

**JACK DÉLANO:**

*Cuatro sonos de la tierra, 1974*  
(Tomás Blanco)

"Unicornio en la isla"  
"Redondel"  
"Querencia"  
"Sentimiento de olor"

**ERNESTO CORDERO:**

*Cinco canciones antillanas, 1967-1974*

"Voz del güiro" (Andrés Castro Ríos)  
"Pregunta" (Nimia Vicéns)  
"Si quieres comprender" (Juan A. Corretjer)  
"Mi primer verso" (Ángel Lázaro)  
"La hija del viejo Pancho" (Lloréns Torres)

**NOEL ALLENDE GOITÍA:**

*La tormenta, la paz y el éxtasis, 1985*

"La tormenta"  
"La paz"  
"El éxtasis"

**NARCISO FIGUEROA:**

*Tres poemas de José de Diego, 1978*

"El ojo de agua"  
"El canto de las piedras"  
"Isla"

## #PuertoRicanArtSongProject

For more information about the root and importance of this endeavor, visit:

[lauravirella.com/puertoricanartsongproject](http://lauravirella.com/puertoricanartsongproject)

**Mezzo-soprano Laura Virella** leads a double life, splitting her time between Berlin and New York. Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, she attributes most of her musical education to the San Juan Children's Choir. She holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music, and has performed as soloist on operatic stages, recital halls and oratorio concerts around the world, including Carnegie Hall, Wolf Trap Opera, Ópera de Puerto Rico, Washington National Opera, Theater Rudolstadt, Theater Lüneburg and Festival de Santa Florentina. Best known for her Carmen, Octavian and Maddalena, her voice can also be heard in the soundtrack of the short film Dream of Vermilion. For more comprehensive info, visit: [www.lauravirella.com](http://www.lauravirella.com).

**Pianist Nathaniel LaNasa** is equally at home as soloist, collaborator, and educator. A graduate of Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard, he has performed at MoMA, Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Cooper Union. He has been featured as soloist with TACTUS, the New Juilliard Ensemble, Bravura Philharmonic, and the Music Academy International Festival Orchestra. This season, Nathaniel will present concerti with orchestra, recitals on historical keyboard instruments, art song recitals, and world premieres of new works for ensemble.



## PUERTO RICO EN CANCIÓN

*Puerto Rico through Song*

the cell nyc | September 21, 2016 | 8pm



### Jack Délano (1914-1997)

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Délano moved to the US and was invited during the Depression to join the Farm Security Administration as a photographer. He was then hired to travel the Atlantic seaboard, photographing the Depression's effects and the impact of wartime mobilization. This job took him to Puerto Rico in 1941. The poverty, he later recalled, was far worse than in other regions he had visited, but he was struck by "the dignity, indomitable spirit, and unquenchable sense of humor of the people in the face of the most appalling adversity." After three months, he was reluctant to leave. So following wartime service as a military photographer, he returned to Puerto Rico and made the island his home, marrying Irene, and becoming a constant participant in the cultural life. He's still widely known for his photography of the Puerto Rican people.

### Tomás Blanco (1900-1975)

Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Spanish parents, Blanco is best known as a political writer for his book Prontuario histórico de Puerto Rico. However, he was a never-ending fountain of short stories for children, teaming up with Délano and wife to produce like Los aguinaldos del infante: glosa de Epifanía (The Child's gift: A Twelfth Night Tale), only one of many, many hard-to-find but still existing children's books written by Blanco, illustrated by Irene Délano (Jack's wife), and musically ornamented within the story by Jack Délano.

### Ernesto Cordero (b. 1946)

Born in New York and raised in Puerto Rico, guitarist and composer Cordero is the most well-known on this program. He has composed concerti; orchestral and choral works; art songs accompanied by guitar, piano or orchestra; chamber works featuring the guitar in diverse ensembles; and numerous guitar solos, some of which have become standards. He's been presented with awards, and his music is performed and recorded worldwide. He debuted as a guitarist and composer at Carnegie Hall in 1978, to rave reviews by The New York Times. His music is the synthesis of various schools of sensibilities acquired during his training, which started at the Puerto Rico

Conservatory of Music in 1963, followed by the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid, and culminated under the tutelage of Roberto Caggiano in Rome and Julian Orbón in New York.

### Noel Allende Goitía

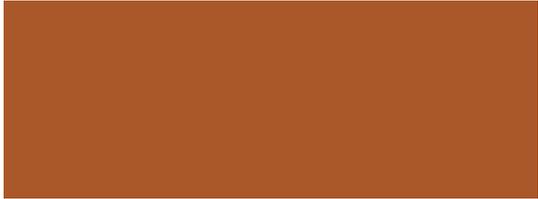
Noel Allende Goitía is an Associate Music Professor at the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, Metropolitan Campus. He earned his BM from the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, his MA in History from the University of Puerto Rico and his Ph. D. in Music (music composition with a sub-specialization in ethnomusicology) from Michigan State University.

### Narciso Figueroa (1906-2004)

Born in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, Figueroa was the second of eight siblings born to Jesús Figueroa and Carmen Sanabria. Both parents were musicians and music instructors. Raised in such a family, it was no surprise that eventually Figueroa and his brothers and sisters were to become the foundation of one of Puerto Rico's greatest musical dynasties. They received their first music lessons from their parents. By the time Figueroa was 10 years old, he played the piano with his brother at the violin in front of live audiences, performing the sonatas of Mozart and Beethoven. He and his siblings went to Spain to study at the Royal Conservatory of Music of Madrid, where he won the First Prize in Piano Award and the Chamber Music Award upon graduation. The director of the Conservatory invited him and his brother on a musical tour through Spain, Portugal and Africa. After the tour, he enrolled at the Paris École Normale de Musique under the tutelage of Alfred Cortat. Figueroa returned to Puerto Rico in 1940 after entertaining audiences all over Europe. On the island he formed the Brothers Figueroa Quintet. He was named professor and director of the piano department of the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, a position which he held for many years. In 1959, he published "Canciones de Puerto Rico." Figueroa is credited with modernizing the Puerto Rican danzas and is therefore known as the "Father of the Modern Danzas."

### José de Diego (1867-1918)

Statesman, journalist, poet, lawyer, and advocate for Puerto Rico's independence from Spain and from the United States, referred to by his peers as "The Father of the Puerto Rican Independence Movement," José de Diego was born in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, and was the son of Felipe de Diego Parajón, a Spanish Army Officer from Asturias, Spain, and Elisa Martínez Muñiz, a native of Puerto Rico. He received his primary education in the town of Mayagüez and, after finishing his primary and secondary education, went to Spain. There he attended and graduated from the Polytechnic College of Logroño. While in Spain, de Diego collaborated with the newspaper El Progreso, founded by fellow Puerto Rican José Julián Acosta y Blanco, which attacked the political situation in Puerto Rico; this led to various arrests which eventually forced him to leave the Madre Patria to return to the island. In 1886, de Diego had an unhappy love affair with Carmen Echavarría which led him to write one of his most well-known poems, "A Laura." This poem became very popular among the romantics of that time. He became known as the "Father of the Modern Puerto Rican Poetry Movement."



For lack of space, we are unable to include the authors set to music by Ernesto Cordero. Some of them are lesser-known Puerto Rican writers that deserve great recognition, and two of them are men of great importance: **Juan Antonio Corretjer (1908-1985)** and **Luis Lloréns Torres (1876-1944)** were incredibly illustrious writers and political figures who lived lives devoted to seeing their nation be free.