, and the Costa Rica Symphony. With the Houston Symphony, the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, she has worked under the direction of Maestro Carlos Miguel Prieto.

Washington Post music critic Tim Page wrote of Ms. Feliciano, "She has a strong, opulent soprano voice, a fervent and welcome intensity, and the ability to meld the blues into popular music without slighting the integrity of either discipline."

Carolyn Steinberg composes and performs on flute in both classical and jazz genres. She is bandleader of Grupo Carolina, a Latin Jazz dance band. She holds a doctoral degree in music composition from The Juilliard School and studied flute with Marco Granados. Her CD *Songs, Dances, Duos* is commercially available.

Sergio García-Marruz, nephew of Eliseo Diego, was born and educated in Cuba, where he studied guitar and composition at the National Conservatory. He came to the U.S. in 1979 and established a successful advertising jingles business, producing some of the best-known television of the 1980's. He also composed ten zarzuelas for the Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre, and hundreds of songs for television and film music. Recent projects include new compositions for classical chamber and orchestral music for ensembles such as Palisades Virtuosi and Delaware Valley Chamber Orchestra.

Chacho Ramirez is a composer and percussionist specializing in Afro-Caribbean, Latin music and jazz. He is the founding bandleader of MetroTang, a 5-piece Latin jazz band performing his compositions. Ramirez is also a member of Jorge Jimenez's Sabor a Conga, and plays in Richie Vitale's Orquesta Universal. He has worked with such artists as Ahmad Jamal, Olatunji, José Fajardo, and many others. His CD *Lights Out* is commercially available.

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