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**Special Edition of La Prensa for Lazo Cultural**

## Annual Sphinx Competition kicks off 17th season

DETROIT, June 25, 2013 (AP):

Registration has begun for a national music competition open to young black and Latino string players.

The Detroit-based Sphinx Competition announced Monday that it has kicked off its 17th season. The application deadline is Nov. 12, 2013.

Open to all U.S.-based junior high, high school, and college-aged black and Latino string players, the competition offers young classical musicians a chance to compete under the guidance of judges and perform with established professional musicians in a competition setting.

Its goals are to encourage and develop classical music talent in the black and Latino communities.

Top winners in senior and junior divisions will get to make a solo appearance with a major orchestra. The winner from the older group will receive \$10,000 and the younger group \$5,000.

Online: <http://www.sphinxmusic.org>



2013 MidWest LatinoFest performing artists Berna and Lesli Rodriguez of Las Fénix de Houston TX y Michoacán, México.

# Alvina Costilla and Barner Quilter honored at MidWest LatinoFest

By Kevin Milliken for La Prensa

June 25, 2013: *MidWest LatinoFest* organizers and *La Prensa* recently honored two people who have worked for decades on behalf of the Northwest Ohio Latino community. During a special ceremony at the June 8<sup>th</sup> festival at Promenade Park in downtown Toledo, *Eagle Awards* were handed out to longtime Latina activist *Alvina Costilla* and to Lucas County Clerk of Courts *Berne Quilter* for the contributions of his late father, former state representative *Barney Quilter*.

These *Eagle Awards* were in addition to the four awarded to Latino veterans—Izzy Ortiz, Hector Flores, Raúl Hinojosa, and George Plasencio and his two children. They were also in addition to *Eagle Awards* presented to the festival's Amigos: *ARP, The Fair Housing Center, Molina Healthcare, L. Hollingworth School for the Gifted & Talented*, and the *Ohio Housing Finance Agency* and also Supporting Sponsors *The Blade* and *SAO*.

Ms. Costilla was honored for her many years of service as a committee member planning past festivals, as well as for her extensive work for *SS Peter and Paul Church*, the Lucas County Democratic Party, and a number of other local organizations.

"I was surprised. Nobody told me I was going to receive any acknowledgement," she said by phone from her Maumee home. "It felt good, because when I saw the movement of the people getting together—that was the whole purpose, bring the people together. That was beautiful."

Ms. Costilla explained she was first asked to represent the parish on the festival committee in 2000. She helped to line up the festival's many vendors, similar to work she had done professionally during her career for the State of Ohio in employment services.

"The idea was to raise funding for scholarships, which, to me, was very important," she said. "It's beautiful to see an organization produce entertainment for our community, especially to raise money for our young people—which is very important."

Ms. Costilla, 86, stated illness prevented her from assisting with this year's festival, but she remains active in her church ensuring families have vital information and access to social services. Her husband passed away in 2008. "He was a great supporter and a very encouraging man, which allowed me to do many things to help people," she said.

The late *Barney Quilter* served in the Ohio General Assembly for parts of four decades and through five gubernatorial administrations. According to his son *Berne*, one of his proudest moments was securing passage of landmark legislation he sponsored allowing Latinos to take their written exams to obtain a driver's license in Spanish. *Quilter* passed away in 2005 at the age of 86.

"It was an honor, certainly was an honor—but it was also shocking, because my father's been gone so long," the younger *Quilter* said of the posthumous award. "But people still remembered him after all these years, so it was truly an honor. It was overwhelming, really."

The Lucas County clerk of courts stated he could remember as a youth that a lot of his classmates could not speak English. So the passage of bilingual driver's license legislation became a hot topic in the late 1960s.

"It was a really big issue back then that they were doing this," said *Berne Quilter*. "He got a lot of support for it. The Hispanic community was overwhelmed by it. They loved that he did this. It was the first time anything like this was done; Ohio one of the first states to do this. It worked out well. He was always well-respected in the Hispanic community for it. They didn't forget."

The legislation finally passed in 1968 with bipartisan support that *Quilter* had

engineered across the aisle. The bill read in part:

"Except as otherwise provided in this rule, the department of public safety may develop versions of the knowledge portion of the examination required by paragraphs (A) and (B) of this rule that can be taken in languages other than English in written or electronic form. If an applicant for a driver's license wishes to take the knowledge examination in a language other than English, an interpreter may provide translation assistance to the applicant unless the department has developed a written or electronic version of the examination in a language in which the applicant is fluent, in which case the applicant must take that written or electronic version of the examination without the assistance of an interpreter."

*Quilter* explained the legislation allowed migrant farmworkers and others to get jobs. He plans to display the award in his office at the Lucas County Common Pleas Courthouse. He also stated it's a legacy of public service to all communities his father left him. For example, the younger *Quilter* has made it so Spanish-speakers can look up court cases bilingually on the clerk of courts website. All the brochures are printed in multiple languages.

"Our community is an ethnic community—and that's what we can never forget. We're a very diverse community here," he said. "You try to take good care of everyone you possibly can."

*Quilter* stated he admired his father for helping people even in retirement. He explained that former constituents would call him directly with problems, thinking he was still in the state legislature. But the late *Quilter* would still make calls to Columbus to help out individuals with unemployment or disability assistance—even to get a soldier home in time for a funeral. But the late state rep did more than sponsor legislation. His son explained that the older *Quilter* coached *Golden Gloves* boxing locally, teaching dozens of Latino young men along the way the greater nuances of stepping into the ring.

*Quilter* served as a Democratic state lawmaker from 1967 to 1994, nearly two decades of that in the House leadership. He rose to the rank of Speaker Pro-Tem. His length of public service preceded term limits imposed on state legislators who came after his retirement.

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## Detroit bankruptcy endangers city's cultural gems at DIA, Zoo, Museums

By COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT, June 23, 2013 (AP): When *Johnathan Shearrod* gazes at Van Gogh's "Self Portrait," Bruegel the Elder's "Wedding Dance" or any of the other treasures at the *Detroit Institute of Arts*, he can't help but fear for their future.

If Detroit falls into bankruptcy, those masterpieces and other prized artworks could go on the auction block to help satisfy the city's staggering debts. Though the auctions would raise much-needed cash, they would also strip the city of its cultural riches, including paintings by *Rivera*, *Renoir*, and *Matisse*, and maybe even zoo animals and historic automobiles.

"The art here is just as important as any of the structures connected to the auto industry," said Shearrod, a grant manager for a local nonprofit, during a recent visit to the museum. "The DIA is the spirit of Detroit."

Other institutions owned by the city and potentially at risk include a black-culture museum, the historic *Fort Wayne* dating to the 1840s and the 985-acre (399-hectare) *Belle Isle Park*, which will probably be leased to the state. Just north of the city is the *Detroit Zoo*.

Another source of potential auction pieces is the *Detroit Historical Museum's* collection of about 60 vehicles, including an 1870 Phaeton Carriage car, a 1911 Ford Model T and John Dodge's 1919 coupe.

Shearrod said the DIA collection shouldn't be considered as an option.

"Bidding the stuff off is completely ridiculous," he said. "There are better ways of dealing with Detroit's debt" than selling off an art collection piece by irreplaceable piece.

But emergency manager *Kevin Orr*, a bankruptcy expert hired by the state in March to steer Detroit away from insolvency, has made it clear that everything of value owned by the city could be up for grabs. A decision on whether to file for bankruptcy could come within weeks.

In a letter to DIA officials, Orr gave notice that there are no sacred cows, even if bankruptcy means cutting the city's soul to save it.

Others aren't so sure. The DIA doesn't believe the artwork can be sold to satisfy city debt and has an attorney looking into the issue. Michigan's attorney general has weighed in, too, releasing a formal opinion that the artwork is held by Detroit in charitable trust "for the people of Michigan." The state Senate passed a bill requiring

the DIA to stick to a national code of museum ethics, which bars the sale of art to satisfy needs other than enhancing an institution's collection.

Orr spokesman *Bill Nowling* said there is no intention to put a value on, or to sell, anything in the city-owned collection.

"We were just giving them a heads-up," Nowling said. "We believe there is some exposure risk to the collection if we go into a bankruptcy—that creditors could ask us to put some value on it."

Some donated pieces have stipulations that prohibit them from being sold or transferred. However, others were bought decades ago with city money, said museum spokeswoman *Pamela Marcil*.

Orr presented a plan earlier this month to creditors, asking some to take only 10 cents on the dollar on the debt the city owes. Others are being asked to take less. By July 1, Detroit's budget deficit could reach \$380 million. Orr has said long-term debt could surpass \$17 billion.

If he doesn't get the concessions he seeks, Orr could move Detroit into bankruptcy. That would make it the largest U.S. city to do so.

Should the city enter bankruptcy, everything, including the potential sale of artwork, "is probably on the table," said *Ben Feder*, a bankruptcy attorney with New York-based *Kelley Drye & Warren*.

But "it would be the choice of the city to go that route. Without the consent of the city of Detroit, probably nothing" could be sold, Feder said.

Selling or privatizing other Detroit assets, like its electric and water departments, makes more sense because they would bring in a steady flow of revenue, he added.

The sale of a painting brings in a one-time sum. The museum won't put a price on any painting, but it's easy to imagine the work of famous artists fetching tens of millions of dollars.

*Van Gogh's "Portrait du Dr. Gachet"* sold for more than \$80 million at auction in 1990. A *Henri Matisse* bronze nude sold three years ago for more than \$48 million.

But what Detroit needs most is revenue to supplement its shrinking tax base caused by people and business fleeing the city. In the 1950s, Detroit had 1.8 million people. Its current population barely tops 700,000.

Zoo board members have discussed the potential impact on the zoo.

"The city essentially owns all of the assets other than vehicles," zoo Director *Ron Kagan* said. "Unlike the DIA, our works of art—the animals—really have no commercial value. I don't think we view this as an imminent threat."

The zoo, the DIA, and Detroit's other cultural gems have more value intact, Nowling said.

"When you're talking about lowering a \$15 billion debt load, there is not a big market for giraffes," he said. "We need to come up with a plan to protect as much of our assets as possible because we need a viable city going forward."

The DIA is in the city's resurgent Midtown district and draws about 500,000 visitors a year. *Van Gogh's "Self Portrait"* was the first piece from the acclaimed artist acquired by a US-American museum, Marcil said.

The city later bought "Wedding Dance" and "Gladioli" by Monet.

Less ethical art collectors might be interested if DIA pieces were made available, but legitimate collectors would be appalled at the reason behind the sale, said Charles Guerin, director of the Hyde Collection in Glen Falls, New York.

Some pieces were meant to be enjoyed by the public and "not meant to pay off debt," he said.

Public opposition has sunk similar plans to sell cherished art collections.

Brandeis University near Boston announced plans in 2009 to close its Rose Art Museum and sell \$350 million in artwork in response to a budget crisis. But museum supporters filed a lawsuit, and the idea was dropped.

"The donors to the rest of the school raised holy hell with them," said James K. Ballinger, director of the privately owned Phoenix Art Museum in Arizona. "They realized it was a much larger issue than the sale of art objects."

"You've got to be unbelievably diligent here," he said. "If you look at the DIA collections, certainly those things given to the DIA would have been given to the community, so to speak."



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## Esperanza, Inc. celebra su aniversario de 30 años y la Fiesta de Hope (Esperanza)

Por Claudia Annoni de La Prensa

*Esperanza, Inc.* que está localizada en el área de Cleveland, es una organización altamente reconocida por su dedicación a fortalecer la comunidad latina desde el año 1983.

La misión de Esperanza, Inc. es mejorar los logros académicos de los hispanos en la zona de Cleveland apoyando a estudiantes a graduarse de la escuela secundaria y promoviendo la consecución de la educación post secundaria.

El 21 de junio del 2013, Esperanza, Inc. tuvo su evento anual “Fiesta de Esperanza (por su traducción de inglés) en el hotel Renaissance de Cleveland. En el cual este año además de reconocer la educación, los logros y las oportunidades de hispanos, también celebró sus treinta años de aniversario.

Un video mostrando los testimonios y las historias que construyeron la organización y sus programas durante todos estos años siguió a la bienvenida de *Victor Ruiz*, director ejecutivo de Esperanza.

Durante este evento, con el apoyo de patrocinadores, ochenta y dos estudiantes de descendencia latina recibieron becas que los ayudarán con su colegiatura.

*Jacob Rivera* fue quien recibió la beca *Esperanza 2013* y *Cleveland State University* patrocinado por *William Roberts*. “Las cosas no me fueron fáciles”, dijo Rivera mientras compartía su historia en su discurso en la Fiesta de Esperanza. El habla de los desafíos que enfrentó mientras crecía y la negatividad que rodeaba su entorno en muchas ocasiones.

Pero él lo sobrepuso en forma estoica y allí agradeció a quienes le dieron aliento a mejorar, a sus mentores y a sus modelos. El reconoció a su padre, el Sr. Alvino y a su hermana, Mara, quienes estaban en la audiencia. “Mi hermana me empujó bien duro” él dijo con una sonrisa, “porque a ella yo le importaba”, agregó. Jacob está haciendo doble carrera en criminología y sociología.

*Miguel Sánchez* fue quien recibió la beca 2013 *Presidente Emeritus*. “Si quieren saber mi gloria, debo decirles mi historia”, dijo al comienzo de su discurso. Sánchez también compartió sus desafíos y barreras mientras crecía. El dijo que muchas veces había gente que se daba por vencido con él, pero hubo quienes “me dieron una segunda oportunidad”, dijo. Hoy en sus treintas, él está estudiando sociología y con vistas a un futuro brillante.

Entre todos estos radiantes y talentosos estudiantes, estaba *Betsi Gómez*, patrocinada por Ferragón Corporation. Betsi está siguiendo la carrera de patología del habla. “Su hermano pequeño tuvo problemas del habla, y eso fue lo que la inspiró”, dijo orgullosamente su madre. “A veces nos frustrábamos porque no encontrábamos alguien que nos ayudara con su problema y con el idioma”, añadió la Sra. Gómez. “Pero yo lo voy a hacer en los dos idiomas, inglés y español, dijo Betsi con una sonrisa.

Muchas otras historias inundaron el espacio del hotel Renaissance de Cleveland el pasado viernes.

Al final, patrocinadores, mentores y representantes de corporaciones saludaron a los estudiantes personalmente.

Pero sin duda esta era una Fiesta de Esperanza, porque el salón estaba colmado de Familias celebrando el avance y el logro de sus jóvenes queridos.

**Esperanza, Inc. celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Fiesta of Hope**  
Cleveland: On Friday, June 21, 2013 *Esperanza, Inc.* had its annual “*Fiesta of Hope*” gala event at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel, recognizing Latino education, achievement, and opportunity; it also celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Esperanza, Inc.* is a non-profit organization empowering the Latino community since 1983. The mission of Esperanza, Inc. is to improve the academic achievement of Latinos in Greater Cleveland by supporting students to graduate high school and promoting post-secondary educational attainment.

A video showing the testimony and the stories that build the organization and its programs over the years followed the welcoming words of *Victor Ruiz*, Esperanza’s executive director.



During this event with the support of sponsors, eighty two students of Latino background received a scholarship that will assist them with their college education.

The recipient for the 2013 *Esperanza* and *Cleveland State University Scholarship* was *Jacob Rivera*, sponsored by *William Roberts*. “Things didn’t come easy”, said Rivera while sharing his story during his speech at the Fiesta of Hope. He talked about the challenges he faced while growing up, and the negativity that in many instances surrounded his environment.

But stoically overcoming them he thanked those that encouraged him to succeed, his mentors and his role models. He recognized his father, Sr. Alvino and his sister, Mara, who were in the audience. “My sister pushed me hard,” he said with a smile, “because she cared.” Jacob is a double major in Criminology/Sociology.

*Miguel Sánchez* was the 2013 recipient of the *President Emeritus Scholarship*. “If you want to know my glory, let me tell you my story,” he said at the beginning of his speech. Sánchez also shared his challenges and struggles while growing up. Many times he said he knew there were people who gave up on him, but there were others “who gave me a second chance,” he said. Today, in his thirties, he is pursuing sociology.

Among other brilliant and talented scholars, was *Betsi Gómez*, sponsored by Ferragón Corporation. Betsi is aspiring for a speech-pathology career. “Her little brother had speech problems, so that inspired her,” proudly said her mother. “Sometimes we were frustrated because we couldn’t find somebody to help us with his problem and the language,” added Mrs. Gómez. “But I am going to work in both languages, English and Spanish,” smiled Betsi.

Many other stories overflowed the room at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel on Friday.

And at the end, sponsors, mentors, and corporation representatives personally congratulated the recipients.

But without a doubt, this was a Fiesta of Hope, because the room was also filled with *Familias* celebrating the advancement and achievement of their young love ones.