**Wave Hill**
Public Garden & Cultural Center

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Press Release

# Wave Hill Presents Angel Nevarez and Valerie Tevere: *As far as the ear can hear*

## Glyndor Gallery Features Multimedia Installations Exploring Sound, Listening, and the Interconnected Histories of Landscapes and Communities

**Bronx, NY, August 25, 2026** — Wave Hill presents *As far as the ear can hear*, an exhibition by interdisciplinary artists Angel Nevarez and Valerie Tevere, on view from August 29 through November 29, 2026, in Glyndor Gallery. Bringing together video, installation, photography, music, and performance, the exhibition explores the social dimensions of sound and listening, connecting the distinct geographies of the Bronx, Sonoran Desert, New Orleans, and Wave Hill through histories of migration, cultural transmission, environmental precarity, and political struggle.

Working collaboratively for more than two decades, Nevarez and Tevere investigate how sound carries memory, shapes collective experience, and reveals the cultural histories embedded in particular places. Their practice draws on musical traditions, archival materials, radio, and live performance to trace the movement of people and experience across time and space. In *As far as the ear can hear,* the artists consider listening as an embodied and relational practice—one that can bridge geographic distances, recover overlooked histories, and create new possibilities for relation.



Angel Nevarez & Valerie Tevere, installation view of *On Toscanini*, 2026, in *As far as the ear can hear*, 2026. Courtesy of the artists. Photo: Stefan Hagen. Courtesy of Wave Hill, Bronx, NY.

At the center of the exhibition is *On Toscanini* (2026), a new multimedia installation conceived during the artists' 2025 Winter Workspace residency at Wave Hill. During their residency, Nevarez and Tevere researched the musical legacy of acclaimed Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini (1867–1957), who fled fascism in Italy and lived at Wave Hill during World War II, from 1942 to 1945. As the first music director of the NBC Symphony Orchestra, Toscanini became widely known through his radio and television broadcasts of classical music. The installation examines his performances through nonverbal forms of communication, translating images of the conductor's hands, bodily movements, and baton gestures into a visual and aural environment. An operatic soundscape of Ferde Grofés *Grand Canyon Suite* (1929-1931), transmitted through an orchestra of FM radios, transforms the gallery into a space where gesture, sound, place, and the histories of broadcast media converge.

Earlier works in the exhibition extend the artists' investigations of voice, echo, and spatial resonance. In *Parley* (2015), Nevarez and Tevere draw on the musical structure of call and response to construct a bilingual dialogue assembled from sampled and fragmented hip-hop lyrics written between 1980 and 1988. Performed by pioneering Bronx-based b-girl Rokafella (Ana Garcia) and MC Lady L (Lynn Saunders), the work reactivates the lyrical histories of early hip-hop to consider questions of truth, justice, and hope. Originally commissioned for the exhibition *When You Cut into the Present the Future Leaks Out* at the Old Bronx Borough Courthouse, Parley situates music as both a cultural record and a form of civic expression.



Angel Nevarez & Valerie Tevere, installation view of *Sonora*, 2017, in *As far as the ear can hear*, 2026. Courtesy of the artists and Davila-Villa & Stothart. Photo: Stefan Hagen. Courtesy of Wave Hill, Bronx, NY.

In *Sonora* (2017), the artists collaborate with countertenor Juecheng Chen to reinterpret Harry Torrani's *Mocking Bird Yodel*, a 1937 American folk song that reimagines the yodel through heightened vocal techniques of opera. The resulting audiovisual work considers long-distance communication across the contested border terrain of the Sonoran Desert, using the voice to explore the relationship between sound, landscape, and geopolitical boundaries.

The exhibition also features *The Slow Drop (*2020–2023), a multidisciplinary project developed with residents of New Orleans' Musicians' Village in response to changing landscapes and the effects of climate change. In October 2022, participating musicians performed a neighborhood score in unison from their porches and yards, weaving together melodic phrases, percussive accents, and sounds reflecting the layered ecology of New Orleans. Beginning and culminating with a reinterpretation of a Yorùbá folk song honoring the sacred Iroko tree, the performance connected ancestral memory and spiritual traditions with the experience of a community facing environmental change. At Wave Hill, the artists reconfigure this project as a multichannel moving-image and spatial-sound installation, reflecting music's capacity to foster collective imagination, resilience, and social repair.

Across these works, *As far as the ear can hear* shifts attention from the visual to the sonic, proposing listening as another way of understanding the world. Just as vision is shaped by position and perspective, listening connects people and places through vibration, echo, and transmission. From the histories of New York hip-hop to the Sonoran Desert, post-Katrina New Orleans, and Toscanini's radio broadcasts, Nevarez and Tevere reveal how sound carries cultural memory and creates relationships across fragmented histories.

The exhibition is organized by Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger, Curator of Visual Arts at Wave Hill.



Angel Nevarez & Valerie Tevere, installation view of *The Slow Drop*, 2026, featuring *The Slow Drop* (portraits), 2022 (background) in *As far as the ear can hear,* 2026. Top row from left to right: Thomas McDonald, Gabriel Velasco, Tom Chute, Sula Janet Evans. Middle row from left to right: Margie Perez, Sam Albright, Troy Sawyer, Denise Bonis. Bottom row from left to right: Chip Wilson, Helen Gillet, Edward Lee Jr., Danny Abel. Courtesy of the artists and Davila-Villa & Stothart. Photo: Stefan Hagen. Courtesy of Wave Hill, Bronx, NY.

**Pubilc Programs**

**Concert: On Toscanini**
Sunday, September 13, 2PM, Armor Hall

Soprano Katherine Whyte and pianist Djordje Nesic perform an operatic program celebrating renowned Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini, a former Wave Hill resident whose legacy informs Angel Nevarez and Valerie Tevere's sound installation *On Toscanini* (2026). The artists will also discuss their research, creative process, and artistic practice. Listen to the archived performance.

**Meet the Artists: Angel Nevarez & Valerie Tevere**
Saturday, October 3, 2PM, Glyndor Gallery

Join exhibiting artists Angel Nevarez and Valerie Tevere for an exhibition walkthrough and conversation with Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger, Wave Hill's Curator of Visual Arts. Discussing works that activate sound across the landscapes of the Bronx, the Sonoran Desert, and New Orleans, the artists will explore how listening can open new ways of understanding the cultural histories, musical traditions, and stories that make each place distinct.

**Concert with Mind-Builders Stage Band and Angel Nevarez & Valerie Tevere**
Sunday, November 15, 2PM, Armor Hall

A collaborative performance by Angel Nevarez and Valerie Tevere with the Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center Stage Band will bring together the exhibiting artists and an intergenerational group of musicians from a community arts school in the Northeast Bronx to blend and reinterpret musical genres through collective experimentation and performance.

The exhibition is free with admission to the grounds, and admission is free to all visitors on Thursdays. For additional information and program details, visit wavehill.org.

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**About Wave Hill**
A 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, Wave Hill's mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views, and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the arts.

LOCATION: 4900 Independence Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471
HOURS: Open all year, Tuesday–Sunday, 10AM–5:30PM. Glyndor Gallery, 10AM–4:30PM. Winter hours: 10AM–4:30PM.
ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS: $10 adults, $6 students and seniors 65+, $4 children 6-18. Free Thursdays.
Free to Wave Hill Members and children under 6.
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