TEATROCÍRCULO

TEATRO CÍRCULO WELCOMES DECEMBER WITH 'CAMPANITAS DE CRISTAL', AN UNFORGETTABLE MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO PUERTO RICAN CULTURE AND THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS, CURATED AND DIRECTED BY MAESTRO PABLO ZINGER FROM DECEMBER 4 TO 13, 2026



The show features the music of Rafael Hernández, Puerto Rico's greatest and most popular composer of the 20th Century, and a selection of Puerto Rican Holidays songs

NYC November 2026 – **Teatro Círculo** continues its 32nd Season by celebrating Puerto Rican culture and the holidays with **CAMPANITAS DE CRISTAL**, a music anthology curated, accompanied, narrated and directed by acclaimed Maestro **Pablo Zinger**, featuring the extraordinary voices of talented artists **Brenda Feliciano**, **Diana López** and **Bryan J. Cortés** in many exciting rhythms by Rafael Hernández, Amaury Veray, Narciso Figueroa and other beloved composers.

CAMPANITAS DE CRISTAL (*Crystal Bells*) takes its name from the evocative song '*Campanitas de cristal'* by Puerto Rican songwriter Rafael Hernández - also known as El jibarito - written in New York City where he spent some of his first winters with snow. *""Some might ask: why do a show about Rafael Hernández now? I believe that the Puerto Rican musical tradition deserves constant attention—especially today, given the challenging social and political climate in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the world at large. My admiration for the music of Rafael Hernández goes back many years. He is one of the most prominent figures of Puerto Rican music in history. While many people recognize the melodies of 'El cumbanchero' and 'Preciosa', many Latinos—and even more non-Latinos—are unaware of their origins",* shares Maestro Zinger.

Rafael Hernández flourished as a bandleader and composer in New York, México, Dominican Republic and Cuba. Because of his ability to fully absorb local musical styles, his songs '*Cachita*' and '*Capullito de alhelí*' became synonyms with Cuban music, his '*Linda Quisqueya*' became a Dominican anthem, and '*Ay, amor ya no me quieras tanto*' sounds like some of the best Mexican boleros. His songs '*Preciosa*', '*Lamento borincano*', '*El cumbanchero*' and '*Silencio*' became iconic all-time hits in Puerto Rico and throughout the world.

Maestro **Pablo Zinger**, Uruguayan-born New Yorker, is widely acclaimed as a conductor, pianist, composer, arranger, writer, teacher, lecturer and narrator, specializing on Astor Piazzolla, tango, Spanish zarzuela, and Latin American music. He has written for The New York Times and Opera News. Zinger, who is also Teatro Círculo's Musical Director, continues, *"At Teatro Círculo, we aim to create productions with great aesthetically worth, while also being entertaining and educational. Following the great success of FIESTA de la ZARZUELA in March, we decided to bring you* ***CAMPANITAS DE CRISTAL*** *this December—a show with a Caribbean flair that also features exceptional singers. It is a pleasure to share the stage with the veteran Puerto Rican diva Brenda Feliciano; with the incredibly talented Honduran artist and New York's queen of tango Diana López; and the brilliant Puerto Rican actor Bryan J. Cortés."*

Soprano **Brenda Feliciano,** has sung all types of music, including opera, zarzuela, jazz and Latin American, particularly those of her native Puerto Rico. She has won 3 Grammys as a record producer in the Latin Jazz and Jazz categories, and has a nomination for Best Classical, singing Schubert and Guastavino.

Born in NYC of Honduran descent, **Diana López** started singing in choirs at eighteen years old. While she studied toward a master's degree at Columbia University, she heard the voice of Carlos Gardel singing the famous tango, '*Volver*'. Since then, she decided to dedicate herself to discovering the beauty of Tango music and learning about the historical culture of dance and musicianship that surround it.

Bryan J. Cortés was born and raised in Puerto Rico. He started his career as a dancer and trained with famed NYC acting studios William Esper Studio and Terry Knickerbocker Studio. One of his first performances in NY was in the Teatro Circulo´s production '*Lío*' winning a Latin Alternative Theater Award as best supporting actor. He made his Broadway debut in the Tony Award winning musical '*New York New York'*.

For Puerto Ricans, the Christmas season (*las navidades*) is more than a holiday—it is a musical tradition filled with *parrandas*, *aguinaldos*, and gatherings that bring families and communities together in song, and with '**CAMPANITAS DE CRISTAL'** Teatro Círculo invites you to join them to celebrate the holiday season.

Thanks to Howard Gilman Foundation, the support of the "State of New York" and City Council Member Harvey Epstein, subsidized **$10 tickets are available only for Saturday performances** using code **ACCESS**, applied to General Admission tickets.

Performances of **'CAMPANITAS DE CRISTAL'** with songs in Spanish and narration in English, will take place at Teatro Círculo's **64 East 4th Street** Second Stage Theater in Manhattan with **8 performances** from **December 4 to 13, 2026**. Curtain times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7pm and Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm.

'CAMPANITAS DE CRISTAL' is made possible, in part, by the Howard Gilman Foundation, New York State, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, The Coalition of Theaters of Color - a program of the New York City Council, The Shubert Foundation, Lucille Lortel Foundation, Miranda Family Foundation, The Frederic Coudert Foundation and The Mosaic Network and Fund.

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Tickets are available at teatrocirculo.org/tickets/

General Admission $40, Students & Seniors $35, Groups of 10+ $30
SUBSIDIZED $10 TICKETS for Saturdays December 5th and 12th at 2pm and 7pm, code ACCESS

For more information: teatrocirculo.org/campanitas-de-cristal/
ADA Accessible

WHAT: **CAMPANITAS DE CRISTAL** *(Crystal Bells)***,** curated and directed by **Maestro Pablo Zinger**
WHEN: From **December 4 to 13, 2026**; Fridays and Saturdays at 7pm and Saturdays and Sundays at 2pm
WHERE: Teatro Círculo, 64 East 4th Street in Manhattan, NYC

CONTACT:
Edna Lee Figueroa / eleefigueroa@teatrocirculo.org / 347.967.0764

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