

*Our Story*

THROUGH  
THE SEASONS



PRESENTS

STARRING

**AISHA SYED, VIOLIN**

ACCOMPANIED WITH

**THE WASHINGTON HEIGHTS  
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

HONORARY GUEST ARTIST,  
**RAFAEL SOLANO, PIANO**

ACCOMPANIED BY GUEST ARTIST  
**LUIS MCDUGAL, GUITAR**

WEDNESDAY,

**OCTOBER 25, 2023**

RECEPTION: 5:00 PM | WEILL TERRACE

CONCERT: 7:30 PM | JUDY AND  
ARTHUR ZANKEL HALL



**Dear friends,**

Once again, we meet in this magical place, Zankel Hall, in Carnegie Hall.

Let me congratulate you for opening your hearts and making a charitable contribution to The Dominican Heritage and Culture Society. The Foundation supports low-income youth with college and high school scholarships. Since its inception, we have provided nearly one hundred thousand dollars in aid to young people, their families, and other social causes. Thanks to your generosity we continue to do this good work.

This year, the Foundation will focus on supporting secondary school students. During adolescence young people reaffirm their love of the arts. We want to foster their passion and create an opportunity for those interested. Moving towards a new society inspired by a generation educated in protecting and preserving universal human rights, respect for Mother Nature and the freedom to live and grow in peace. In short, we want to cultivate from an early age, a new cohort of students that have access to a quality education inclusive of music, theater, sculpture, drama, film and animated creations.

The Foundation was born with the purpose of elevating the cultural offerings of Dominicans in the United States. Tonight, a representative of our best values, world renowned pianist and composer, Maestro Rafael Solano, acclaimed violinist, Aisha Syed, collaborate on the same stage, along with guitarist and composer, Luis McDougal.

Steadily, the Foundation is becoming a bridge for the growth of Dominican culture in the United States. We hope this will be a magical night that exceeds your expectations. A beautiful night that inspires you to continue giving and to invite other people and institutions to sponsor our cause.

In my capacity as president and founder of this organization, I reiterate my personal gratitude and that of our Board of Directors: Seny Taveras, JD, Dr. Carmen Lazala, Dr. Ana Olivero, Dr. Luisa Perez, Prof. Juan Villar, Prof. Ramon Espinola, Noemi Baez, Esq. and Dr. Yomaris Pena.

Thank you again. Thank you to our sponsors who make this work possible. I wish us all health, prosperity, and long life to continue the altruistic work we do to help others. Welcome and enjoy!

**Fresia Olivero Momani**

President and Founder

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## The Dominican Heritage and Culture Society

**Who we are:** The Dominican Heritage and Culture Society is a 501c3 nonprofit cultural foundation established in the United States of America. We are an open and inclusive society. We are a non-sectarian organization, which embraces all people who are willing to contribute or learn without distinction of race, religion, or political creed.

**Our vision:** To recognize and promote the culture and history of the Dominican Republic in all its manifestations.

**Our mission:** To cultivate and maintain the roots which nurture the culture, history, and traditions of the Dominican people both in the United States and wherever we may travel across the globe.

**Our goal:** To build on the pillars of education, awareness, culture, and art in all forms. Our service is to provide knowledge of the multifaceted history of the Dominican people, so generations to come have the opportunity to learn about the idiosyncrasies of Dominican identity.

We are guided by our patriotic ideals of Dominican identity and the following shared values:

- **Collaboration**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Integrity**
- **Accountability**
- **Inclusion**

The proceeds of this event will benefit the Dominican Heritage and Culture Society. Through our events, we strive to bring cultural enrichment, entertainment, and educational activities regarding the Dominican Diaspora in New York and to empower our youth and emerging Dominican artists by providing economic support through our scholarship program. The Society considers it of paramount importance that we stay connected and bridge the generational gap with our Dominican youth born and raised in New York. This can be accomplished by providing them with an understanding of their rich culture, vibrant art, incredible literature, and country's history.

This concert is in collaboration with the **Fundación Madre y Maestra**, a non-profit entity founded in 1982 whose objective is to obtain resources to be used exclusively for the maintenance and development of activities of academic excellence, research, and extension carried out by the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM).



Fresia  
OLIVERO  
MOMANI  
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

The Dominican Heritage and Culture Society

Fresia Olivero Momani was born in Tamayo, Dominican Republic. From a young age, she loved reading and being an advocate for others.

Ms. Olivero attended Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo—(UASD) for her degree in economics and law. She worked as the administrative director at the Dr. Tejada Florentino Medical Center of the same university.

In 1990 Ms. Olivero moved to New York City for more opportunities both personally and professionally. In New York she continued studies at the Department of Political Science at

Lehman College, CUNY. Ms. Olivero has been engaged in the field of medical administration in the Dominican Republic and New York City. Currently she serves as Marketing Director for NY Physical Therapy & Orthopedic Medical Pavilion.

In 2017 Ms. Olivero created The Dominican Heritage and Culture Society (DHCS) in an effort to give back to the people she loves by promoting the culture, history and arts of the Dominicans in the United States. Ms. Olivero is married to Mohammad Momani, an engineer; she is the mother of three children: Carlos Vitinni, JD, Omar Momani and Nur Momani.



# Seny TAVERAS, J.D. CONCERT CHAIR, 2023

The Dominican Heritage and Culture Society

Seny Taveras is first and foremost a Dominican Woman from Washington Heights, New York, who has dedicated nearly all of her adult life to public service.

Currently, Mrs. Taveras serves as Executive Director of the National Supermarket Association. The NSA provides outreach services to corporations that want to capture the booming Hispanic market by providing counseling on marketing strategies to reach Hispanic retailers and consumers, including market and cultural intelligence.

Prior to her time at NSA, Mrs. Taveras was the Chairperson of the Department of Legal Studies at ASA College where she oversaw the programs and courses by developing long and short-term goals. Before that, she was Executive Director of CUNY In the Heights, Hostos Community College, Department of Continuing Education and Workforce Development and oversaw a broad range of fiscal and program responsibilities for Continuing Education and related external programs. She was also Chief of

the Staff for DAP Strategies, LLC, a consulting company that advises on international business and political consulting, where she was responsible for strategic planning for a sector of the company's international portfolio.

A lifelong public servant, Mrs. Taveras served as Chief of the Staff to Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10) in Manhattan. In that capacity, she is charged with the entire operation of his office. Mrs. Taveras managed budget, legislation and day-to-day operations. She also worked as Special Assistant to New York State Deputy Secretary Denise O'Donnell, Public Safety and Homeland Security. In that capacity, she influenced policies and operations for the state's homeland security, emergency preparedness, and criminal justice agencies. In addition, she served as Senior Policy Advisor to Lieutenant Governor David A. Paterson and Special Counsel for New York State Senator David A. Paterson. Dominican.



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A ccomplished multi-cultural and bi-lingual Marketing Media Professional with 12+ years experience in Brand Marketing, Client Relations, Project Management, Creative Development, Video Production, Digital and Television Media.

Damaris has also worked as a correspondent on Despierta America, a national morning show on Univision network, where she focused on entertainment, promotional movie features, fitness, and unique human interest stories. She has also been featured as a host and entertainment reporter on WXTV (the local Univision affiliate), where she promoted trending brands, interviewed famous Latino personalities, made appearances at community/cultural celebrations, and hosted live events. Damaris has received

two Emmy nominations and many special recognitions from diverse organizations.

During her career, Damaris has interviewed a long list of Hollywood stars such as Mick Jagger, Sandra Bullock, Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone, Kristen Stewart, Chris Rock, Rita Moreno, Liam Neeson, Dwayne Johnson "The Rock", Jennifer Lawrence and Adam Sandler, as well as world-renowned singers/performers like Marc Anthony and Celia Cruz. Oscar de la Hoya, Manny Paquiao, and Mariano Rivera are also among the growing list of sports figures that have appeared in her features.

# Aisha Syed

*Violin*

Placed by BBC Radio 3 in the prestigious Performing Miracles list for her live interpretation of La Campanella by N. Paganini and designated by the Presidency of her country Dominican Republic as Honorary Cultural Goodwill Ambassador, Syed's performances have been celebrated by the international press including Strings Magazine, El País and Frankfurter Neue Presse amongst others. Aisha made her debut at eleven with the Dominican National Symphony Orchestra performing Max Bruch's violin concerto in G minor. She then became the first Latina to be accepted into the Yehudi Menuhin School for gifted children in London, UK aged thirteen. She has performed as soloist at the Berlin Philharmonic in Germany, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Victoria Hall in Geneva, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Kennedy Center in Washington, the Teatro Mayor in Bogotá, the Royal Opera House in India, the Xinghai Concert Hall in China, the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, the Kirchner Center in Buenos Aires, the National Auditorium in Uruguay, at Casa de la Música in Quito, at the Wigmore Hall in London, at the National Philharmonic Hall in Vilnius, the Palacio de



*Por Amor*  
THROUGH  
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# Violin

Bellas Artes in Mexico Amongst many others theaters. Aisha graduated with honors from the Royal College of Music in London where she was awarded a full scholarship. She also received a full scholarship to attend the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Among the awards received are the Henry Wood Trust Award in London, the Sphinx MPower Award and the Latin Pride National Award in the United States, eight statuettes as outstanding classical artist abroad in the Dominican awards Premio soberano, recognitions of mayors in Spain, Florida, Massachusetts, Chicago, New York as well as recognition from the New York Senate among other awards. In addition, her career has been celebrated by the renowned Forbes, Time Out and Vogue magazines. She was invested by the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo as the youngest Honorary Professor of the Faculty of Arts and chairs the "Music for Life" foundation. Her latest album Heritage (Divine Art/Naxos) was picked by Radio France in its special classical music playlist. The violins Aisha plays are an Antonius Pelizon and an Antonio Stradivarius kindly provided by Florian Leonhard Fine Violins London. Aisha, as a Christian, dedicates all concerts to the Lord Jesus.

Aisha Syed

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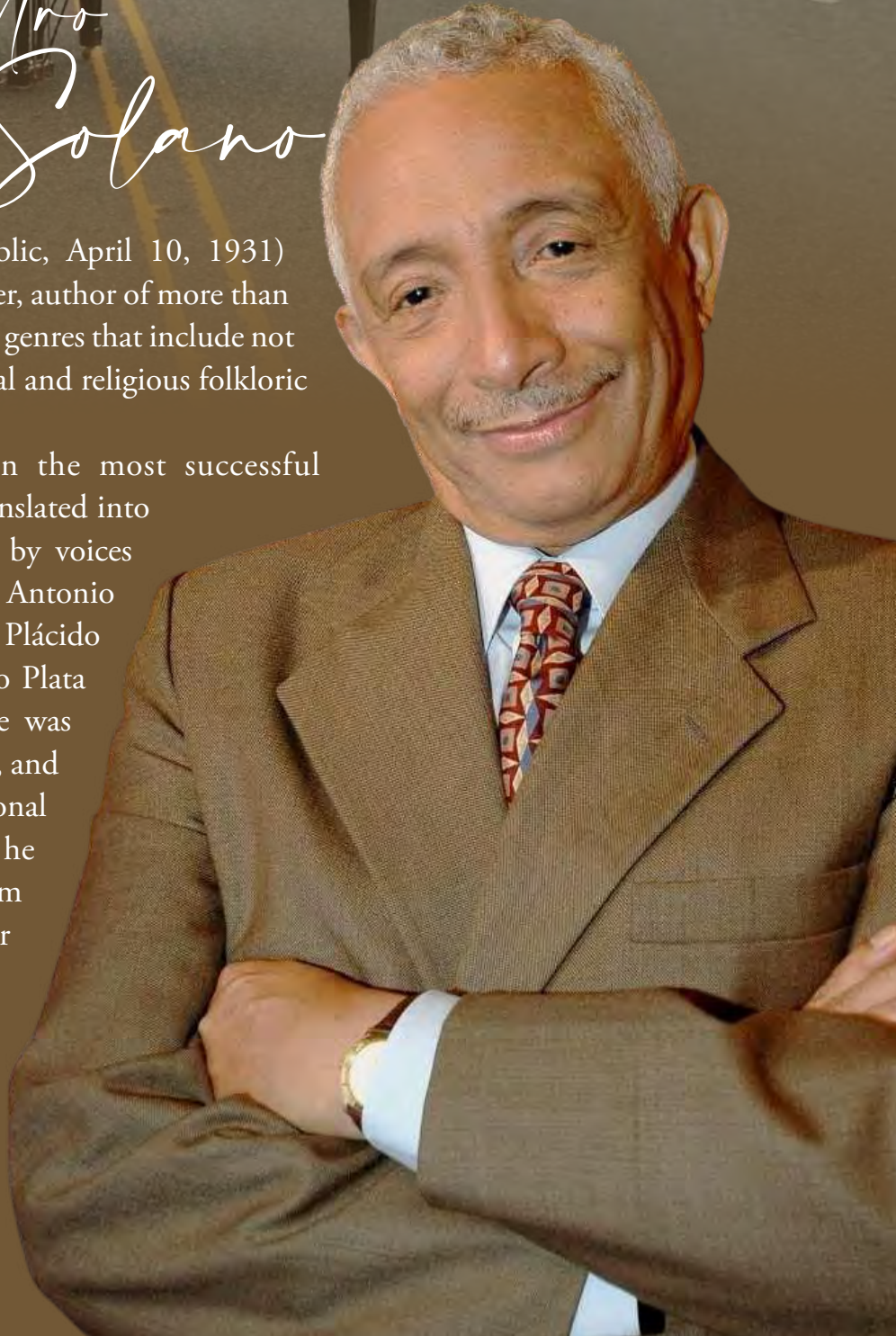


Piano

# Maestro Rafael Solano

(Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, April 10, 1931)  
Dominican musician and composer, author of more than a hundred compositions of various genres that include not only romantic ones, but also choral and religious folkloric ones.

His song "Por amor" has been the most successful Dominican song in the world, translated into several languages and performed by voices ranging from Niní Cáffaro, Marco Antonio Muñiz, Vicky Carr, Jon Secada, to Plácido Domingo. He was born in Puerto Plata on April 10, 1931. At eleven he was already considered a child prodigy, and at nineteen he entered the National Conservatory of Music, where he completed his piano studies. From that moment he began a long career as a conductor in the popular sphere, which he interrupted in 1963 to study contemporary composition with the renowned North American composer and teacher Hall Overton in New York City. There he was hired to



Por Amor  
THROUGH  
THE SEASONS



Piano

Maestro  
Rafael Solano

perform with American director Charlie Fisk at the Hotel Americana and enrolled in the New School of Social Research to pursue other studies in music. Rafael Solano has successfully dabbled as a television producer. Some of his programs have remained in the memory of his compatriots. The first of them, "La Hora del Moro" (1959), became a quarry of new stars, as well as the unforgettable "Show del Mediodía".

In addition to "Por Amor", Rafael Solano has achieved great triumphs for his compositions. Among them, "In the dark", "In Ruins", "Every Time More", "Confused", "My Love For You", "El Diez de Abril", "Then I Will Get Tired", "The Sound of Your Voice", "Magic" and "A Spring for the World" with lyrics by the poet René del Risco.

In the field of folk music, the very famous "Dominicanita", "Como Juan", "Fandango, Güira y Tambora", "Mocanita" and "Pensándolo Bien" appear, the latter with lyrics by Yaqui Núñez del Risco, all recorded on his own voice and accompanied by his orchestra, which has an impressive discography made up of more than 30 albums, all widely distributed. He has also written religious choral music.

Por Amor  
THROUGH  
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*Guitar*

# *Luis McDougal*

(b.1997) is a radical, extremist and obsessive guitarist, composer and arranger. Having graduated from Berklee College of Music (2019) and Manhattan School of Music (2023), Luis has studied with an array of prestigious artists including Hal Crook, Gilad Hekselman, Julian Lage, Reiko Fueting and Lewis Nielson. One of the hallmarks of his music lies in his exploration of extremes in art and the state of affairs in society. As an artist, Luis aims to understand and challenge traditions in order to consider the possibility that music along with our economic, political and cultural structures can fundamentally change.

*Por Amor*  
THROUGH  
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# Por Amor

## THROUGH THE SEASONS



### *About*

We will take you through an unforgettable voyage of the Seasons by classical composers Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) and Astor Piazzolla (1933-1990). For both composers their respective "Seasons" mark some of if not their most known pieces of work. Who doesn't recognize or can hum the opening of A. Vivaldi's Spring? As for the "Estaciones Porteñas" by A. Piazzolla, they will undoubtedly connect us with our rich and rhythmical Latin American heritage and sound world through tango in its finest form. The closing act will be led by the celebrated Dominican Maestro Rafael Solano (b. 1931) himself performing his most renowned works including Una Primavera para el Mundo and his iconic Por Amor with Aisha accompanied by guitarist Luis McDougal.



H O N O R I N G

SAMUEL  
COLLADO

President of the National  
Supermarket Association (NSA)

## THE INFLUENTIAL DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR AWARD

Samuel Collado was born in May 1967 in Janico, a small rural town in the city of Santiago, Dominican Republic. As the son of Mr. Eladio Collado, a remarkable businessman, and Mrs. Silvia Baez, a fascinating educator, academics were a big part of Samuels home life. His early education was received at the Salesian School in Jarabacoa. Samuel subsequently graduated from the Catholic University of Santiago (PUCMM) with a degree in Business Administration and Human Resources. In 1988, Samuel decided to pursue a new skyline and came to New York where he started working in the Supermarket industry with the White Rose Group (AKA Pioneer). Samuel acquired dreams that only a determined man with dreams could attain. The following year, he made his first business acquisition, a small grocery store and a used car dealership in Connecticut, which would only be the beginning of a successful journey. In 1993, returning to New York he purchased his first Supermarket in Astoria, Queens and at the same time, he became a proud member of the prestigious and Unique “National Supermarket Association.” Being part of the NSA has been an aid of immeasurable value to him, as it enables Samuel to keep servicing the community.

Throughout the years Samuel kept growing in acquiring supermarkets and added to his portfolio

real estate developments. Since 2004, Samuel has been CEO of operations of the Iconic and emblematic Key Food Stores Co-operative, Inc. Samuel believes in giving back and is also part of many organizations dedicated to education, investigations and charities in the Caribbean, in Central and South America. Those organizations include the Silesians, Caritas Arquidiocesana and Amparo del Niño, just to name a few. He is also part of international investment projects that encourage tourism in the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Samuel credits much of his success to the support he has received over the years from his solid family foundation, his six siblings, his aunt Teresa Adames, as well as his lovely daughter Stephanie Anne. Today Samuel Collado serves as President of the Prestigious National Supermarket Association Founded in 1989 by Hispanic entrepreneurs, the NSA, Inc. is a trade association that represents the interest of independent supermarket owners in New York and other urban cities throughout the East coast, Mid-Atlantic region and Florida. The association has grown dramatically in the last two decades, and currently provides its members hands on representation in both the private and public sectors and advocates issues that impact the entire supermarket industry.



H O N O R I N G

LILLIAM A.  
PEREZ

Vice President of Government &  
Community Relations Montefiore  
Health System & Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine.

## THE INFLUENTIAL DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR AWARD

Lilliam A. Perez is: A native of the city of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic and grew up in the Bronx in New York City. In 2018, she appointed Vice President of Government and Community Relations for Montefiore Health System and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the counties of the Bronx, Westchester, Rockland and Orange. In that capacity, she is responsible for strategic engagement and advocacy with city, state and federal elected leaders, government agencies and community-at-large. Prior to joining Montefiore, she was Senior Advisor and Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Office of the New York State Attorney General. In addition, she worked as Chief of Staff for District Office Operations for former State Senator and Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman. As the Chief of Staff for former State Senator Schneiderman, she collaborated with numerous organizations dealing with social justice issues such as education and immigration reform, political empowerment, and women's rights.

She is currently serving on the board of directors of the Mary Mitchell Family & Youth Center, VIP Community Services and as Bronx commissioner of the NYC Civic Engagement Commission. She is a founder and former board member of the Latina Political Action Committee, former board member and treasurer of the Dominican Women's Development Center and the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights, former board of Mosholu Preservation Corporation, former member of the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subject at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College and member of DMI Scholars Advisory Council. Lilliam earned a B.A. in Political Science and International Economics with a minor in Latin American Literature from Long Island University

ELETERAKIS  
ELETERAKIS  
& PANEK  
Attorneys at Law



Eleferakakis Elefererakis & Panek  
está orgulloso de apoyar  
**La Sociedad Dominicana  
de Patrimonio y Cultura**

en su 4to aniversario de patrimonio  
dominicano con su concierto anual  
“Por amor a través de las estaciones del año”.

Juntos celebramos la misión  
de el DHCS de mantener y cultivar  
las raíces que promueven  
la rica cultura, historia y tradiciones  
de los dominicanos a través del mundo.



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Congratulations to The Dominican  
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Annual Heritage Concert: Por Amor  
through the Seasons.



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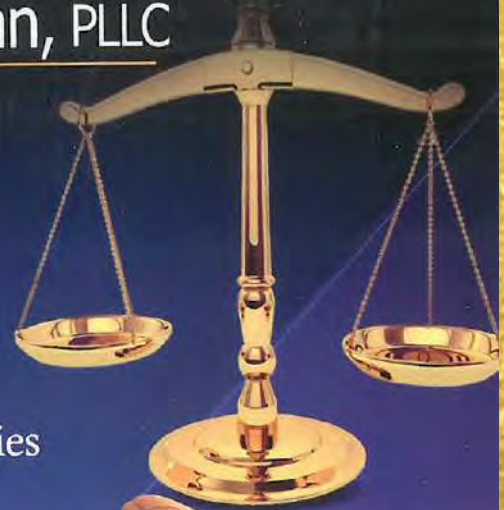
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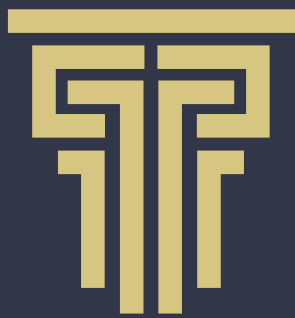


Montefiore Einstein congratulates our own Lilliam Perez, Vice President Government and Community Relations, for receiving the 2023 Influential Dominican Ambassador Award presented by The Dominican Heritage and Culture Society, during its 4th Annual Heritage Concert.

We salute DHCS's efforts of continuing to elevate and enrich the heritage and culture of the Dominican community.

**Montefiore Einstein**

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*Congratulations to*  
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on their fourth annual Heritage Concert.

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PRESIDENT**

National Supermarket Association  
*Influential Dominican Ambassador Award*

**LILLIAM A. PEREZ  
VICE PRESIDENT**

Government & Community Relations  
Montefiore Health System  
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*Influential Dominican Ambassador Award*



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*Maestro  
Rafael Solano*



*Awards & Scholarships Concert at the United Palace:  
"A Musical about Musicals" directed and produced by Zulaika Velazquez 2023*



*Don Amor*  
THROUGH  
THE SEASONS



*Las Madres de la Patria Dominicana 2019*



*Heritage: 3rd Annual Concert 2019*





*Heritage: 3rd Annual Concert 2019*



*Heritage: 3rd Annual Concert 2019*



*LEGACY: Beyond Bachata and Merengue 2018*

*Don Amor*  
THROUGH  
THE SEASONS



*LEGACY: Beyond Bachata and Merengue 2018*



*LEGACY: Beyond Bachata and Merengue 2018*



*The Young Dominican Footprint 2018*

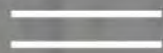








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**Proud to sponsor the 4th Annual  
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*Por Amor through the Seasons.***

# Dr. Jose Peña

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Heritage Concert: Por Amor  
through the Seasons.



The **National Supermarket Association**  
is proud to support the  
DHCS 4th Annual Heritage Concert  
presenting violinist **Aisha Syed**,  
Maestro **Rafael Solano**  
and guitarist **Luis McDougal**.

We congratulate our National President

*Samuel Collado*

for receiving the  
**Influential Dominican  
Ambassador Award**



## OUR IMPACT

Since 2017, we have been bringing awareness and shedding light upon rising Dominican Artists. With our commitment to celebrate our present and promising future, we have been able to create the following successful platforms:

In the December 2018 Forbes Magazine, Latino Edition, Dominican violinist, Aisha Syed was recognized for her performance at the Carnegie Hall organized by the Dominican Heritage and Culture Society. She is now being booked all over the world.

We published *Madres de la Patria Dominicana*, a book by our board member Ramon Espinola, that fulfills the historical mission of honoring a group of Dominican heroines who sacrificed for the sake of our freedom. These women played a crucial role in the struggle of women within the context of national independence which was not told before.

We gathered a group of award-winning historians from different universities from all around America and the Dominican Republic to offer lectures highlighting the history of our heroes.

We produced two sold-out concerts with Dominican violinist, Aisha Syed at the Carnegie Hall-Zankel.

We brought together a diverse group of young Dominican leaders in the first Young Dominican Footprint: Impact and Contribution at the Columbia Faculty Club to share their stories to inspire other young people in the community with the purpose of bridging the generational gap and embracing the future together.

In 2023, we provided scholarships and sponsored the concert “A Musical about Musicals” produced The Dominican Heritage and Culture Society and directed by Zulaika Velazquez with the performance of her students from the Media & Arts Division at the High School for Media & Communications at the United Palace Cultural Center in Little Dominican Republic.





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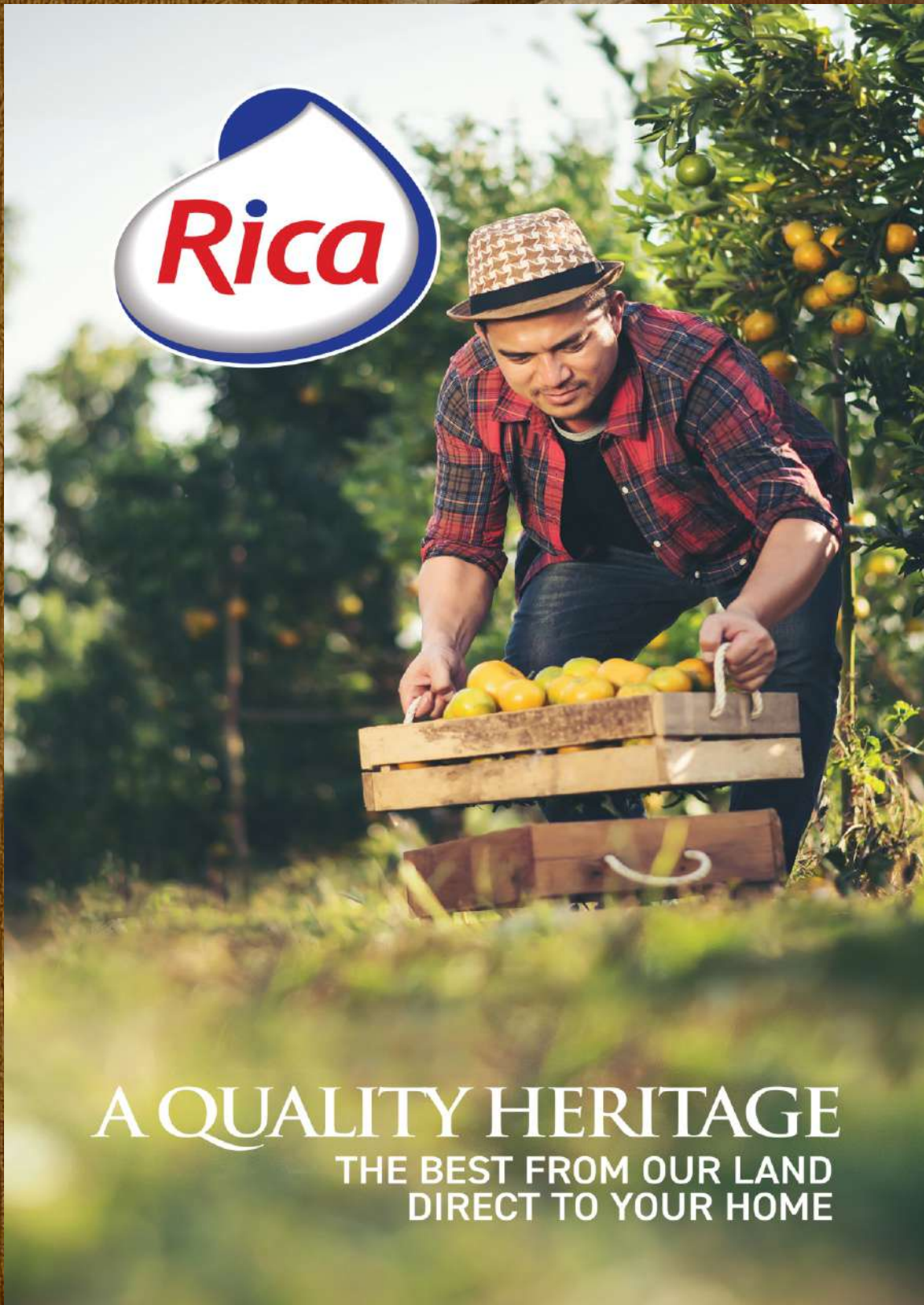
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