

**ACT 2**  
**Scene 11 (FINALE)**

(LIGHTS UP on INTERFAITH HOUSE OF  
PEACE Christmas Eve Celebration. REV.  
ROSE is giving her closing messages.)

REV. ROSE

Thank you for joining us in all our holiday celebrations this year. Tonight, as we focus on Christmas, we wish to thank the choir for their wonderful performances. I also wish to thank all those at home, who are also with us through the miracle of live streaming. Today, we came together not only to celebrate the birthday of one our greatest teachers ... but to celebrate the birth and the rising of love, goodness and healing within all of us. Christmas is a time of new beginnings, a time to bring families and communities together, a time to honor and celebrate the joy of children and a time of thankfulness for dreams coming true. Twenty years ago, I had a dream to start a community, where every race, color and creed could come together in peace to share love and joy. Our beloved Choir Director Nona also had a dream, but unfortunately, she made her transition into spirit a few weeks ago. Tonight, I invite her beautiful granddaughter, Ariana, to share that dream with us.

(ARIANA steps up to the altar with her guitar.  
FRANKS ENTERS and takes the empty seat  
next to ALEJANDRO.)

ARIANA

Thank you, Rev. Rose. My grandmother's name was Carmela D'Angelo-Vega ... and was affectionately called Nona by all who loved her. She was an amazing woman with enormous talent. For fifteen years, my Nona visited the pediatric wards all over the Tri-State area. She taught the most seriously ill children how to sing or play an instrument. She already knew what the scientists are only now beginning to discover ... that music does more than soothe the savage beast; it quiets the raging beast of illness as well. Tonight, three of those children are sitting here with us. Please, stand up when I call your name...John Tyrone.

(JOHN stands up.)  
(CONGREGATION applauds)

ARIANA (continues)

Rita Lopez.

(RITA stands up.)  
(CONGREGATION applauds.)

ARIANA (continues)

Larry Chin.

(LARRY stands up.)  
(CONGREGATION applauds.)  
(JOHN, LARRY and RITA sit.)