



THE HEART IN HAND

el corazon en la mano

MAYO 2023



Lura Johnson Benefit Concert for Hermandad on June 11, 2023

Once again, we welcome Lura Johnson for her upcoming performance benefitting Hermandad. Her program and lecture will present the first piano sonata of Johannes Brahms and its enormous impact. This marks her fourth performance on behalf of Hermandad.

Lura first performed for Hermandad with a virtual concert in July 2020 during the height of the pandemic. Having just formed in August 2019, Hermandad had plans for fundraising but was just getting started when the pandemic hit. Having watched Lura's online streaming programs during the early months of the pandemic, Hermandad president, John Knight, asked Lura if she could perform an online streaming event. Lura graciously accepted and our annual Lura Johnson events began. Our Hermandad audience members have attended and watched from the mainland, Puerto Rico, Europe, and Mexico.

Hermandad has obtained the services of Andrew Bohman, a much sought after recording engineer in the Baltimore area. He will be responsible for our live-streaming and our quality recording available up to two weeks after the live performance.

*Join us in-person
or virtually for:*

**HERMANDAD'S
LURA JOHNSON
EVENT.**



GIVING LEVELS

Corporate - a donation of \$500 or more.

Your name will appear on our website events page, in the concert program (half page ad), mentioned during the live-stream performance and receive six tickets to view the recording.

Sponsor - a donation of \$100 or more.

Your name will appear on our website events page, in the concert program, mentioned during the live-stream performance and one ticket to view the recording.

Associate - a donation of \$75-\$99.

Your name listed in our concert program which will be available online and one ticket to view the recording.

Supporter - a donation of \$50-\$74.

Your name listed in our concert program which will be available online and one ticket to view the recording.

Partner - a donation of \$1-\$49.

As a partner, you support our mission for helping the people of Puerto Rico and get one ticket to view the recording.

Attend the concert in-person.

A minimum donation of \$30 or more per ticket to the in-person event.

A donation of any amount or a purchase of an in-person performance ticket will receive a link to the live show through June 2023.



Many thanks to Divinity Lutheran Church for providing a wonderful location to perform

The Young Brahms: Something to Prove.

A special thanks to our Lura Johnson for supporting **Hermanidad** and sharing this classic performance.
¡Gracias!



January 2023 Visit to Puerto Rico Second Annual Scholarship Award



(Left to Right) Angélica M. Pacheco Jiménez, Jean Knight, John Knight, Patricia Cordero Flecha, Diego I. Soto Rivera, and Mrs. Madeline Pauneto, (teacher)

In January, Jean (Hermandad Secretary) and John (Hermandad President) returned to Puerto Rico for the John (Jack) and Eunice Knight Memorial Fund Scholarship presentation. Family, friends, school staff, and two additional Hermandad board members attended the masked event at Corporación Milagros del Amor (CorMA) in Caguas, Puerto Rico which was also live-streamed on our website.

All awardees were recognized for demonstrating leadership and service having submitted the following materials: two letters of recommendation, evidence of leadership i.e. photos, certificates, letters of appreciation and an essay written in English. Our scholarship committee, through a series of weighted criteria, evaluated candidates on their experience, extent of service, evidence of leadership, and their thoroughness in presenting their materials.

Our award recipients were Diego I. Soto Rivera, First Place, Angélica M. Pacheco Jiménez, Second Place, and Patricia Cordero Flecha, Third Place. All three recipients are members of the National Honor Society.

Diego has been a community volunteer since 2018 following Hurricane Maria distributing food and working with Restoring, Rebuilding and Renewing Puerto Rico and Christian Resources International. He learned to use a variety of tools and repair zinc roofs for people in need. By 2022, he was able to lead a visiting church group in roof repair and serve as interpreter. Diego noted the importance of having a willingness to share his skills with those in need without the expectation of a monetary reward noting the need to serve with “love and passion.”

Angélica served as an assistant coach with the Manota Rodriguez Technical Volleyball School. She donated her time teaching and mentoring eight and nine year old girls as she learned the value of patience, leadership, time management, and working under pressure. These skills will serve her well as she pursues her goal to become a doctor.

Patricia noted much satisfaction as she delivered toys in December 2017 after Hurricane Maria. Additionally, her community service involved working at a residential program for children ages six to 12 who had been removed from their homes due to child abuse. Serving as a caregiver she led activities with the children helping them find enjoyment in the process. Patricia developed an appreciation for those who did not experience a healthy home environment and gained greater insight from those who lacked the home support others take for granted.

Hermanidad thanks the Corporación Milagros del Amor (CorMA) for hosting our event and providing refreshments after the presentation. Jean and John Knight enjoyed the opportunity of meeting the award recipients and having time to talk with them about their service and future plans.

December Puerto Rican Christmas Music Concert

On Sunday, December 11, 2022, Hermanidad presented a Puerto Rican Christmas concert “Herencia Musical” to benefit the Jack and Eunice Knight Memorial Fund for Puerto Rican youth. The group was formed by musician Tito Padilla and included Catherine Fries-Sierra, Orlando Cotto and Luis Rivera.



(From Left to Right: Luis Rivera, Catherine Fries-Sierra, Orlando Cotto and Tito Padilla.

All four musicians provided vocals with Orlando Cotto playing drums and Tito Padilla on keyboard. Catherine Fries-Sierra also provided narration about the songs presented and their origins. Many in our audience brought traditional Puerto Rican percussion instruments and added to the mix.

Our concert was well attended, lively and captured the spirit of celebrating Christmas in Puerto Rico. We look forward to this December's program hoping to make it a tradition.

Baltimore Rotary Gift

In the last few years, Hermandad president, John Knight, has had opportunities to share Hermandad's work and mission with Baltimore Rotary members. They gave us a gift of \$1,000 in March for our work in Puerto Rico. On April 4, 2023, John gave a presentation at a virtual Rotary meeting sharing our story and virtually thanking the members for their generous gift.

Result of Library Visits and Gifts

During our August 2022 trip to Puerto Rico, Jean and John visited a school library that lost 40% of their materials as a result of Hurricane Maria and later the pandemic. While the school librarian had done a phenomenal job at maintaining and finding needed resources, her library shelves showed space for many more books. After that visit, we dedicated Hermandad to raising \$4,000 to help. Subsequently, gifts to our memorial fund through private donors, a portion of our December concert receipts and the gift from the Baltimore Rotary allowed Hermandad to send three checks over a five-month period reaching our goal of \$4,000.



During our January trip, John and Jean Knight visited the library that received Hermandad's recent gifts. School librarian, Cynthia Román Rivera, provided a display of books that were purchased followed by Jean Knight reading to the third grade English class.

New Mission and Vision Statements

Since Hermandad's birth in 2019 and working with our partners in Puerto Rico, we have continued shaping our mission. Our board voted to change our mission statement and create a vision statement during our April meeting.

Our new mission statement is: *"Create awareness of the ongoing needs of Puerto Rican citizens addressing emergency needs and ensuring youth have post secondary opportunities to make Puerto Rico an affordable choice where they can live."*

Our vision statement is: *"To insure physical, spiritual, emotional, emergency and post secondary educational needs are provided to all citizens throughout the island of Puerto Rico."*

We appreciate your continued support on this journey. Through fundraising concerts and monetary gifts, you have helped Hermandad continue our mission and move our vision closer to reality.

Thank you for your trust in us.

