



VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

For Additional Information:

Michelle Hammontree Garcia
Communications Manager
305.234.2121, Ext. 180
mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov

Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk
305.234.2121, Ext. 120
clerk@pinecrest-fl.gov

Media Contact: Michelle Hammontree Garcia
Communications Manager

mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov

786-606-3042

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Internationally acclaimed jazz artist, Maria Rivas is cancer-free and back at the Gardens
*In the same manner the Phoenix rises from the ashes, Maria Rivas has risen back to the stage
after an intense battle with a terminal type of cancer*

Pinecrest, Fla. – Love, familial unity and reconciliation.

This is the trinity of life experiences that Maria Rivas found solace in during her two-and-a-half year battle with cancer. Rivas was diagnosed with Stage 3 Aggressive Carcinoma that spread to her lymph nodes, lungs and liver. It was a battle that brought her “to the edge of death”.

“I looked at myself in the mirror and I saw death on my shoulders and on my face,” said Rivas of the moments after her last rites were read to her at the hospital.

However her faith, said Rivas, waged a “David against Goliath” war on the illness. And on Saturday, January 30, 2015 her doctor called her at home to tell her latest PET scan showed no sign of cancer - news that would set her back on her path as an accomplished musician and artist.

Rivas will shine again under the Banyan Bowl’s geodesic dome during her concert titled *Home for the Holidays* in Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 Red Road, on Saturday, December 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on line at pinecrestgardens.org or by calling 877-496-8499.

12645 Pinecrest Parkway, Pinecrest, Florida 33156

T: 305.234.2121 | F: 305.234.2131

www.pinecrest-fl.gov



Maria Rivas skillfully combines American and Latin Jazz rhythms with both lively and sentimental music from around the world. She interprets her music in English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and performs her own blend of traditional standards. Rivas' unique sound is an intoxicating combination of classic American jazz, pop and blues with just the right splash of Latin accents. She has performed to rave reviews before large audiences in North America, Europe (including the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival), Latin America and Asia.

Rivas is hailed by Oscar de Leon, Latin Grammy Award Winner, as "one of the finest singers on the world stage today, truly a tremendous talent".

Rivas, who is also an accomplished painter, faced the news of the cancer spreading during a high point in her career in October 2013. She had been invited by the Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (Latin Grammy's) to be their graphic artist for the 2013 show. The night she was to celebrate the honor bestowed on her by the Academy, she became very ill and was hospitalized.

She was hospitalized for some two months, her lungs filling with fluid and being drained 12 times via a painful procedure called thoracentesis. During the four months that followed, Rivas drained her lungs manually. "It was very difficult for me to talk, breath. My body was skin and bones," recalls Rivas. Some doctors and nurses believed that she would not be able to sing again because her lungs were in such poor shape.

But through a "miracle of renewed life, my Maria Phoenix life. I am so blessed to be here," said Rivas who is now close to a year of remission.

###