



3009 INDUSTRIAL TERRACE, SUITE 100, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78758
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AUSTIN OPERA announces a PBS Broadcast of

Bella Noche de Música

a concert in collaboration with the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin,
Ópera de Bellas Artes of Mexico City, and Austin PBS
April 4, 2023

(Austin, TX—March 7, 2023) Austin Opera today announces its second collaboration with Austin PBS to feature the company’s programming on public television. Austin Opera’s upcoming *Bella Noche de Música* concert will be recorded live for local and national distribution during Hispanic Heritage month in September and October 2023. *Bella Noche de Música* is a one-night-only tour-de-force celebratory concert of Latinx music and opera taking place at the new Moody Amphitheater at Waterloo Park Tuesday, April 4, 2023, as part of Austin Opera’s Opera ATX series. Curated by Claudia Chapa, Austin Opera’s Curator of Hispanic and Latinx Programming, the 90-minute concert is presented in collaboration with the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin and the Ópera de Bellas Artes of Mexico City. Thanks to a generous grant from the Moody Foundation, 3,000 tickets are being offered to the community free of charge.

Bella Noche de Musica will build on the hugely successful 2021 *An All-Star Concert* which to date has aired on more than fifty PBS stations around the US, with an audience reach of 113 million. Austin PBS CEO Luis Patiño says, “We’re thrilled to showcase *Bella Noche de Música* as part of our programming for Hispanic Heritage Month this year. Austin PBS strives to serve the public using media that educates, inspires, entertains, and reflects a variety of perspectives, and Austin Opera is a great partner in developing content that fits that vision.”

Bella Noche de Música features three studio artists from the Ópera de Bellas Artes in Mexico City: soprano Génesis Betania Moreno González; bass Ricardo Ceballos de la Mora; and tenor Jorge Alain Echeagaray Gutiérrez. They will be joined by Austin Opera Curator for Latinx and Hispanic Programming, mezzo-soprano Claudia Chapa, and the Austin Opera Orchestra, led by Timothy Myers, Austin Opera’s Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor.

The Studio of the Ópera de Bellas Artes, the national opera company of Mexico, is an internationally recognized young artist development program. This concert marks the launch of an important ongoing cultural collaboration between Austin Opera and the Ópera

de Bellas Artes. Alonso Escalante Mendiola, the Director of Ópera de Bellas Artes, said, “We are very pleased to partner with Austin Opera to showcase the world-class operatic talent that exists in Mexico. This cultural exchange will provide both institutions with the possibility of showing part of Latin America’s artistic richness”.

Bella Noche de Música also features San Antonio-based Mariachi group Trío Chapultepec, comprising Vincent Pequeño, Israel Alcala, and William Carlton Galvez, and Austin classical guitarist, Arnold Yzaguirre. Trío Chapultepec will also perform in Austin Opera’s 2023-2024 Season at the Long Center in a new co-production of *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* with Minnesota Opera, featuring new orchestration by David Hanlon.

Claudia Chapa said, “Throughout the *Bella Noche de Música* program, we will highlight Latinx artists performing Spanish-language vocal music from Mexico, Chile, Argentina, and Venezuela, alongside popular opera repertoire and new opera offerings including a selection from the late Pepe Martinez’s beautiful and uplifting mariachi opera, *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* – *Crossing the Face of the Moon*. Curating the concert was a collaborative process, as we felt it was important that the artists offer what music they felt represented them the best.”

Bella Noche de Música is the first project supported by Austin Opera’s recently announced Butler Fund for Spanish Programming, created by Sarah and Ernest Butler with a record-breaking endowment gift of \$3.3 million. Free general admission tickets are underwritten by the Moody Foundation. Reserved premium tickets are available for \$99 which includes a reception at the Moody Amphitheater’s Tito’s Terrace and support innovative projects as part of Opera ATX.

The concert develops further the partnership between Austin Opera and the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin. In 2021, the two organizations launched a new performance series, “Concerts at the Consulate,” highlighting Hispanic and Latinx artists and music. To date, the free-of-admission concert series has welcomed 2,500 community members at the Consulate’s facility in East Austin and on Austin Opera’s digital channel. With events reaching capacity, *Bella Noche de Música* will allow for broader participation from the community at a larger welcoming venue.

Consul General and Austin Opera Trustee Pablo Marentes, said, “I am a longtime advocate of the performing arts as an expression for culture and identity, and I believe experiences like these provide members of our community a way to feel closer to their culture and serve as a source of enormous pride. It is opportunities such as this concert that give our community representation, and I’ve seen firsthand the impact that Austin Opera has had. This partnership with Ópera de Bellas Artes to bring Mexico City’s finest artists to be accompanied by the Austin Opera Orchestra is thrilling, and I am excited for us to continue our partnership for this concert and through the coming season.”

Bella Noche de Música is made possible thanks to support from the following sponsors: Sarah and Ernest Butler, The Butler Fund for Spanish Programming; Judy and Patrick Cantilo; Moody Foundation; Gloria Evans in memory of Harvey Evans; and PNC Bank.

About Austin Opera

Serving Central Texas since 1986, Austin Opera inspires audiences with its trademark blend of innovation and artistic excellence. With the leadership of General Director & CEO Annie Burridge and the Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor Timothy Myers, Austin Opera presents a curated season of grand opera productions at the Long Center, the crown jewel of Austin performing arts venues. Combining the finest American and international stars with the outstanding local talent of our Orchestra and Chorus, Austin Opera's productions include accessible takes on classic operas as well as challenging new works that reinforce the continuing relevance of opera.

Opera ATX, powered by Austin Opera, brings groundbreaking new works, emerging artists, exciting composers, and dynamic directors to Austin. By tapping into the city's live music DNA, Opera ATX reflects the spirit of the city and the pioneering image it is known for. The Company creates the conditions for operatic experiences completely new to Austin—and perhaps completely new to the art form—by exploring alternative venues and unique local partnerships. Driven by Austin Opera's love of opera, love of audiences, and love of Austin, Opera ATX shows how Austin is shaping its opera company and inspiring innovative experiences.

Live from Indy Terrace, Austin Opera's digital channel is the home of original content free to patrons and includes recitals, interviews, fan-favorite programs like Conductor Cues and Opera Overtures, and broadcasts of the company's new series *Concerts at the Consulate*. *Concerts at the Consulate*, programmed in partnership with the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin, spotlight Latinx composers and performers and celebrate Hispanic culture.

Austin Opera is also a force in hundreds of classrooms across Central Texas, nurturing the next generation of opera audiences through its award-winning education programs. Austin Opera works directly with educators, community leaders, students, and parents to make opera relevant, educational, and entertaining for students of all ages.

In 2020, Austin Opera was voted "Opera Company of the Year"—and Timothy Myers was named "Conductor of the Year"—in the [BroadwayWorld Opera Awards](#).

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Press Contact

Thomas McLaughlin

Director of Marketing

512-610-7680

tmclaughlin@austinopera.org