

SOUNDING THE NATION AT 250

A project of the Society for American Music

From San Juan to the Panama Canal

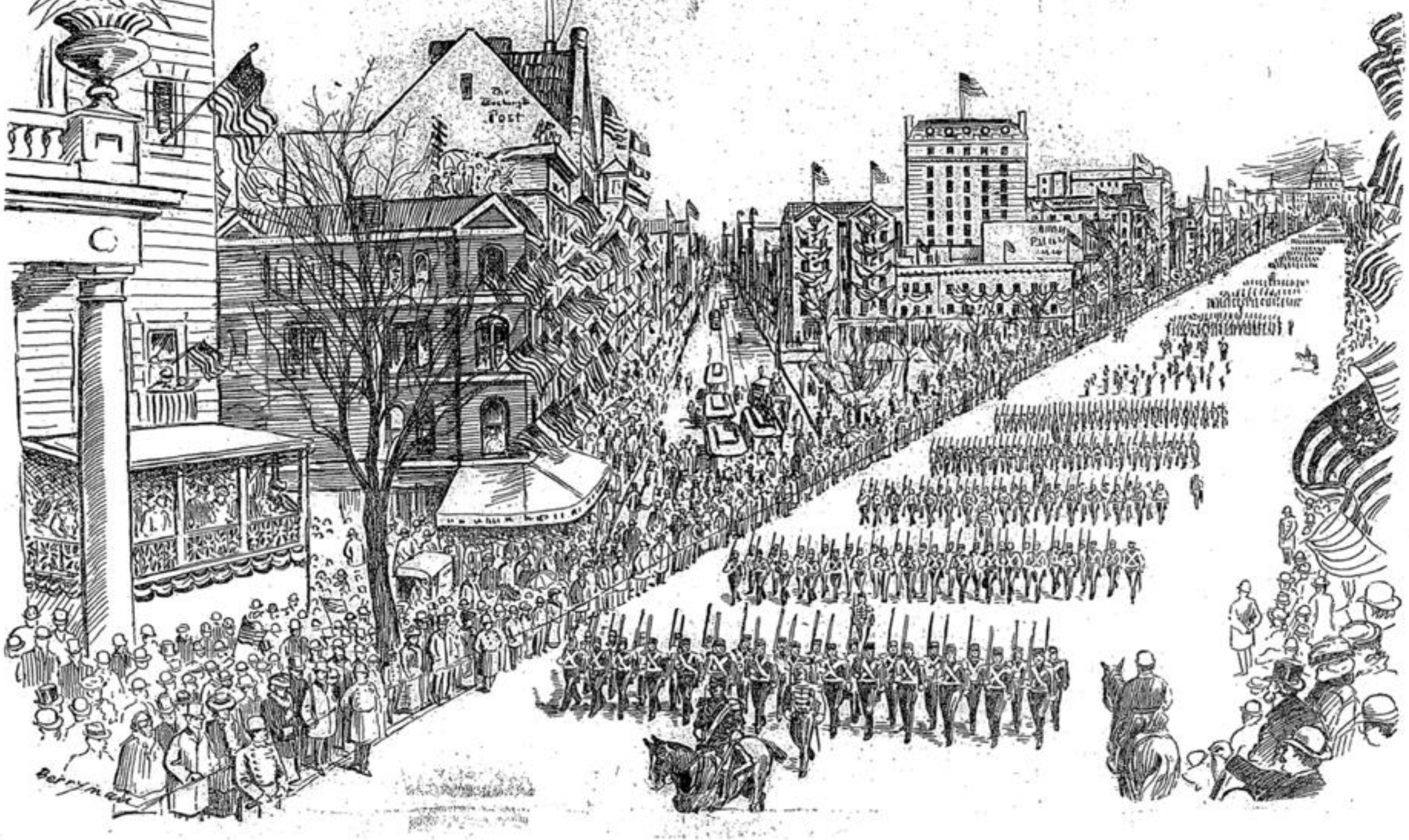
Music, Service, and Identity in the Life of Luis R. Miranda

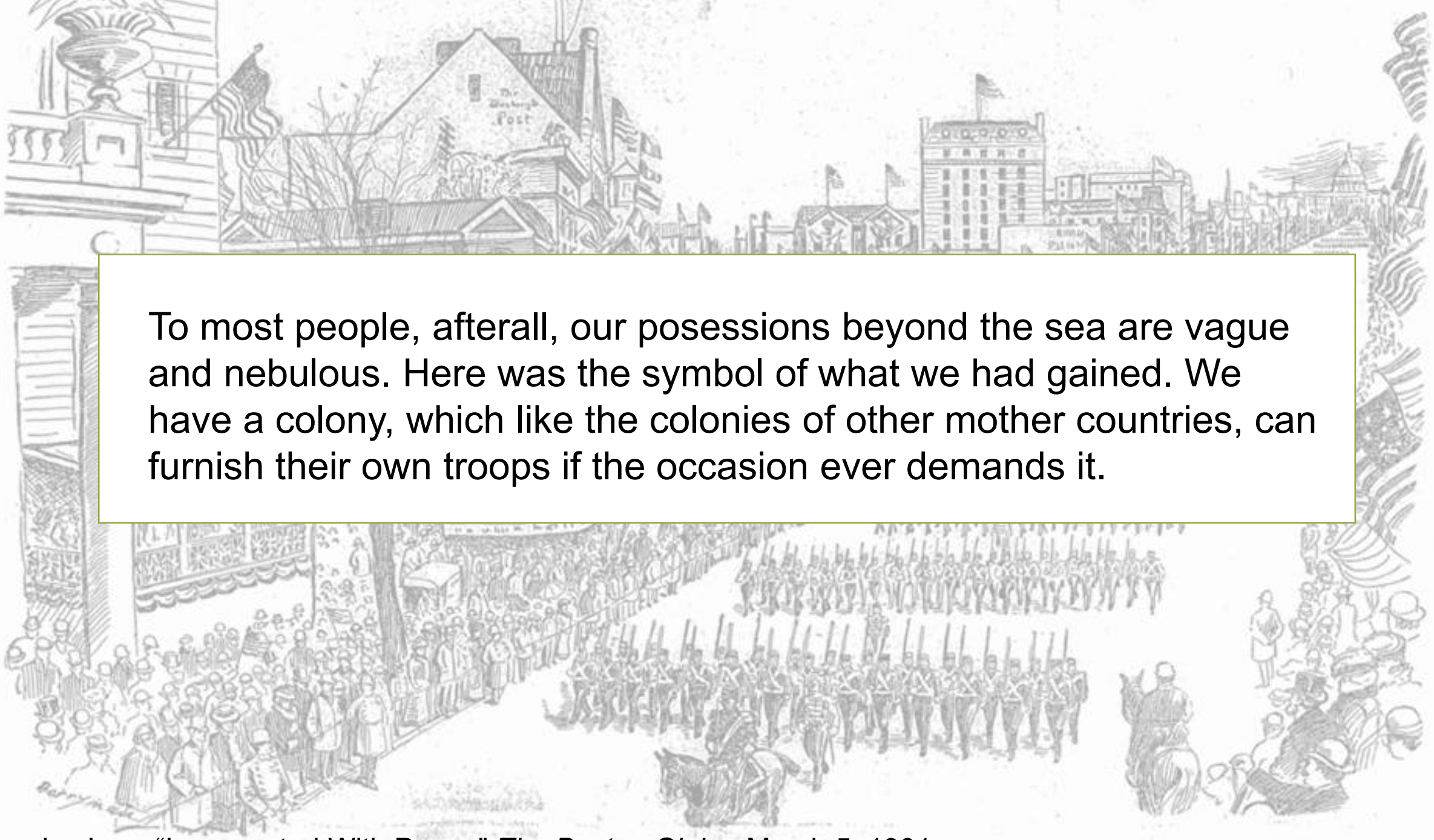
Julian Duncan

Florida State University

September 5, 2026

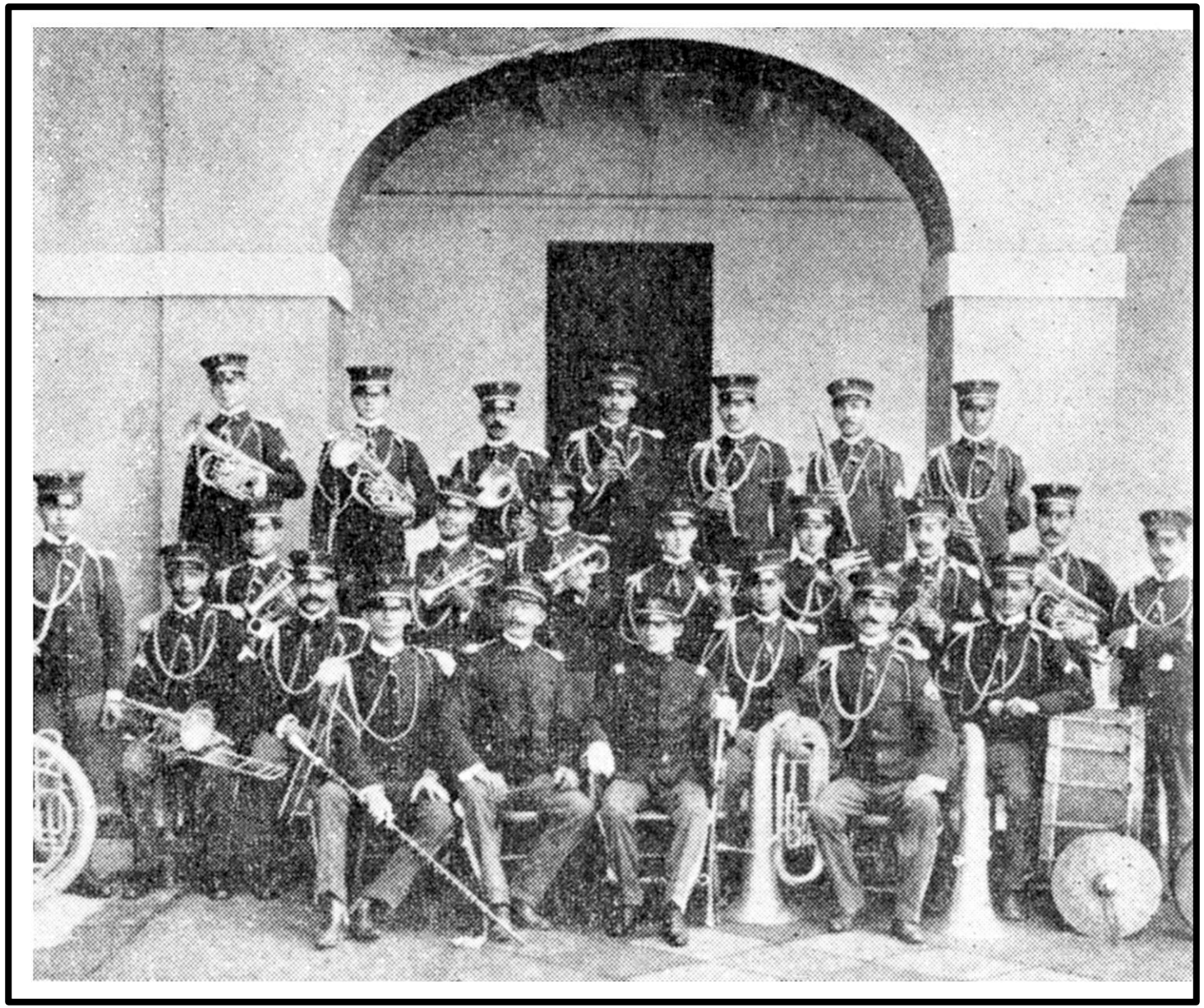
Longmire Recital Hall | Tallahassee, Florida


The Evening Post

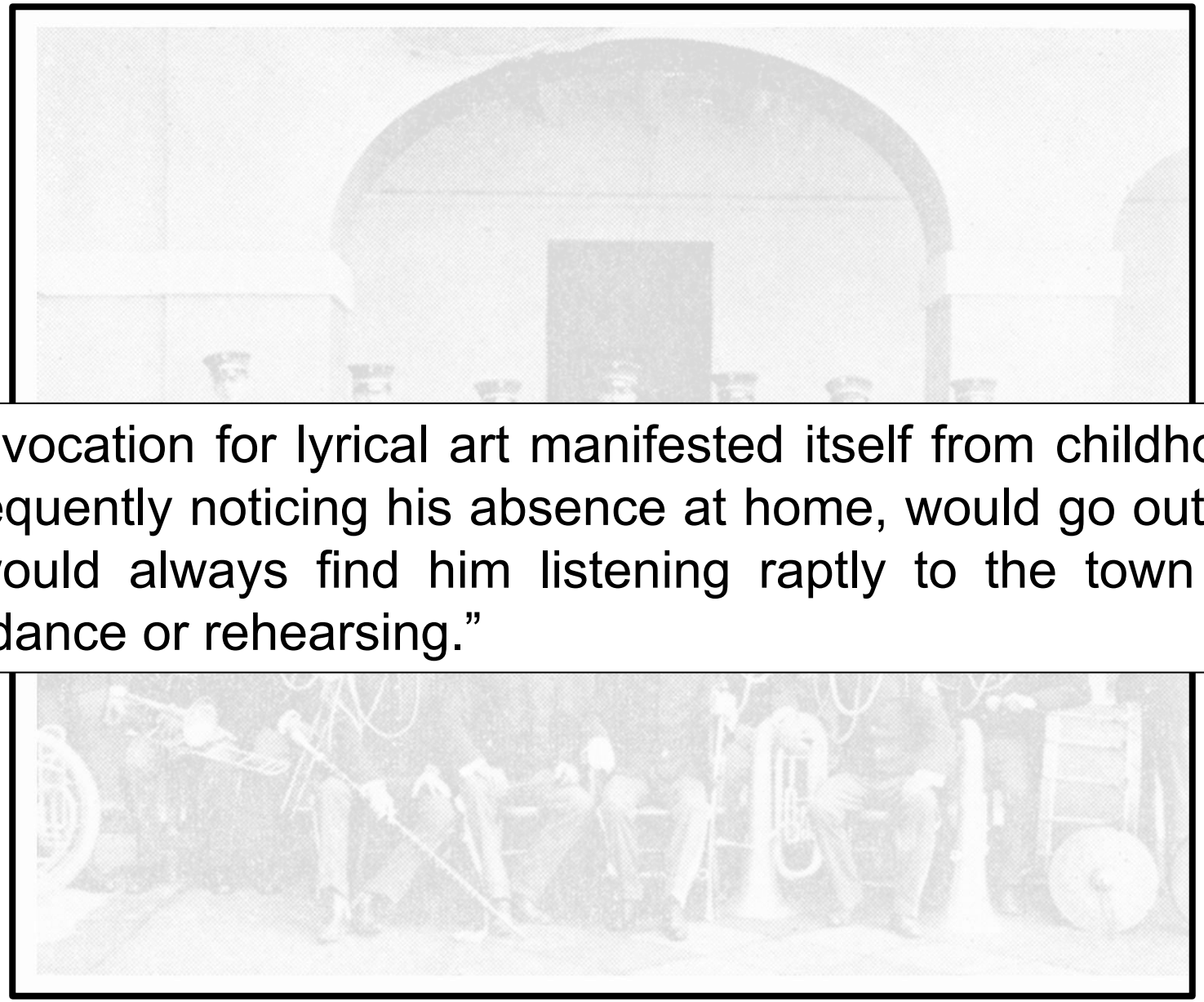


To most people, afterall, our posessions beyond the sea are vague and nebulous. Here was the symbol of what we had gained. We have a colony, which like the colonies of other mother countries, can furnish their own troops if the occasion ever demands it.

A. Maurice Low, “Inaugurated With Pomp,” *The Boston Globe*, March 5, 1901.



Josilda Acosta Figueras, “Grabaciones de Principios Del Siglo XX,” División de Música, Programa de Artes Escénicas, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, 2021, https://www.archivoicp.com/grabaciones-principios-siglo-xx.



“Miranda’s vocation for lyrical art manifested itself from childhood, as his parents, frequently noticing his absence at home, would go out to look for him and would always find him listening raptly to the town orchestra, either at a dance or rehearsing.”

Luis Rodríguez Miranda

(1875 - 1949)

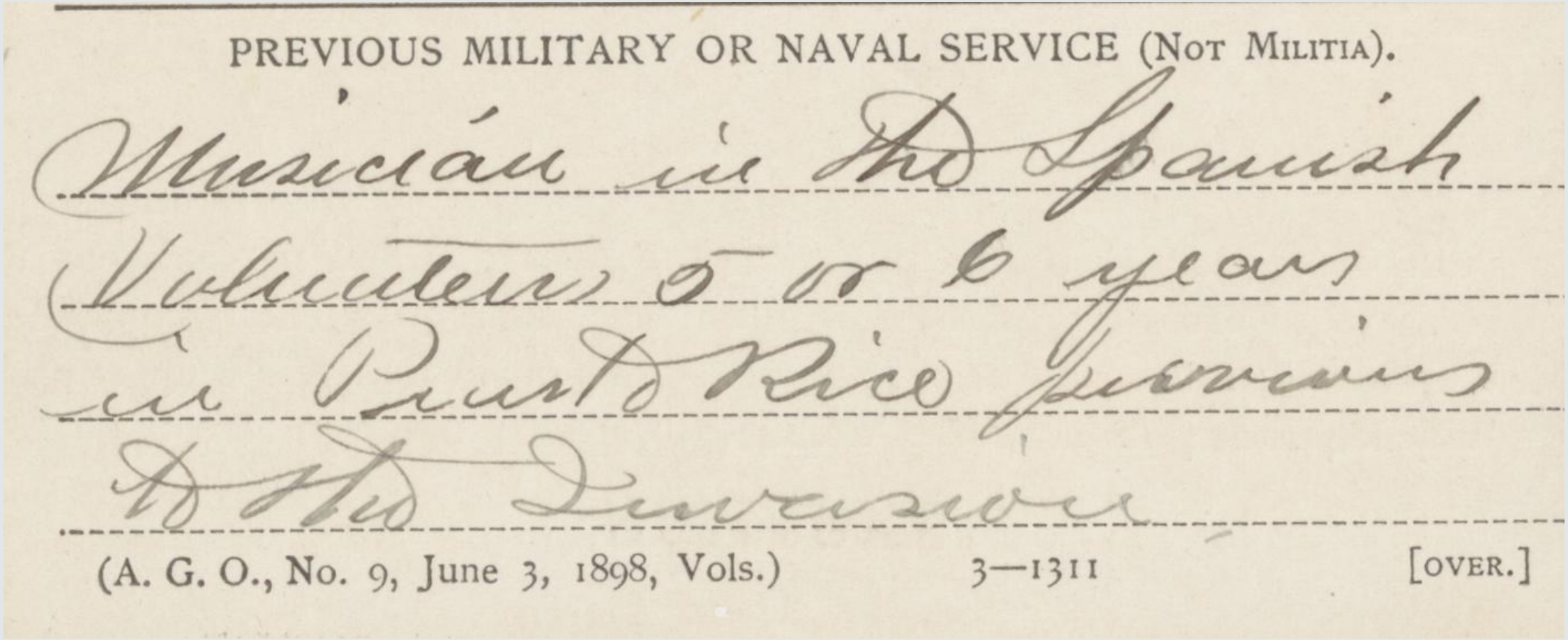
APUNTES PARA UNA BIOGRAFIA

por el Dr. Pedro H. Hernández Paralitici



COLECCION
GONZALO JUSINO

EDITORIAL UBEC
UTUADO, PUERTO RICO



PREVIOUS MILITARY OR NAVAL SERVICE (NOT MILITIA).

Musician in the Spanish

Volunteers 6 yrs

in Puerto Rico Campaign

in the Campaign

(A. G. O., No. 9, June 3, 1898, Vols.) 3—1311 [OVER.]

Luis R. Miranda, enlistment record, 1900, National Archives Catalog, NAID 486909318, image 85.



Plaza de Armas

“De Armas street, Old San Juan.” CA. 1901

Fundación Luis Muñoz Marín PRAHA Digital Archive



Retreta

Programa de las piezas que ejecutará la Banda del Regimiento de Puerto Rico, en la retreta de mañana.

1.—"The Rifle Regimiento", Marcha by Sausa.
2.—"Trovatore Selection", by Sousa
3.—"Orpheuz Overture", by Offeu bach.
4.—"Españita Valses", por Rosey
5.—"The Birrey kazoo", Two Stp Haines.
6.—"Al Despertar Danza", Miranda
7.—"The Star Spaugler Banner.

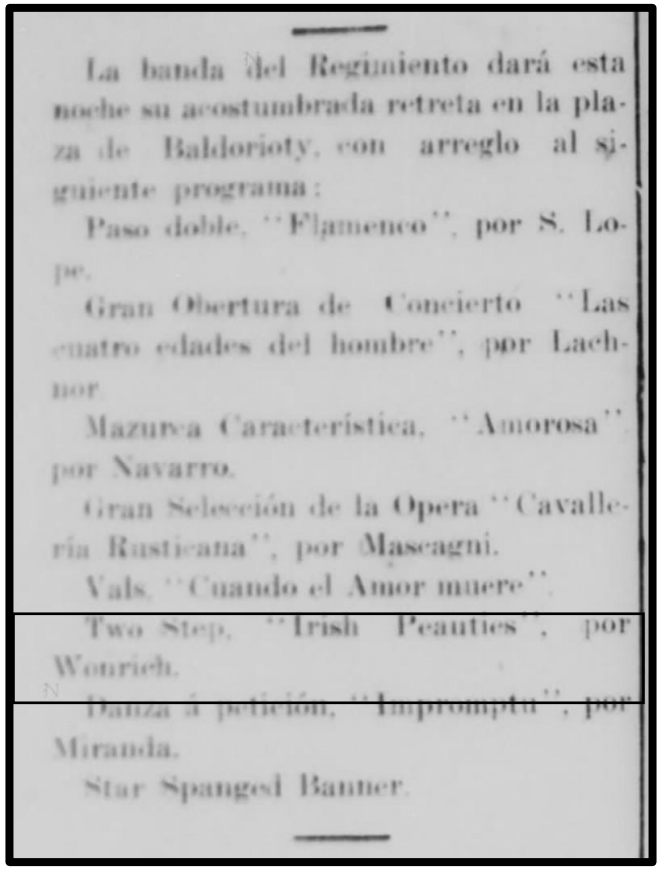


La retreta de esta noche

Esta noche, la banda del Regimiento de Puerto Rico, dará la retreta de costumbre en la Plaza Principal, con el programa siguiente:

1. Paso doble, "El Conde de Luxemburgo." Lehar.
2. Overtura, "Las cuatro edades del hombre." Lachner.
3. Vals, "Sol de Italia." Tobani.
4. Selección de la ópera "The Geisha." Jones.
5. Danza, "La Simpática." Miranda.
6. Two Step, "Grizzly Bear." Botzford.

Star Spangled Banner.



La banda del Regimiento dará esta noche su acostumbrada retreta en la plaza de Baldorioty, con arreglo al siguiente programa:

Paso doble, "Flamenco", por S. Lope.

Gran Obertura de Concierto "Las cuatro edades del hombre", por Lachner.

Mazurca Caracteristica, "Amorosa", por Navarro.

Gran Selección de la Opera "Cavalleria Rusticana", por Mascagni.

Vals, "Cuando el Amor muere".

Two Step, "Irish Beauties", por Wenrich.

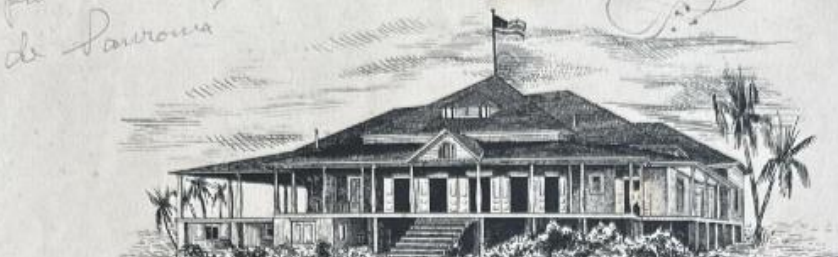
Danza á petición, "Impromptu", por Miranda.

Star Spangel Banner.

Retreta programs containing two-steps performed by the Banda del Regimiento in 1904 (left), 1911 (center), 1914 (right)

para ICP — de Sauroma

Miranda



The UNION CLUB

TWO STEP.

dedicated to the "UNION CLUB" of San Juan by

Luis R. Miranda

Chief Musician of the P. R. Prov. Regt. Band.

LIT. BOLETIN MERCANTIL
A. LYNN E HIJOS DE PEREZ MORIS.
SAN JUAN, PTO. RICO.

THE UNION CLUB

TWO STEP.

by L.R. MIRANDA.

PIANO





El profesor Miranda

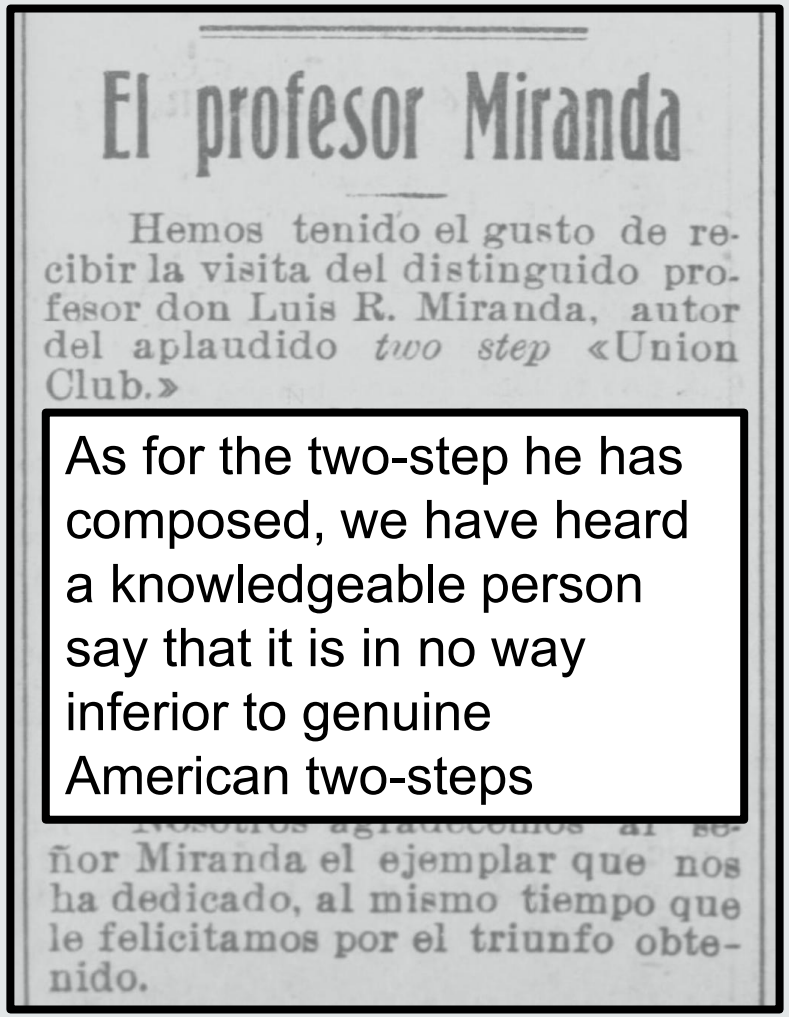
Hemos tenido el gusto de recibir la visita del distinguido profesor don Luis R. Miranda, autor del aplaudido *two step* «Union Club.»

El señor Miranda es uno de los profesores de música más competentes del país. Actualmente es director de la Banda del Regimiento provisional de Puerto Rico.

En cuanto al *two step* que ha compuesto, hemos oido decir á persona competente que no desmerece en nada de los genuinos *two steps* americanos.

Nosotros agradecemos al señor Miranda el ejemplar que nos ha dedicado, al mismo tiempo que le felicitamos por el triunfo obtenido.

La Democracia, March 21, 1904



El profesor Miranda

Hemos tenido el gusto de recibir la visita del distinguido profesor don Luis R. Miranda, autor del aplaudido *two step* «Union Club.»

As for the two-step he has composed, we have heard a knowledgeable person say that it is in no way inferior to genuine American two-steps

ñor Miranda el ejemplar que nos ha dedicado, al mismo tiempo que le felicitamos por el triunfo obtenido.

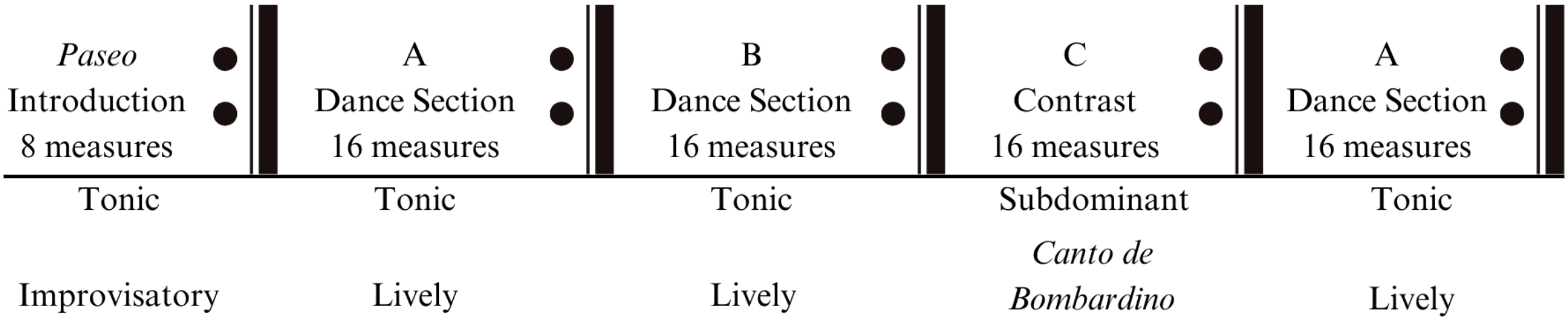
La Democracia, March 21, 1904



Juan Morel Campos (16 May 1857 – 12 May 1896)

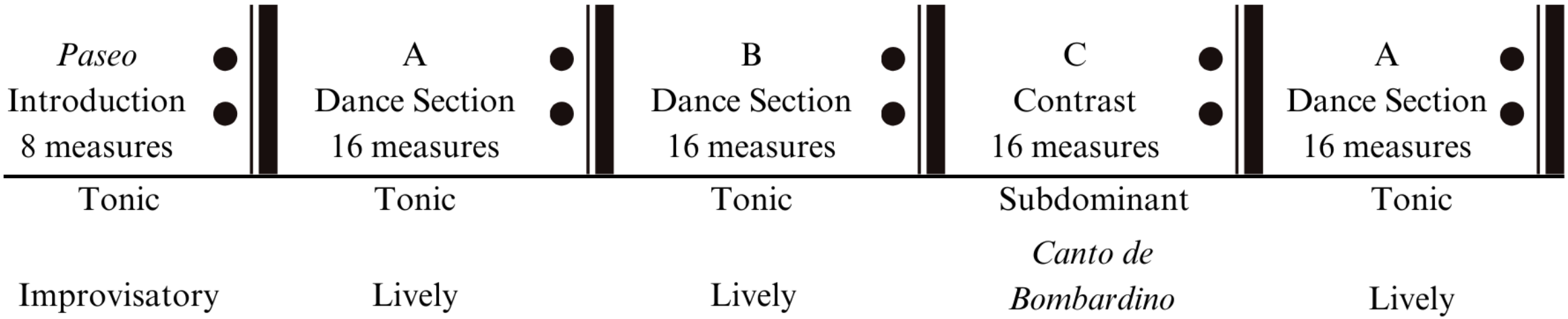


Manuel Gregorio Tavárez Ropero
(November 16, 1843 – July 1, 1883)

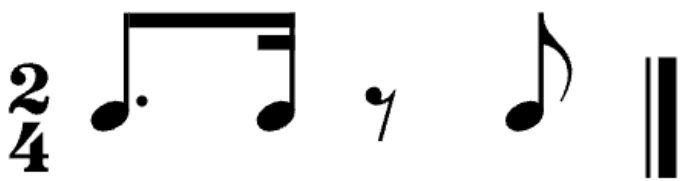

Paseo
Introduction
8 measures
A
Dance Section
16 measures
B
Dance Section
16 measures
C
Contrast
16 measures
A
Dance Section
16 measures
Tonic
Tonic
Tonic
Subdominant
Tonic
Improvisatory
Lively
Lively
Canto de Bombardino
Lively



Miranda, Luis Rodríguez. “Impromptu”. Gonzalez Padin Hermanos San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1930.

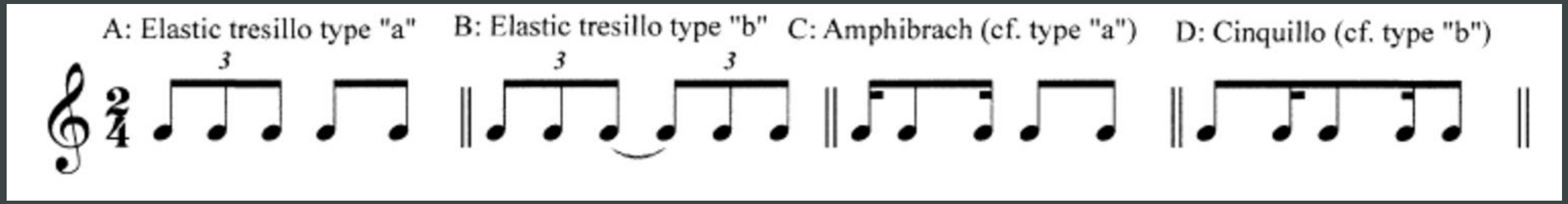

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Tonic
Improvisatory
Lively
Lively
Canto de Bombardino
Lively

TRESILLO



CINQUILLO





Peter Manuel, *Creolizing Contradance in the Caribbean* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2009), 123.

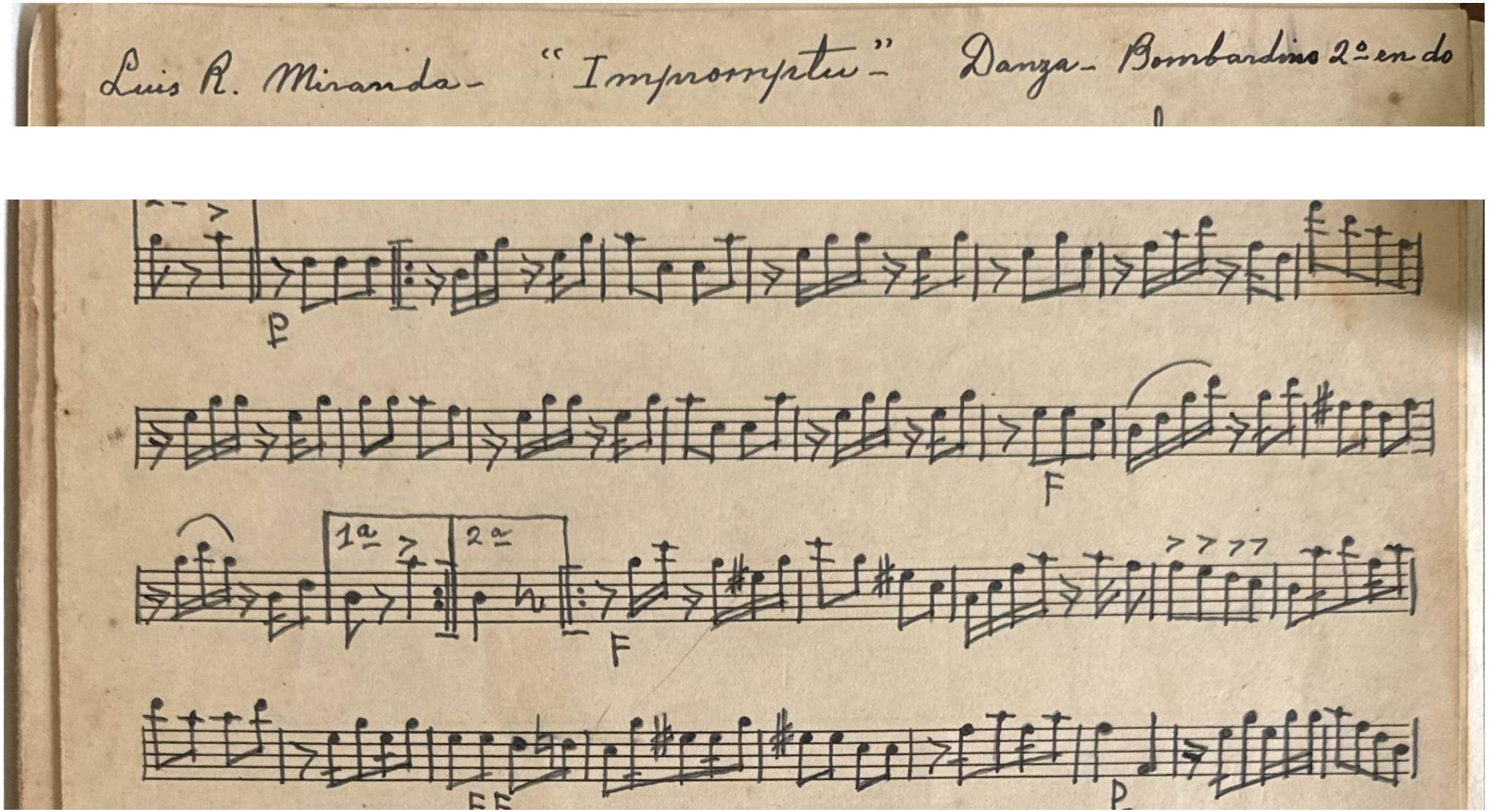


Miranda Luis, “Impromptu,” Handwritten, San Juan, Puerto Rico, n.d., Archivo de Música y Sonido, Archivo General de Puerto Rico.

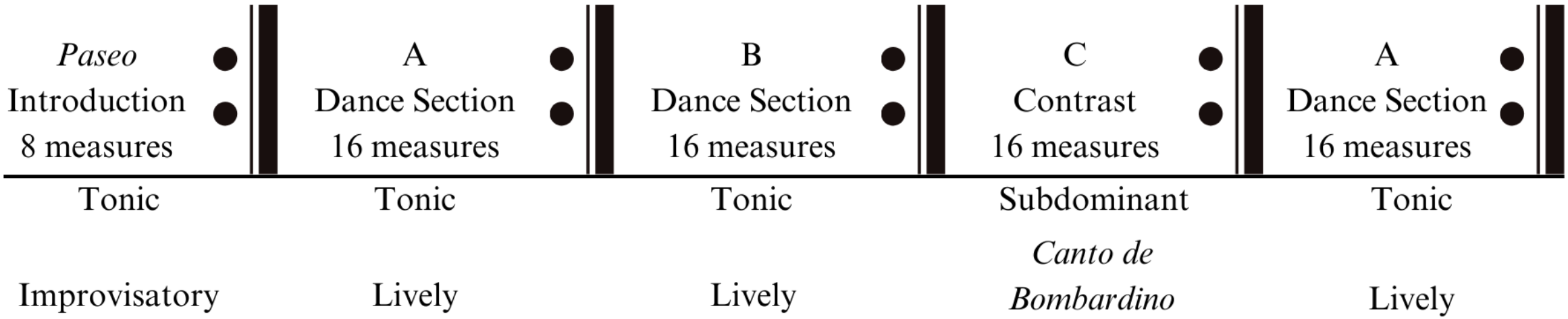


Obbligato line on the lower staff demonstrates "elastic" tresillo

Miranda, Luis Rodríguez. "Impromptu". Gonzalez Padin Hermanos San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1930.



Miranda Luis, “Impromptu,” Handwritten, San Juan, Puerto Rico, n.d., Archivo de Música y Sonido, Archivo General de Puerto Rico.


Paseo
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16 measures
Tonic
Tonic
Tonic
Subdominant
Tonic
Improvisatory
Lively
Lively
Canto de Bombardino
Lively



Miranda Luis, “Impromptu,” Handwritten, San Juan, Puerto Rico, n.d., Archivo de Música y Sonido, Archivo General de Puerto Rico.

Program for a 1920 retreta featuring "Impromptu" and a Pasillo



LA RETRETA DE MAÑANA

La banda del Regimiento de Puerto Rico interpretará mañana en la noche, en la Plaza de Baldorioty, el siguiente programa:

1.— Paso doble, *Colonel Jarvis*, Miranda.

2—Overture, *Paragraph III*, Suppé.

3.—Fox Trot, *Peggy*, Neil Moret.

4.—Grand Selection, *The Hall of Fame*, Safranek.

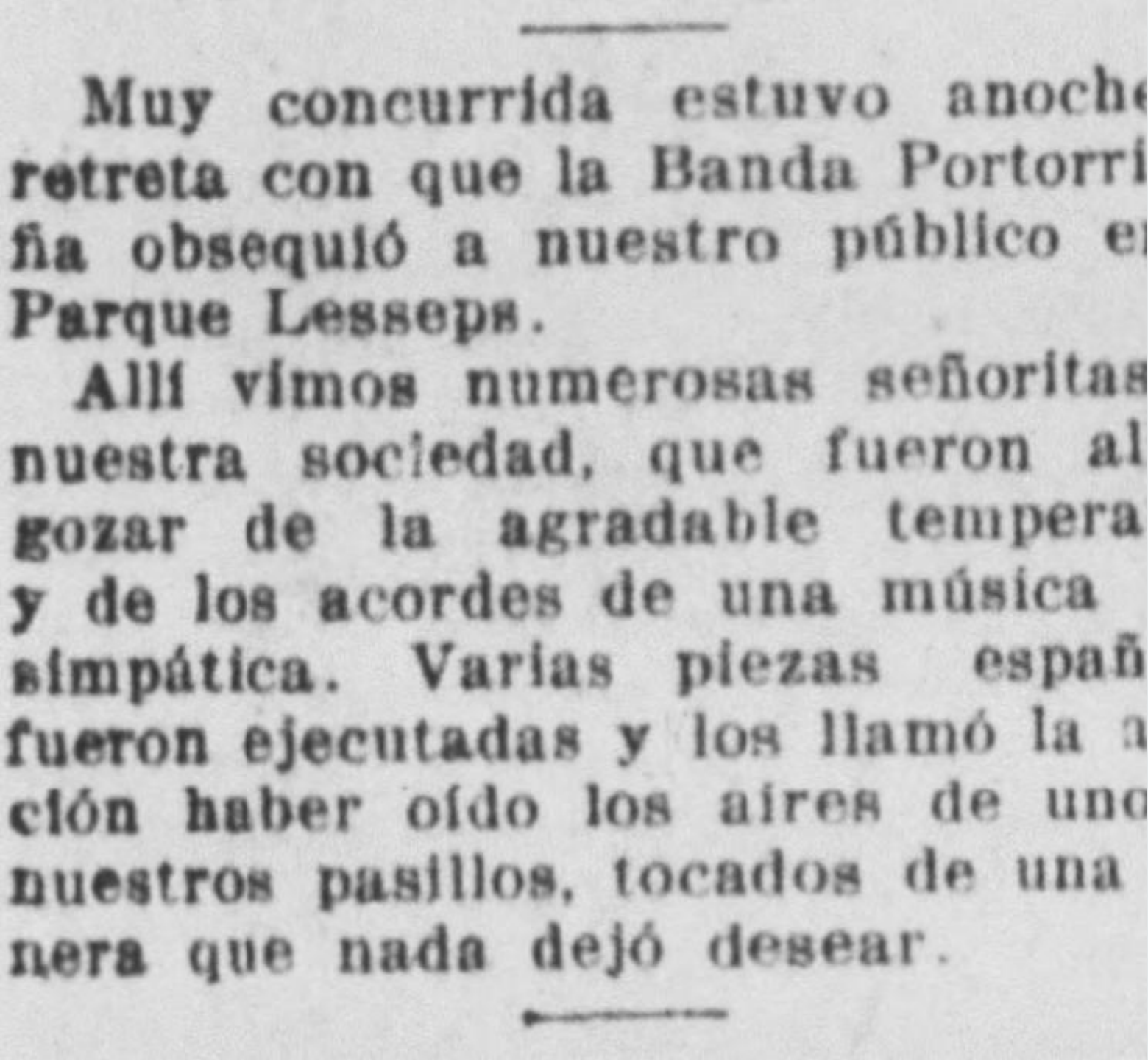
5.—Pasillo, *Elizabeth*, Galimany.

6.—Danza, *Impromptu*, Miranda.

The Star Spangled Banner.

"La Retreta de Mañana," *El Imparcial*, September 2, 1920,

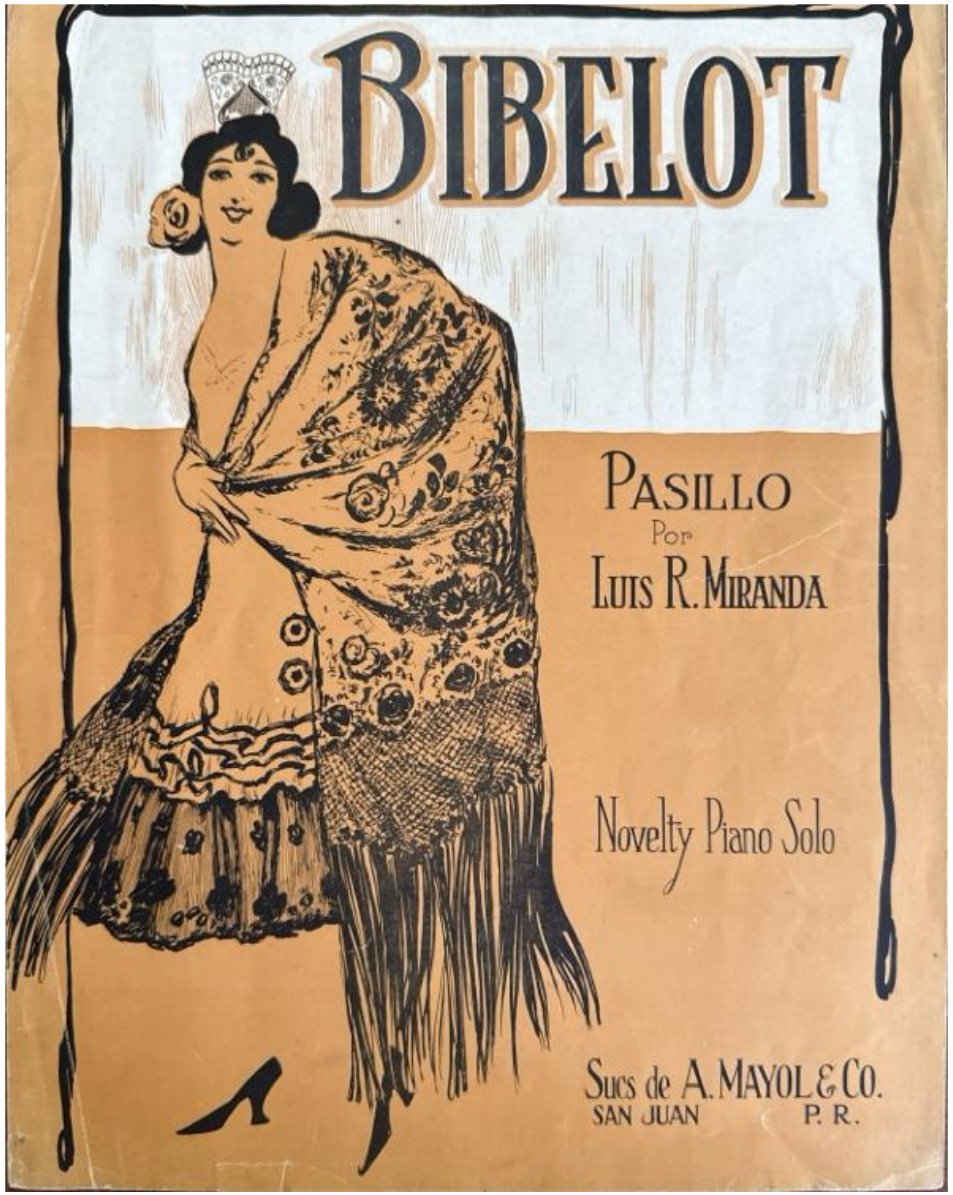
"Various Spanish pieces were executed and they called our attention to having heard the airs of **one of our pasillos, played in a manner that left nothing to be desired.**"



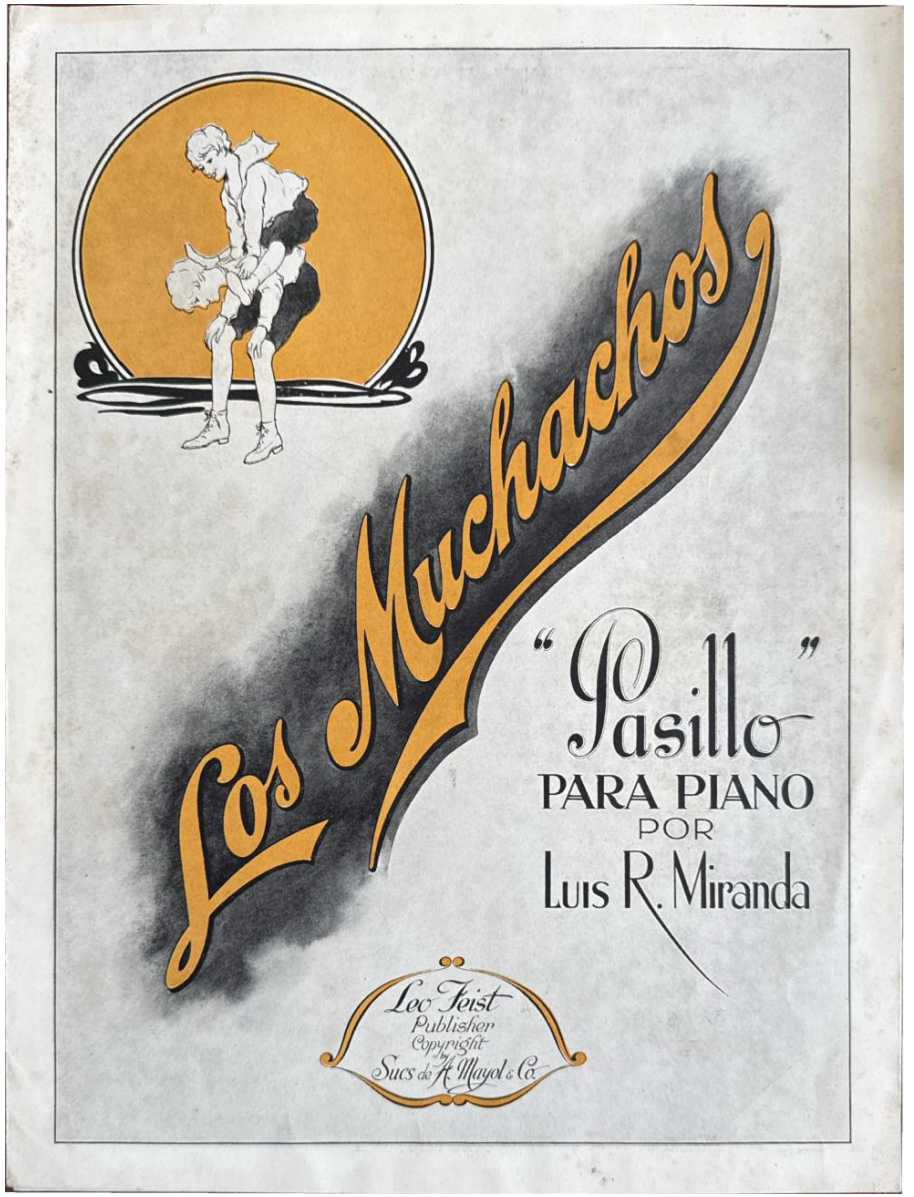
Muy concurrida estuvo anoche
retreta con que la Banda Portorri
fia obsequió a nuestro público e
Parque Lesseps.

Allí vimos numerosas señoritas
nuestra sociedad, que fueron al
gozar de la agradable tempera
y de los acordes de una música
simpática. Varias piezas espa
fueron ejecutadas y los llamó la a
ción haber oído los aires de uno
nuestros pasillos, tocados de una
nera que nada dejó desear.

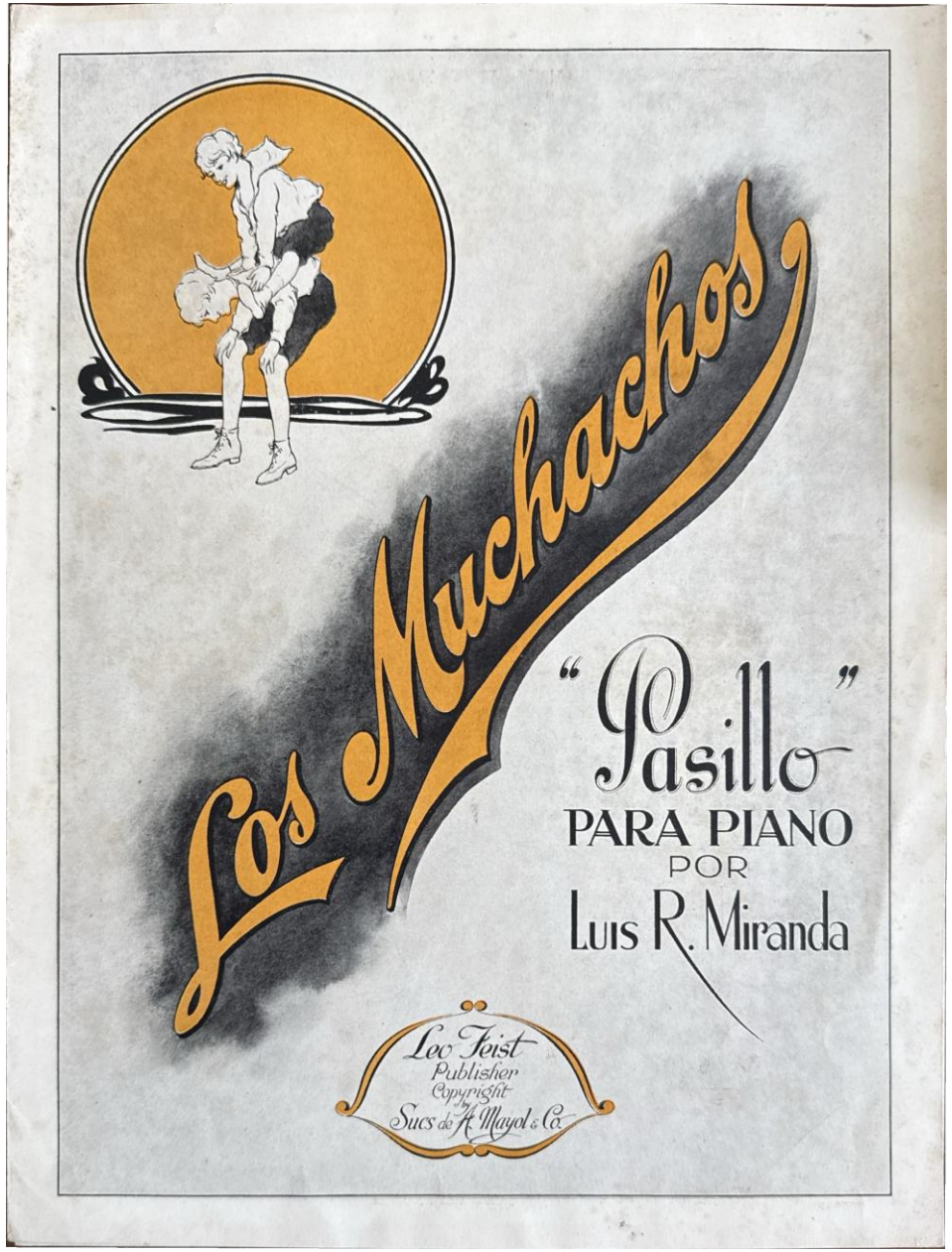
"Mundo social," *Diario de panamá* (panama city, panama), september 6, 1917,



Luis Rodríguez Miranda, “Bibelot,” Printed Score, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1933, Archivo de Música y Sonido, Archivo General de Puerto Rico.



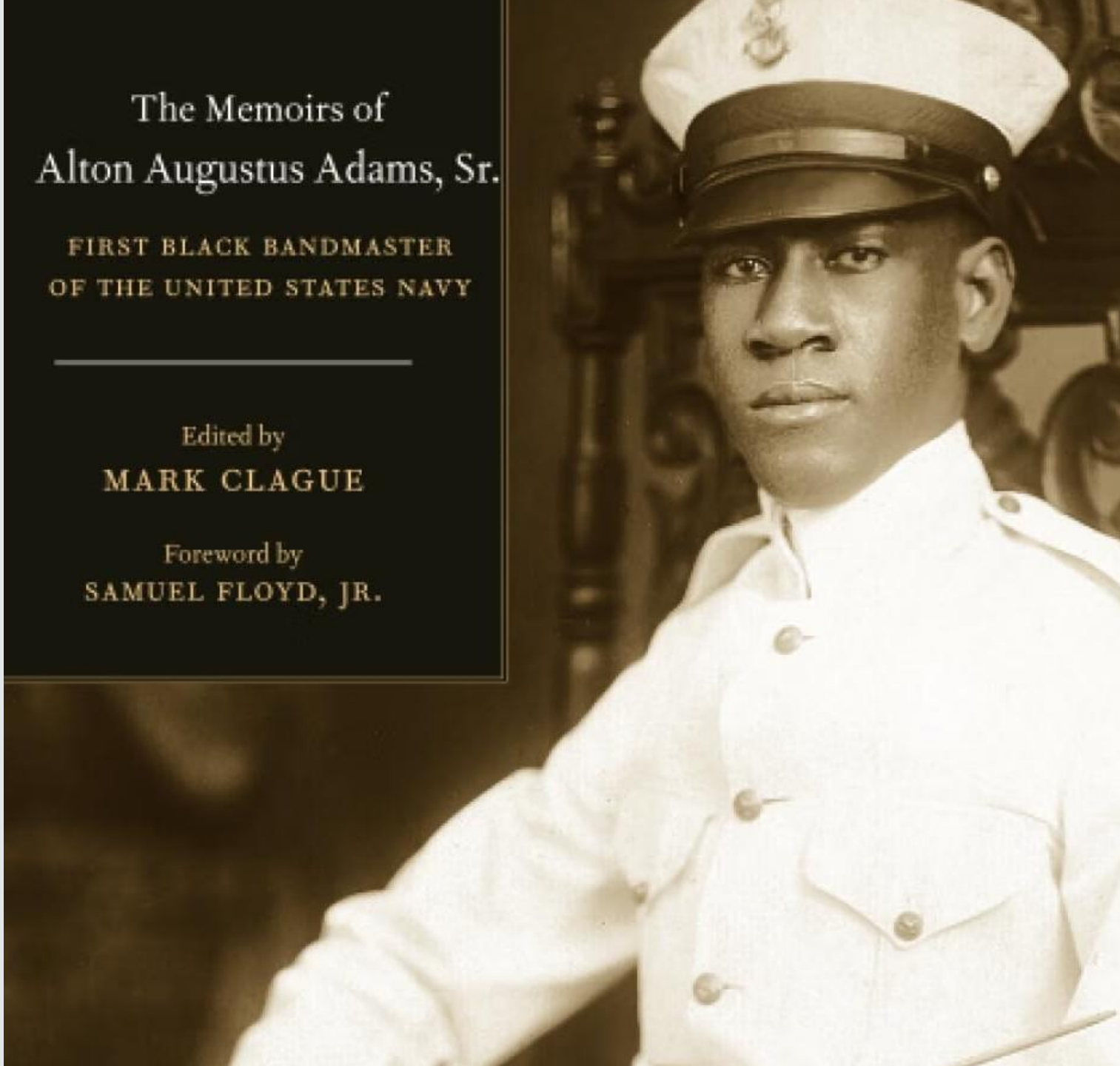
“Los Muchachos,” Printed Score, San Juan, P.R, 1932, Archivo de Música y Sonido, Archivo General de Puerto Rico.



"Los Muchachos," Printed Score, San Juan, P.R, 1932, Archivo de Música y Sonido, Archivo General de Puerto Rico.

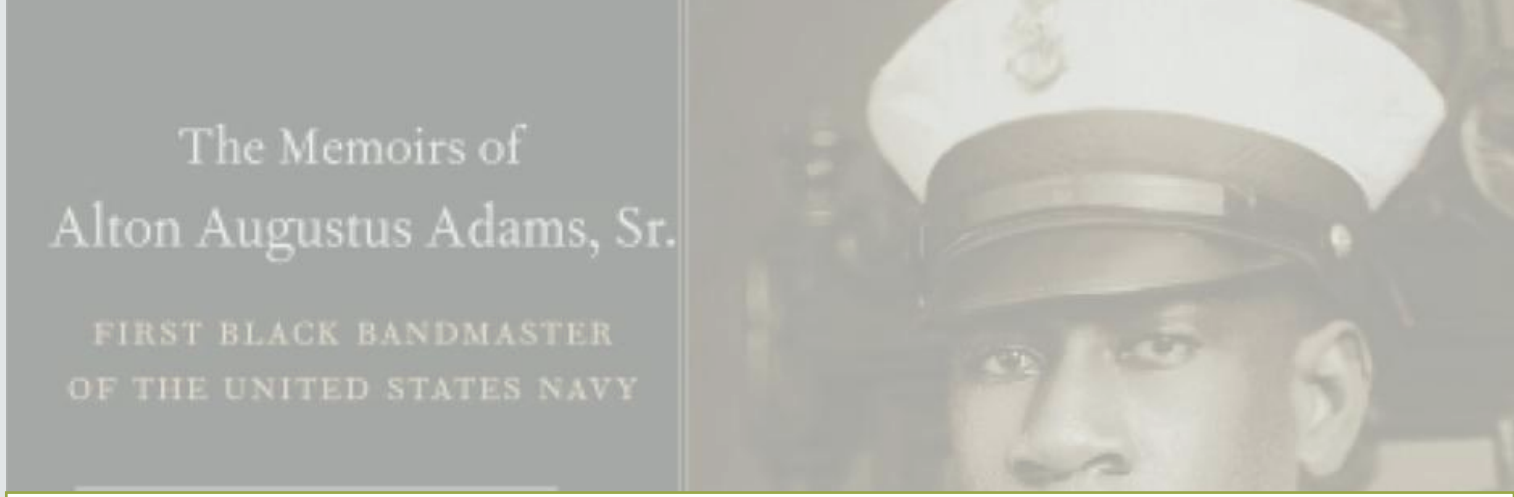
Alton Adams

U.S. Navy Bandmaster, Virgin Islands



Alton Adams

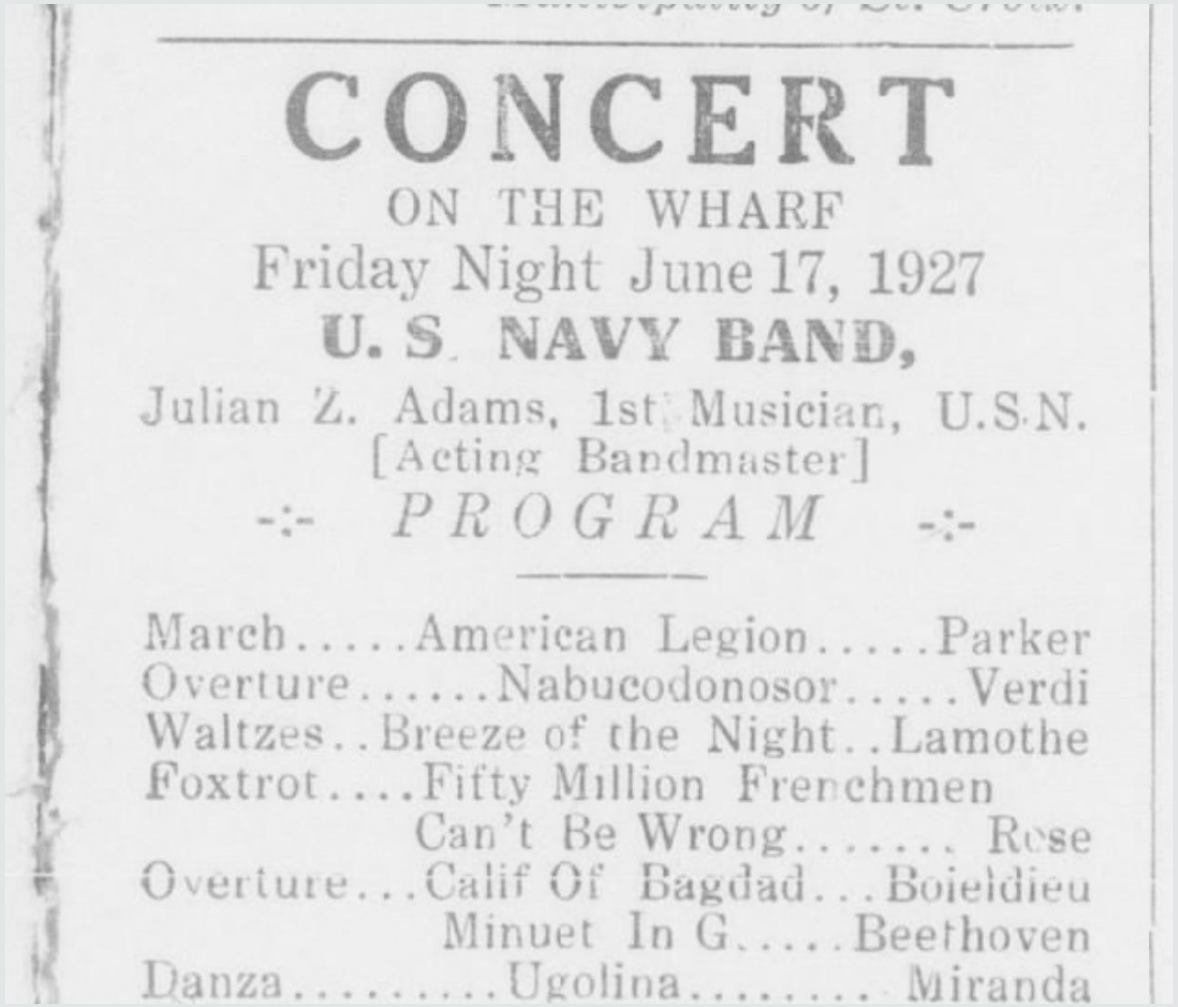
U.S. Navy Bandmaster, Virgin Islands



"I wish to tell you that the people of San Juan received a very good impression of your fine organization and particularly of you as its Master. I congratulate you for your success in San Juan, and expect that you will continue receiving constantly the reward of your great efforts in having the best Band of the U.S. Navy. With kindest regards and very best wishes for everybody of your Band."

Adams, *The Memoirs of Alton Augustus Adams, 102.*





CONCERT

ON THE WHARF

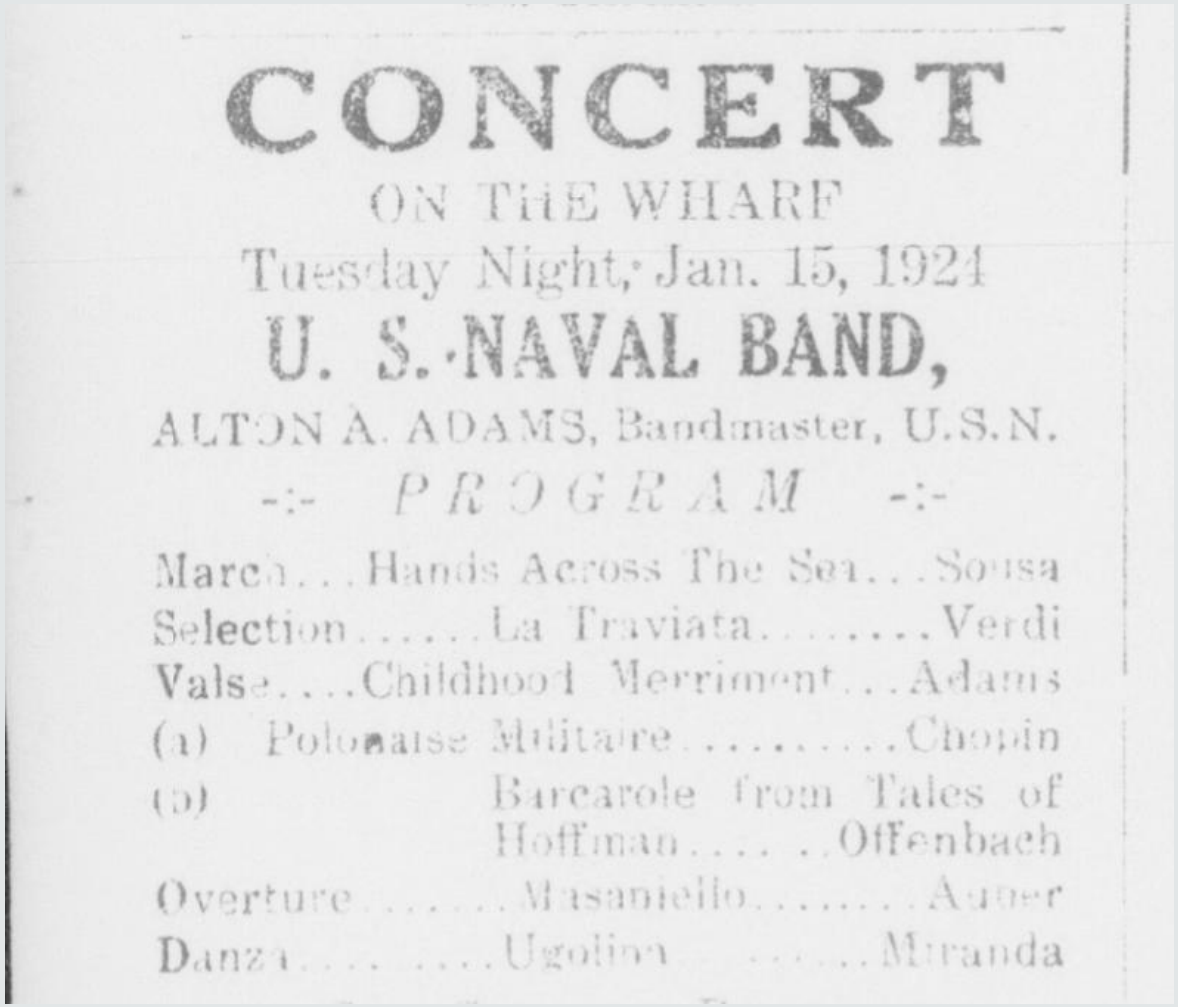
Friday Night June 17, 1927

U. S. NAVY BAND,

Julian Z. Adams, 1st Musician, U.S.N.
[Acting Bandmaster]

-:- *PROGRAM* -:-

March.....American Legion.....Parker
Overture.....Nabucodonosor.....Verdi
Waltzes..Breeze of the Night..Lamothe
Foxtrot....Fifty Million Frenchmen
Can't Be Wrong..... Rose
Overture...Calif Of Bagdad...Boieldieu
Minuet In G.....Beethoven
Danza.....Ugolina..... Miranda



CONCERT

ON THE WHARF

Tuesday Night, Jan. 15, 1924

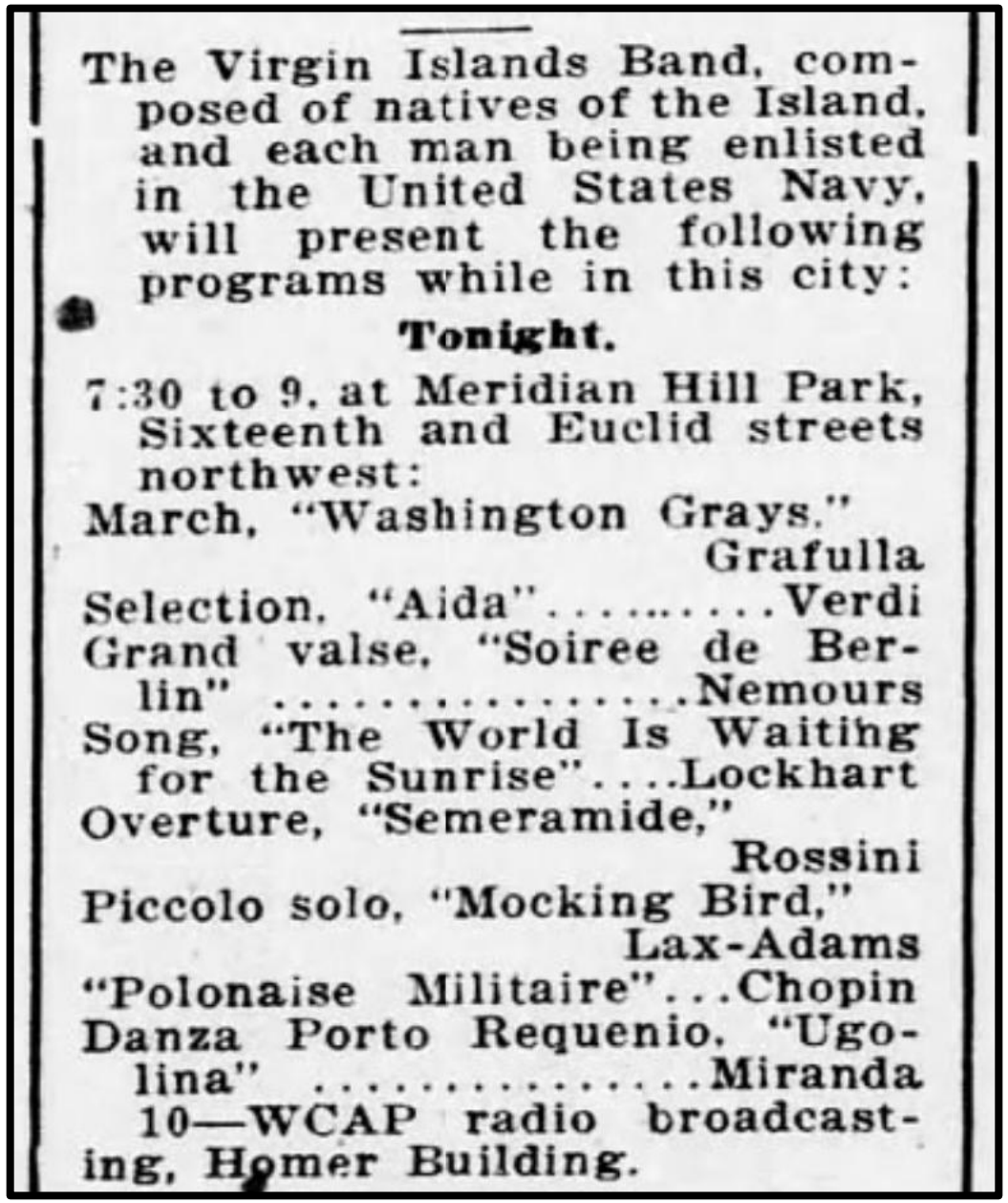
U. S. NAVAL BAND,

ALTON A. ADAMS, Bandmaster, U.S.N.

-:- *PROGRAM* -:-

March...Hands Across The Sea...Sousa
Selection.....La Traviata.....Verdi
Valse....Childhood Merriment...Adams
(a) Polonaise Militaire.....Chopin
(b) Barcarole from Tales of Hoffman.....Offenbach
Overture.....Masaniello.....Auber
Danza.....Ugolina.....Miranda

St. Croix Avis, June 17, 1927 (left) and January 15, 1921 (right)



The Virgin Islands Band, composed of natives of the Island, and each man being enlisted in the United States Navy, will present the following programs while in this city:

Tonight.

7:30 to 9, at Meridian Hill Park, Sixteenth and Euclid streets northwest:

March, "Washington Grays."
Grafulla

Selection, "Aida".....Verdi

Grand valse, "Soiree de Berlin".....Nemours

Song, "The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise"....Lockhart

Overture, "Semeramide,"
Rossini

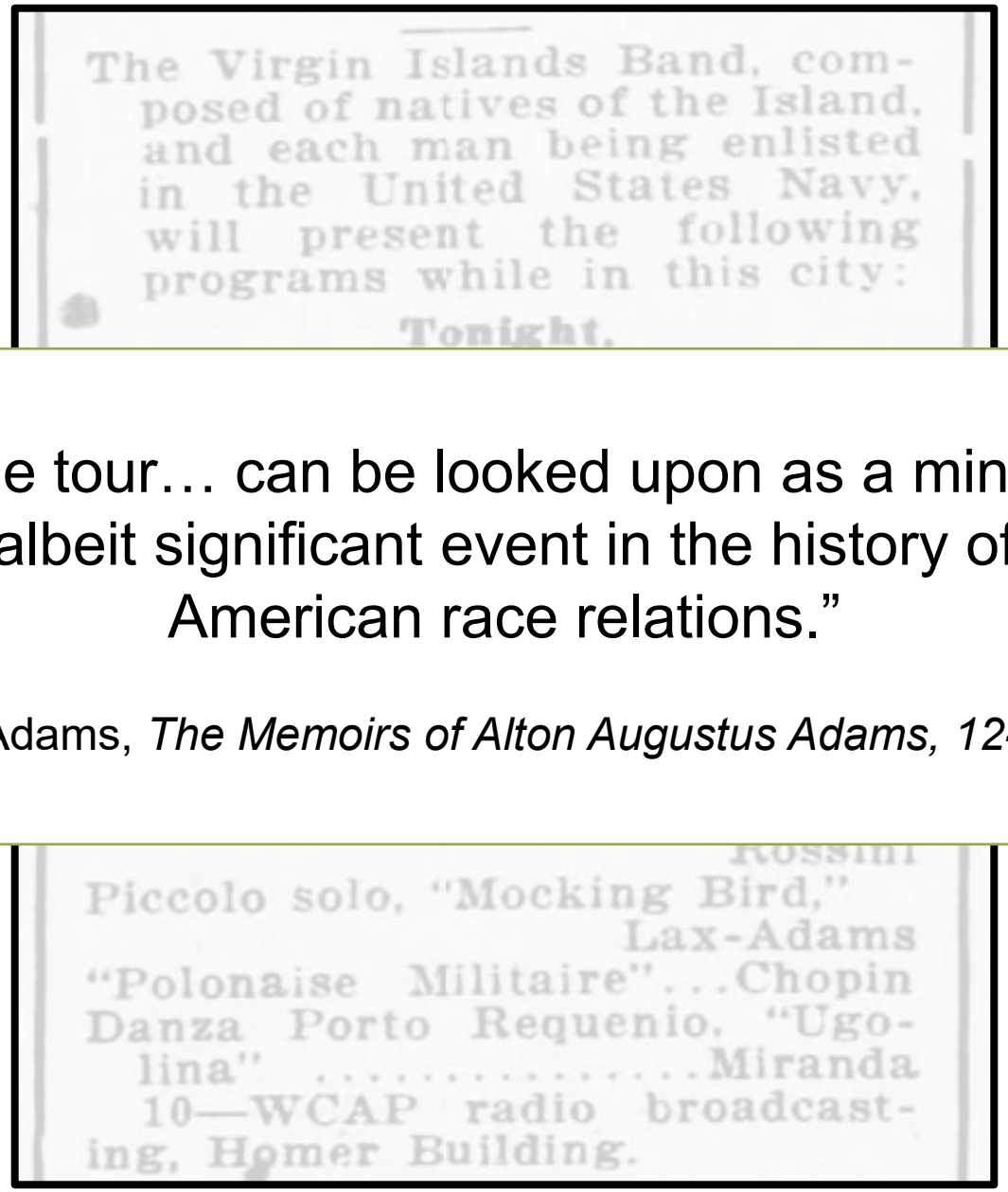
Piccolo solo, "Mocking Bird,"
Lax-Adams

"Polonaise Militaire"...Chopin

Danza Porto Requenio, "Ugolina".....Miranda

10—WCAP radio broadcasting, Homer Building.

Evening Star, July 18, 1924. Washington D.C.


The Virgin Islands Band, composed of natives of the Island, and each man being enlisted in the United States Navy, will present the following programs while in this city:

Tonight.

Rossini

Piccolo solo, "Mocking Bird,"
Lax-Adams

"Polonaise Militaire"...Chopin

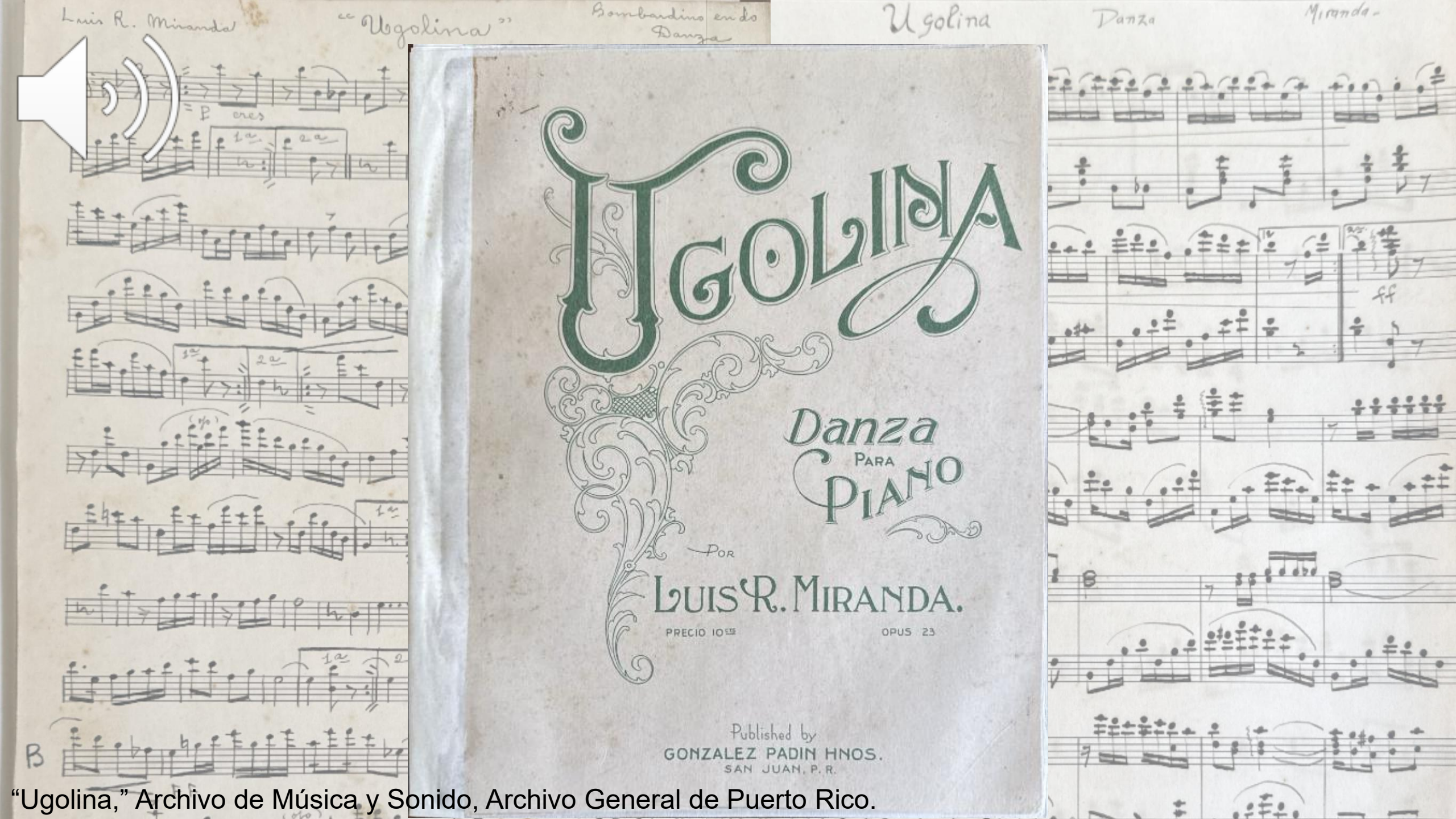
Danza Porto Requenio, "Ugolina" .....Miranda

10—WCAP radio broadcasting, Homer Building.

"the tour… can be looked upon as a minor, albeit significant event in the history of American race relations."

Adams, *The Memoirs of Alton Augustus Adams, 124*

Evening Star, July 18, 1924. Washington D.C.



"Ugolina," Archivo de Música y Sonido, Archivo General de Puerto Rico.

St. Thomas News

The new arrangement by Bandmaster Adams of the danza "Borinquena" national song of Porto Rico seems to be much liked by the audience at Sunday nights concerts, if we are to judge by the applauses which greeted it on the two occasions that it has been played by the Navy band in the Emancipation Garden.

We really consider the arrangement a decided improvement on the instrumentation as published in the States. It is more in keeping with tropical sentiment.—"*The Bulletin.*"

St. Croix Avis, December 3, 1930

Retreta

La Banda del Regimiento ejecutará mañana las siguientes piezas en la Plaza Baldorioty, con arreglo al siguiente

PROGRAMA

1—Banzai, gran marcha militar, dedicada al honorable ministro japonés, señor Kogoro Takahira, por M. White.

2—Gran selección de la ópera Fausto, por Gounod.

3—¡ Alemania, Bienvenida seas ! Waltz, por Jobani.

4—Selección de la ópera, La niña Bohemia, por Balfes.

5—Jaminauy, Two Step, por Edward.

6—Recuerdos de Borinquen, Danza, por R. Miranda.

7—Estrellas y franjas por siempre, por Sousa.

8—Himno.

Boletín Mercantil De Puerto Rico, October 24, 1905



“La Borinqueña”

Clarinete en si b

Luis R. Miranda "Recuerdos de Borinquen" Danza





Flauta

Luis R. Miranda "Recuerdos de Borinquen" Danza

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Viera-Vargas, Hugo R., Noraliz Ruiz-Caraballo, Errol L. Montes-Pizarro, Jaime O. Bofill-Calero, and Noel Allende-Goitía, eds. *Made in Puerto Rico: Studies in Popular Music*. [1.]. Routledge, 2025.

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ICP Archivo Virtual: Grabaciones de principios del siglo XX

ICP Archivo Virtual: Colección de Grabaciones

Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC)

Library of Congress: Chronicling America

Archivo General de Puerto Rico

FIU Díaz-Ayala Cuban and Latin American Popular Music Collection