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## MEDIA ADVISORY

Intake Organization, Inc invites the media to interview its Founder and Artistic Director, Angelica Durrell, on her acceptance and attendance to the national Advocacy Leadership Institute in Washington DC hosted by the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC). A Connecticut based artist and social entrepreneur, Durrell leads the Native Instrument Academy, which currently serves students from Stamford, Norwalk, Danbury and Bridgeport; learning both native and classical instruments like the violin, viola and charango.

DATES: Please contact for interview time

LOCATION: 400 Main St. Suite 510 Stamford, CT

Attached: Detailed Press Release

We hope you will cover and distribute this significant contribution to Connecticut's musical and multi-cultural life.

If you have any questions, please contact Maricarmen Godoy at 203- 952- 8718 or [cgodoy@lavothispanact.com](mailto:cgodoy@lavothispanact.com) , [info@intakemusic.org](mailto:info@intakemusic.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Latino artist from Connecticut selected for national convening on the arts**

PHOTO: Ecuadorian -American violinist and social entrepreneur, Angelica Durrell , was selected to represent the state in Washington DC, at the Advocacy Leadership Institute hosted by NALAC (National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures), in order to empower local Latino artists and to further the impact and reach of the INTAKE Native Instrument Academy, which currently serves students from Stamford, Norwalk , Danbury and Bridgeport ; learning both native and classical instruments like the violin, viola and charango.

STAMFORD , Conn . May 25, 2014 - Angelica Durrell, Founder and Artistic Director of the INTAKE Organization (Instrumentally Native Taking on the Classics), was chosen to represent Connecticut in the national convening on leadership and advocacy in the arts, hosted by the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) to be held at the Smithsonian Latino Center in Washington, DC during the week of May 27 through May 29. At the same time, Durrell has been awarded the Inaugural MPower scholarship from the national Sphinx Organization to empower artists from ethnic minority backgrounds.

According to the Advocacy Leadership Institute, a program of NALAC, the National Association of Arts and Cultures, the national convening will host 15 leading artists who will develop skills to advocate for the arts at the local, state, regional, and federal government levels. For this occasion, all participants will have direct meetings with the at the White House Office of Public Engagement, the National Endowment for the Arts, National Council of La Raza, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as well as direct conversation with their state senators and representatives.

The three- day intensive training for these Latino leaders aims to instill skills and knowledge on the role of government and public institutions in the field of arts advocacy, where experienced executives will provide strategies to improve the efforts and knowledge about the arts and cultural equity, in order to cultivate a deepen the understanding of cultural policies and their impact on Latino artistic productions and social justice.

María López de León, NALAC Executive Director said the reason INTAKE was chosen for the Advocacy Leadership Institute is that “from its founding year to the present date, the institution has promoted classical arts through native voices and it has achieved significant diversification in the artistic and cultural expression thus raising the voices of

those who are under- represented in the arts today”.

Durrell’s attendance is possible thanks to the scholarship fund from the American Express Leadership Academy, based in New York, and the Sphinx Organization, which advocates for artistic excellence among Black and Latino artists, who recently awarded Durrell their Inaugural MPower Artist Grant, a special fund for the Ecuadorian-American violinist and social entrepreneur to expand her artistic skills at the service of the INTAKE Organization. "Our goal is to provide for their musical development and this has truly been an inspiring process," said Aaron Dworkin, Sphinx President, in a statement delivered upon the scholarship announcement.

"I am honored to represent Connecticut on this national convening because I think it is necessary for our Latino communities and our voices to be heard at all levels of society, and to continue searching for equal opportunities through the arts," said Angelica Durrell who upon arriving to Washington DC, will deliver INTAKE Organization’s Annual Report regarding the social, economic and artistic impact it has achieved since its inception in May 2011 until the current date.

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#### About INTAKE

The INTAKE Organization, Inc., is a Connecticut-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 2011. The mission of INTAKE Organization (Instrumentally Native Taking on the Classics) is to improve the quality of life for opportunity youth by providing access to quality classical music education through the use of native instruments that represent diverse cultural backgrounds. INTAKE has partnered with the University of Connecticut, holding residencies at the United States Embassy in Quito and the National Assembly of Ecuador; the City of New Haven’s Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism; City of Norwalk, and the Stamford Public Schools System. INTAKE strives to increase classical music audiences through public performances, educational workshops, community outreach events, and cultural advocacy. Board members include Maureen Pavia from Stamford Gives Back, Afa Sadykhly Dworkin from the national Sphinx Organization, and composers Gabriela Lena Frank and Tania León as Honorary Board members.

Para su Inmediata Difusión

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### **Eligen a artista latina de Connecticut a encuentro nacional sobre las artes**

PIE DE FOTO: La violinista ecuatoriana-americana, Angélica Durrell, fue seleccionada, para representar al Estado en Washington DC., en la Academia de Liderazgo y Abogacía de las Artes de NALAC, con el fin de empoderar las artes latinas locales y seguir desarrollando el programa musical de la Academia de Instrumentos Nativos de INTAKE, en la que estudian niños de Stamford, Norwalk, Danbury y Bridgeport; quienes aprenden música clásica y nativa en violines, violas y charangos.

STAMFORD, Conn. May 25, 2014- Angélica Durrell, directora artística y fundadora de la organización musical INTAKE (Instrumentos Nativos Acogiendo lo Clásico), fue elegida para representar a Connecticut en el encuentro nacional sobre liderazgo y abogacía de las artes, organizado por la Asociación Nacional de Artes y Culturas Latinas (NALAC), a realizarse en el Centro Latino del Museo Smithsonian de Washington, DC., en la semana del 27 al 29 de mayo. A tiempo que recibió el fondo de beca para empoderar a artistas de las minorías étnicas "MPower", por parte de la institución nacional Sphinx.

Acorde con el Instituto de Liderazgo y Abogacía, dependencia de la Asociación Nacional de Artes y Culturas (NALAC), al encuentro nacional asistirán 15 líderes artistas; quienes desarrollarán destrezas para abogar por las artes entre los gobiernos locales, distritales, estatales y federales del país. Razón por la que los participantes tendrán conversaciones directas con la Oficina de Enlaces Públicos de la Casa Blanca, el Fondo Nacional para las Artes, (National Endowment for the Arts), el Consejo Nacional de la Raza y el Caucus Latino del Congreso Nacional y una conversación particular con sus senadores y representantes estatales.

La capacitación de tres días intensivos a los líderes latinos, tiene como propósito desplegar las habilidades y conocimientos sobre el papel del gobierno y de las instituciones públicas en el campo de la defensa de las artes, en donde experimentados ejecutivos proporcionarán estrategias para mejorar los esfuerzos y conocimientos a favor de las artes, con el fin de cultivar una comprensión profunda sobre políticas culturales y su impacto en la producción artística latina y su justicia social.

María López de León, directora ejecutiva de NALAC, afirmó que la razón por la que INTAKE fue escogida para el curso de Liderazgo y Abogacía, se debe a que desde su fundación hasta la presente fecha, la institución que promueve las artes clásicas en voces nativas, ha venido avanzando significativamente por una mayor diversificación en la expresión artística y cultural y está elevando las voces de aquellos que están sub-

representados en las arte de hoy.

La asistencia de Durrell es posible gracias al fondo de beca de American Express con sede en New York y a Sphinx Organization, entidad artística que aboga por los artistas que representan a las minorías étnicas, quien entregó a Angélica Durrell el premio MPower Artitis Grant, un fondo especial para que la violinista de origen ecuatoriano-estadounidense, amplíe sus habilidades artísticas y las ponga al servicio de INTAKE. "Nuestro objetivo es proporcionar un incentivo para que su desarrollo musical siga siendo inspirador", repuso Aaron Dworkin, presidente de Sphinx, a propósito de entregar su fondo de beca a la joven artista.

"Estoy emocionada de representar a Connecticut en este encuentro nacional, porque creo que es necesario que nuestras voces latinas sean escuchadas en todos los niveles de la sociedad, para seguir buscando espacios de igualdad para las artes ", dijo Angélica Durrell, quien entregará en Washington DC., el Reporte Anual sobre el impacto social, económico y artístico que INTAKE ha desarrollado desde su fundación en mayo del 2011, hasta la presente fecha.

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