



BUFFALO  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA



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# BPO and WNY Hispanic Heritage Council hold second annual Festival Encanto Hispano on September 21

Free festival at Kleinhans Music Hall highlights local Hispanic talent, followed by BPO Pops opening with Broadway star Mandy Gonzalez



The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra proudly continue their partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York to present **Festival Encanto Hispano** on Saturday, September 21 from 12-4pm at Kleinhans Music Hall. This free event celebrates the rich tapestry of Hispanic culture in the WNY community, displaying the talents of Hispanic artists, musicians, dancers, and chefs based in Buffalo.

Following the festival, the celebration culminates with the opening concert of the BPO Pops series, **Mandy Gonzalez: Broadway Today** at 7:30pm. Mandy Gonzalez, known for her famous roles in Broadway musicals *Wicked*, *Hamilton*, and *In the Heights*, joins the orchestra to sing hits including "Defying Gravity," "Satisfied," and a song written especially for her by Lin-Manuel Miranda. Additional orchestral favorites from family movies like *Encanto*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and more complete the evening.

Casimiro D. Rodriguez, President of the Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, stated:

"Our partnership with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra has been instrumental in bringing Hispanic artists from around the world to the Western New York community. We are proud to be collaborators with the BPO to continue to celebrate and share our Hispanic culture and arts with the community at large."

The BPO and Hispanic Heritage Council invite the community to enjoy this annual observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. Participating local vendors and performers include:

- Akiki Love Accessorie
- Amor and Heritage Dance Company
- Anaidelis Makes Crochet & Jewelry
- Angeleev
- Artesanía Boricua Familiar
- Brazil 716 with Stephen Guerra
- Buffalo Tango Orkestra
- El Buen Amigo & Latin American Cultural Association
- Fanny Salsa Dance
- Gabriela's Kitchen
- Half Luna Empanadas
- La Marimba Buffalo
- Los Artistas del Barrio Buffalo
- Multinational Illumination Art
- Princessa's Studio and Art Gallery
- Sabor Criollo y más
- Son BoriKua
- Tangos 716
- Yendy's Chucherias

For festival information, visit [bpo.org/encanto](http://bpo.org/encanto).

For concert details and tickets, visit [bpo.org/mandy-gonzalez](http://bpo.org/mandy-gonzalez).

Find images [here](#). For additional information or interviews, contact Simone Viola at [sviola@bpo.org](mailto:sviola@bpo.org) or (716) 242-7814.

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## About Mandy Gonzalez



Mandy Gonzalez is an accomplished film, TV, and stage actor and author. She possesses one of the most powerful and versatile contemporary voices of our time. Mandy has starred on Broadway in the megahit *Hamilton* as Angelica Schuyler. She also originated Nina Rosario in the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, *In the Heights*, for which Mandy received a Drama Desk Award. Mandy also starred as Elphaba in the Broadway production of *Wicked*, blowing the roof off of New York's Gershwin Theatre each night as she belted out the signature song, "Defying Gravity." Mandy also received an OBIE Award and overwhelming critical praise for her performance in the Off-Broadway production of *Eli's Comin'*.

Television viewers have had the pleasure of seeing Mandy in her recurring roles in the hit series *Madam Secretary* and *Bull*, and alongside Steve Martin and Martin Short in *Only Murders in the Building*. Equally at home on the big and small screen, she has appeared in *Across the Universe*, directed by Julie Taymor, *After*, starring opposite Pablo Schreiber, and *Man on a Ledge* with Sam Worthington. Mandy can also be heard as the voice of Mei in Disney's *Mulan II*.

A frequent concert soloist, Mandy has performed with symphony orchestras around the world, including at Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops. Mandy is a Warner Music East/West artist and released her debut album, *FEARLESS*, which debuted at #13 on the iTunes pop charts.

Mandy is also an author – she recently published her Young Adult novel series, *FEARLESS*, published by Simon and Schuster.

In her quest to create positive change, Mandy is the proud founder of #FearlessSquad – a social media movement for inclusiveness and positivity. #FearlessSquad connects people around the world, encourages them to be their best selves, and helps them empower each other.

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*To learn more about the BPO's storied history, [distinguished conductors and world-class musicians](#), and commitment to [IDEA](#), visit the [Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra](#).*



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