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Marti's Song for Freedom: Book Presentation by Author Emma Otheguy

Emma Otheguy

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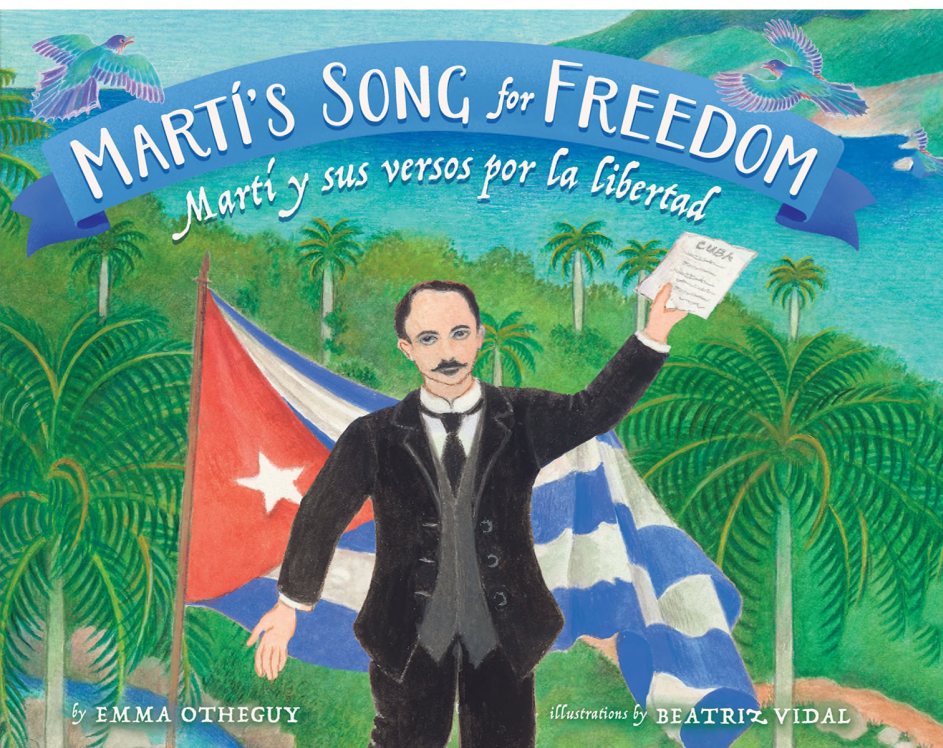
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The Green School at Books & Books

Cuban Research Institute



Martí's Song for Freedom

Book Presentation by Author Emma Otheguy

Saturday, November 11, 2017 | 11:00 AM | Books & Books | 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables

José Martí (1853–1895) is Cuba's national hero, patriotic leader, and writer. As a boy, he was inspired by the natural world. He found freedom in the river that rushed to the sea and peace in the *palmas reales* that swayed in the wind. Freedom, he believed, was the inherent right of all men and women. But his home island of Cuba was colonized by Spain, and some of the people were enslaved by rich landowners. Enraged, Martí took up his pen and fought against this oppression through his writings. By age seventeen, he was declared an enemy of Spain and forced to leave his beloved island.

Martí traveled the world, speaking out for Cuba's independence. But throughout his exile, he suffered from illness and homesickness. He found solace in New York's Catskill Mountains, where nature inspired him once again to fight for independence. As he wrote in his seminal book *Versos sencillos* (1891),

*Yo soy un hombre sincero
De donde crece la palma,
Y antes de morirme quiero
Echar mis versos del alma.*

I am a sincere man
From where the palm tree grows,
And before I die I want
To say the verses of my soul.

Written in verse, *Martí's Song for Freedom* is a beautiful tribute to a brilliant political writer and courageous fighter of freedom for all men and women.

Emma Otheguy is a children's book author and a historian of Spain and colonial Latin America. She is a member of the Bank Street Writers Lab, and her short story "Fairies in Town" was awarded a Magazine Merit Honor by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI). Mrs. Otheguy lives with her husband in New York City. This is her picture book debut. You can find her online at emmaotheguy.com.

This event is free and open to the public (of all ages).

To confirm your attendance and for more information, please call 305-348-1991 or write cri@fiu.edu