

MUSIC

The Angela Bofill Experience is a musical extravaganza

By Emily Cary
Special to The Washington Examiner

Vocalist Angela Bofill returns to Washington to narrate the Angela Bofill Experience, a multimedia event featuring her band, the popular singer Maysa performing the songs that made Angela famous, and jazz flutist Dave Valentín.

"Dave was my first crush, an old friend," Bofill said, speaking from her home in California. "We started out together and it means a great deal to me that he will join me on this tour to play and chat with the audience. My band that's based in D.C. will be there to back

Maysa as she sings my signature numbers, 'I Try' and 'Angel of the Night,' along with lots of others my Washington fans always loved. Maysa and I first met when we appeared together at [a] jazz festival. I saw then that she is a nice person with a beautiful voice and I don't know anyone I'd rather hear performing my songs."

Bofill burst on the music scene in 1978 with "Angie," her debut album that started her career as a Latin R&B singer. By 2004, she had recorded 11 albums, several of which have been reissued. During those years, she amassed many fans in the Washington area,

playing to packed houses each time she came to town. In addition to her many dance hits, the ballad "This Time I'll Be Sweeter" always brings her to mind.

Today she is making great progress as she continues recuperating from the two strokes that left her paralyzed. After the first in 2006, she underwent extensive speech and physical therapy. To deal with her lack of health insurance, radio stations around the country held benefit concerts.

Just as she was improving, she suffered a second stroke in 2007. After considerably more therapy and a long stay in a convalescent

home, she has recovered much of her speech and mobility. Best of all, with the help of her manager, Rich Engel, she is coming back with the remarkable tour. It begins this week in Philadelphia and Washington and closes in New York in September.

"The opportunity to work with Rich on this project and to reach people again gives me great joy," she said. "I look forward to being among the people I love who have such a powerful healing energy. I hope they enjoy hearing me tell the stories about my songs and some of the experiences associated with them and seeing the

IF YOU GO The Angela Bofill Experience

» **Where:** The Birchmere
» **When:** 7:30 p.m. Sunday
» **Info:** \$35; 703-549-7500; birchmere.com

video of my performances.

"Without the support of my good family and the unconditional love from my puppy Momo, I would not have been able to accomplish this. It's a miracle I'm still around. The message I want to leave with people is that life is precious and they must not take it for granted."

Violinist Augustin Hadelich, BSO perform in spirit of cooperation

By Marie Gullard
Special to The Washington Examiner

While virtuoso violinist Augustin Hadelich will not name his favorite composer, he will speak about the specific piece he plays in his debut performance with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra this Saturday at Strathmore.

"The Brahms [Violin Concerto] is one of the great pieces for violin and I think one of the best parts is that it is a very complex piece," he said. "There has to be a lot of communication between soloist and orchestra."

Even as his debut with the BSO marks his first performance under the baton of Maestro Juanjo Mena, Hadelich, who has played the Brahms piece many times, looks forward to working with his esteemed colleagues.

"There are some particularly hard places [in the violin concerto] but to the audience, it must not look difficult," continued this award-winning violinist who was born in Italy to German parents. "I'm really excited because the [BSO] has such a sense of cooperation."

Composer Johannes Brahms wrote his violin concerto at the peak of his career for his good friend Joseph Joachim, who premiered the work in 1897. Having closely collaborated on orchestral balance to complement the violin, it highlights the impressive technique of the soloist.

"The Brahms Violin Concerto requires a maturity and depth of musicality that is rare in younger artists. And yet, Augustin at age 26 has demonstrated a stunning ability to make it sing, said Matt Spivey, the symphony's vice president of artistic programming. "Augustin Hadelich is the real thing."

As chief conductor of the BBC Philharmonic, Mena is one of the



IF YOU GO Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

» **Where:** The Music Center at Strathmore
» **When:** Saturday, 8 p.m.
» **Info:** \$28 to \$88; 301-581-5100; strathmore.org

most renowned conductors of his generation. Following his debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in 2004, he has been invited back every year since. He has conducted (or is soon to conduct) orchestras such as the Atlanta Symphony, Colorado Symphony and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Worldwide, he has appeared with orchestras that include the Bucharest Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France and Orchestre de la Suisse.

Also, featured in the program is Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 85, "La Reine," a piece believed to be the favorite of Marie Antoinette, and noted for its craftsmanship and charm. The second movement features variations of the traditional French song "La gentile et jeune Lisette."

Puerto Rican composer Roberto Sierra's Sinfonia No. 4 rounds out the evening's entertainment. Sierra refers to his music as the "tropicalization" of the classical European tradition that he learned in England, the Netherlands and Germany.

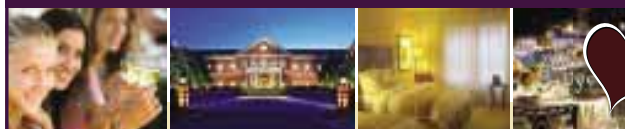
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