



**ISB to Honor Graciela Carriquí, Founder of *Música Para Mí*,  
at the School's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Benefit on May 10**

*The Benefit, "Voyage Around the World", features silent and live auctions including travel packages at a Chateau in Provence and vacation homes in Spain and the Catskills*

**Brooklyn, New York, April 20, 2007** – On May 10, International School of Brooklyn (ISB) will honor Graciela Carriquí, founder of *Música Para Mí*, with an ISB Community Excellence Award for her work in teaching young children the foundations of bilingualism through her Spanish music classes. The award will be given at ISB's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Benefit, its largest event of the year.

ISB is New York's only French/Spanish language-immersion school following the International Baccalaureate curriculum. ISB's Community Excellence Award is given to an individual who embodies the spirit of the school – fostering multi-culturalism and global citizenship – in their work in Brooklyn and beyond. Subsequently Ms. Carriquí will be inducted into ISB's Advisory Board.

"Graciela is one of the pioneers of bilingual music programs in New York City," said Rebecca Skinner, co-founder and director of ISB. "We acknowledge her hard work and commitment to bilingualism and multi-culturalism, which paved the way for our young school to launch, grow and succeed."

Since 1998, Brooklyn-resident Graciela has been teaching the joys of music, dance and the Spanish language in 45-minute classes for children and their parents/caregivers. The program has expanded to various New York City neighborhoods including Boerum Hill, Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Park Slope and Williamsburg in Brooklyn; Jackson Heights in Queens; and Upper West Side and Washington Heights in Manhattan.

"I've always aimed to make a difference for the families who participate in Musica Para Mi, but ISB's acknowledgement has made me realize that doing so has also made a contribution to the community," said Ms. Carriquí. "I'm very moved by that, and proud to think of myself as a partner in creating more inclusive education for the youngest members of our community."

**ISB's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Benefit: "Voyage Around the World"**

In addition to the award ceremony, ISB's travel-themed benefit features action-packed festivities including cocktails, dinner, live music, three cash-prize drawings and silent and live auctions. The benefit will raise much-needed annual operating support and scholarship funds for the non-profit school, its enrichment programs and its community cultural events.

Items on the auction block include:

- A 5-night vacation package at Chateau de Massillan in Provence, France
- A 10-day stay at a Spanish vacation home and a week stay in a Catskills cottage
- Limited-edition Mary-Louise Parker and Alexis Bittar brooch
- Judith Ripka designer jewelry
- Full passes to Brooklyn International Film Festival
- Broadway tickets, gift certificates, and more

**Event Details:**

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2007, 7 to 10 pm  
Location: Pochron Studios, 20 Jay Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, DUMBO, Brooklyn  
Tickets: \$75, (tax-deductible up to \$35 per ticket)  
RSVP: [info@isbrooklyn.org](mailto:info@isbrooklyn.org) or 718-369-3023

**About Graciela Carriqui:**

She has received her Orff Method Certification, Level 1 (early childhood music pedagogy) from the Bloomingdale School of Music in New York City, and holds a certificate from the Center for Music and Young Children in Princeton, NJ, for the successful completion of advanced training. She began teaching at Families First in 1996, taught Music Together in Brooklyn for 6 years, and taught a session of Music for Aardvarks as well. She was the Music Specialist at Plymouth Church Preschool in Brooklyn from 1997 through 2003, where she also worked as the director of the Cherub Choir (for 5 and 6 year olds) from 1998 to 2003. In 1999, she served as a special music consultant for the faculty of the Helen Keller School for the Blind, in Brooklyn. She was the music teacher at La Escuelita bilingual preschool during the 2004-2005 school year, on Manhattan's Upper West Side, and also offered an afterschool music class there. She is a singer and composer of contemporary Hispanic art songs. Some recent appearances include Carlito's Cafe, Rose Lounge, Sugar Bar, Satalla and the Knitting Factory in New York, and Jazz at Pearl's, in San Francisco. She is working on completing her first full-length solo CD. More information can be found on [www.gracielacarriqui.com](http://www.gracielacarriqui.com).

**About International School of Brooklyn (ISB)**

ISB is New York's only French/Spanish language-immersion school following the International Baccalaureate curriculum. The school provides an independent, non-sectarian education where students are taught in a caring, loving and challenging environment in order to become bilingual at an early age. ISB piloted Language-Immersion Playgroups for toddlers in October 2004 before opening the school in September 2005 with Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten classes. Kindergarten was added in September 2006 and First Grade will be added in September 2007. ISB also offers three French/Spanish language-immersion enrichment programs – Language Immersion Playgroups for toddlers, After School Program and Summer Camp. ISB is a non-profit school and is accredited by the New York State Board of Education. More information on ISB can be found on its website: [www.isbrooklyn.org](http://www.isbrooklyn.org). More on the International Baccalaureate curriculum can be found at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).

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**Editor's Note:** Last year's inaugural honoree, was Olga Bloom, founder of Bargemusic. Ms. Bloom brings talented and renowned musicians from around the world to her floating concert hall on the East River.

**Contact:**

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