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**Musician, Composer Mike Amadeo to be Honored by the  
Bronx Council on the Arts at a 6:00pm Ceremony on Wednesday, June 2nd**

(May 20, 2010 -- Bronx, NY) Musician, composer Mike Amadeo, will be honored by the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) at a 6:00pm ceremony on Wednesday, June 2nd at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College. The celebration will coincide with the evening's Bronx Culture Trolley activities and will include a presentation of the 2010 BRIO Award to 25 Bronx artists.

**Mike Amadeo**, born in Puerto Rico 76 years ago, is an established composer and musician who came to the US in his early teens. He has owned Casa Amadeo on Prospect Avenue since 1969. It is one of the oldest Latin music stores in the city — the oldest in the Bronx — and it is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places as a symbol of Latin music history in New York.



Photo Credit: Alvarez / Daily News

The author of about 300 songs, Mike is ironically best known for his hit 'Que Me Lo Den En Vida,' (Give It To Me While I'm Alive) recorded by El Gran Combo, a jokey complaint about the trend of only giving homage to people after they've died. During the past 50 years, his songs have been recorded by top names like Celia Cruz, Héctor Lavoe and Cheo Feliciano, as well as by stars of the bolero era, like Carmen Delia Dipini, Cheito González and Virginia López.

Mike has a reputation for being a very humble man who is thrilled to be one of the headliners in this year's Puerto Rican Day Parade. He wonders as he parades up Fifth Avenue if there will be people looking at him and wondering 'who the hell is *el jíbaro* ese [that hillbilly]?' He feels that the cheering of the crowds is usually best left for 'those famous people'. "I'm just a poor demon, what I've done is just to work here," he says with a shrug, pointing to the Casa Amadeo's walls and shelves around him, full of neatly organized CDs and cassettes.

Amadeo remembers a lot about the great era when the "local bands" in this part of the Bronx were the Machito and Tito Puente orchestras. And it's a good thing that he can. All of the clubs and dance halls in the Bronx are gone now. All that's left is Casa Amadeo and Mike Amadeo — a walking encyclopedia on Latin music.

Other activities taking place during that evening's Bronx Culture Trolley include exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Pregones Theater, BronxArtSpace, and LDR Studio Gallery. Additional activities include an after-party karaoke night at the Bruckner Bar & Grill.

The Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos is located on the campus of Hostos Community College at 450 Grand Concourse and 149th Street. It is easily accessible by the #2, #4, and #5 trains. For additional information on BCA's 45th Anniversary Celebration at June 2nd's Bronx Culture Trolley, contact Phil Cardone at 718-931-9500 x33 or [phil@bronxarts.org](mailto:phil@bronxarts.org).

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