

For Immediate Release  
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## ***Caribbean Nights* at Botanical Garden Offers Great Date Night Outing Outdoor Concert Series Features Performances, Salsa Lessons and Dancing, Regional Fare, and Tropical Garden Beauty, Thursdays in August**

Whether it's a first date or your weekly couple "quality time," on Thursday evenings in August, The New York Botanical Garden is the perfect venue for getting to know someone or keeping the magic alive.

*Caribbean Nights* is a series of outdoor concerts showcasing different musical styles of the Caribbean. Part of the celebration surrounding *Caribbean Gardens: Journey to Paradise*, the Botanical Garden's current flower show in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the final *Caribbean Nights* concerts will take place on August 16, and 23 on the Conservatory Lawn. Each concert is preceded by *salsa* lessons at 6 p.m., and the dancing has tended to continue into performances, which start at 7 p.m., rain or shine.

Although *Caribbean Nights* is not for couples only, it's definitely couples friendly. Repeat visitors can attest to the high level of enjoyment to be had by all. Bring your favorite (or potential) mate and the Botanical Garden will supply the ambience—lively and romantic all at once. Stroll through the lush and colorful *Caribbean Gardens* exhibition Gaze upon lovely waterlilies, lotus, and other aquatic plants in the pools in the Conservatory Courtyards. Learn to groove to Latin rhythms as **renowned salsa dancer Tito Sandoval** conducts fun *salsa* lessons on Conservatory Plaza beginning at 6 p.m. Then step over to the Conservatory Lawn at 7 p.m., to put what you've learned into practice or purchase a glass of sangria or Caribbean-inspired fare to enjoy during an hour-long concert.

Only two more opportunities remain to treat yourself to a one-night island getaway right in the Bronx. **Ilu Aye** presents traditional Dominican music on **August 16**. Trained by master musicians from the islands and versed in sacred and popular rhythms such as *bata*, *guiro*, and *rumba* (Cuba); *bomba y plena* (Puerto Rico); and *palos*, *salves*, and *congas* (Dominican Republic), Ilu Aye is dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich cultural legacy of Africa in the Americas and the Caribbean.

The all-female steel drum orchestra **Women in Steel** closes the *Caribbean Nights* concert series on **August 23**. With members hailing from Barbados, Haiti, St. Lucia, and Trinidad, the group's repertoire is a potpourri of calypso, soca, reggae, pop, jazz, and rhythm and blues, and ballads with melodies occasionally spiced up with samba and bossa nova flavors.

Concerts are free for Botanical Garden Members and Corporate Members. Combination Tickets are \$18 and include admission to the concert and Garden venues that have extended hours. All concerts commence at 7 p.m., rain or shine. For more information, visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) or call 718.817.8700.

*Generous support for the Outdoor Concert Series has been provided by Vivian and Edward Merrin.*

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Botanical Garden is open Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April through October. PRICING: \$18, Seniors/Students \$16, Children \$5. Advance tickets are available online at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org). For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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