

# THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

*Studying, exhibiting, and conserving plants for 120 years*

May 2011

## **POEMS AND POETRY READINGS ENRICH EXPERIENCE OF SPANISH PARADISE: GARDENS OF THE ALHAMBRA**

*Partnership with Poetry Society of America enriches exhibition with poems of Federico García Lorca and readings by distinguished contemporary poets*

### **WHAT**

The experience of The New York Botanical Garden's **major spring exhibition, *Spanish Paradise: Gardens of the Alhambra***, will be enhanced by the **poetry of Federico García Lorca** (1898–1936), one of the twentieth century's most important poets. Born a few miles from Granada, the site of the Alhambra, Lorca viewed the palace as an iconic element of Spanish culture.

Thanks to a partnership between the Botanical Garden and the Poetry Society of America, *Spanish Paradise* will include a carefully selected sampling of Lorca's works, presented on boards sited along paths near the Garden's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. An audio tour will be available, with commentary on many of the poems by Christopher Maurer, professor of Spanish at Boston University and editor of the bilingual edition of Lorca's *Collected Poems*, and Tracy K. Smith, poet and Assistant Professor of Creative Writing in the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University.

A related public program titled **My Lorca**—also co-presented with the Poetry Society—will comprise a **four-part series of readings and discussions with major contemporary poets**. At each reading, three distinguished poets will recite their favorite Lorca poems as well as their own work, and will discuss the poet and the ways in which they have drawn inspiration from him.

### **WHEN**

*Spanish Paradise: Gardens of the Alhambra* is on view **May 21–August 21, 2011**

**My Lorca** readings will be held on the following Saturdays, beginning at 4 pm.

- **May 21, 2011**  
Rigoberto González, Idra Novey, and Tracy K. Smith
- **June 11, 2011**  
Jaime Manrique, Christopher Maurer, and Mark Statman
- **July 16, 2011**  
Jayne Cortez, Edward Hirsch, and Jeffrey McDaniel
- **August 20, 2011**  
Forrest Gander, Aracelis Girmay, Pablo Medina

**WHERE**            **The New York Botanical Garden**  
**Jane Watson Irwin Perennial Garden**  
 Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) at Fordham Road, Bronx, NY

**POETRY SOCIETY OF AMERICA**    The Poetry Society of America, the nation’s oldest poetry organization, was founded in 1910 for the purpose of creating a public forum for the advancement, enjoyment, and understanding of poetry. Through a diverse array of programs, initiatives, contests, and awards, the Poetry Society of America works to build a larger audience for poetry, to encourage a deeper appreciation of the art, and to place poetry at the crossroads of American life.

The New York Botanical Garden and the Poetry Society of America have a longstanding partnership that includes a diversity of ongoing and special programs that bring poets and poetry to the Garden.

**NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN**    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 Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. During *Spanish Paradise: Gardens of the Alhambra*, the best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is also available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents, \$3 for seniors and students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [nybg.org](http://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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### **Press Information**

For additional information about *Spanish Paradise: Gardens of the Alhambra* and related programs, contact Libby Mark or Stephanie Markovic at Jeanne Collins & Associates, LLC, New York City: 646.486.7050; [lmark@jcollinsassociates.com](mailto:lmark@jcollinsassociates.com); [smarkovic@jcollinsassociates.com](mailto:smarkovic@jcollinsassociates.com).

For additional information about The New York Botanical Garden, contact Melinda Manning or Nick Leshi at NYBG: 718.817.8658/8616; [mmanning@nybg.org](mailto:mmanning@nybg.org); [nleshi@nybg.org](mailto:nleshi@nybg.org).