

**For Immediate Release**

**Opera Las Vegas Presents “Celebración Latina - A Mariachi Fiesta”**

**on March 16th at Nicholas J. Horn Theatre**

**Las Vegas, NV – (February 20, 2025)** – Opera Las Vegas presents *Celebración Latina - A Mariachi Fiesta* in collaboration with the College of Southern Nevada’s award-winning Mariachi Plata ensemble at the Nicholas J. Horn Theatre on March 16, 2025 at 3:00 pm.

Following its tremendously successful 2024 premiere, *Celebración* audiences will experience a lively presentation of traditional music, popular songs, and Zarzuela (Spanish operetta), mingled with unique recent lyric theatre compositions and bi-lingual narration. The production features soprano Cecilia Violetta López, baritone Octavio Moreno, and pianist Nathan Salazar, and of course, Mariachi Plata, under the direction of Perry Chacón Jr.

Celebrated soprano, Cecilia Violetta López, an Opera Las Vegas fan favorite, has been named one of opera’s “25 Rising Stars” by *Opera News.*The singing actress is praised for her “alluring voice and incredible range” (*Washington Times*). She has received accolades for her signature role of Violetta in *La traviata*. Ms. Lopez performed the role of Maria in *West Side Story*at Opera Idaho, and at Opera Columbus; Adina in *Elixir of Love* with Virginia Opera; and Marguerite in *Faust* with Opera Omaha. She was a featured soprano soloist in the World Premiere of Hector Armento’s *Mi Camina.*

University of Arizona alumnus, baritone Octavio Moreno participated in the artist program at the Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) in Philadelphia and the Houston Grand Opera Studio. His previous engagements include the roles of John Proctor in The Crucible, Figaro in The Barber of Seville, Xihuitl in Pasado Nunca Se Termina, Laurentino in Cruzar la cara de la luna, and the title role of Rigoletto. Mr. Moreno has sung with companies such as Chicago Lyric Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Theatre Chatelet (Paris), Bellas Artes (Mexico City), Arizona Opera, New York City Opera, Ecuador Opera, Fort Worth Opera, and Opera in the Heights. Future engagements include General Moncada in Zorro with Arizona Opera.

Mariachi Plata director, Perry Chacón Jr. is a doctoral candidate at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He began his musical studies as a guitarrón player and lead vocalist with the high school ensemble Mariachi Chula Vista in California. With that group he performed at the Tucson International Mariachi conference, Albuquerque Espectacular, the Encuéntro Nacional del Mariachi y la Charreria in Guadalajara, and the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington, D.C. Chacón is currently a guitarist and lead vocalist for Mariachi Champaña Nevin.

Pianist Nathan Salazar has performed in recital and in opera in England, Scotland, Italy, Russia, and in major performance venues throughout the United States. He has worked and performed with Skylark Vocal Ensemble, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, The Handel and Haydn Society, The Boston Symphony, Santa Fe Opera, and The Boston Lyric Opera. In 2023, Salazar made his company debuts with San Francisco Opera and Los Angeles Opera for Gabriela Lena Frank’s *El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego.* This seasonhe returned to Los Angeles Opera for Golijov’s *Ainadamar.*

In five short years, CSN’s Mariachi Plata has earned a place as the finest Collegiate Mariachi in the United States. Comprised of students from CSN’s mariachi courses, it is part of the fine arts music curriculum. Founding Directors Fernando and Lupe Gonzalez led this group of accomplished student musicians to the very top of the mariachi world, winning the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza Competition for the last three years in a row.

*Celebración Latina* promises to be an enchanting seventy-five-minute program of delights and discoveries, a Hispanic musical panorama that will entertain, enrich, and inform, on Sunday, March 16th, at 3:00 pm in the Nicholas J. Horn Theatre at the College of Southern, Nevada, 3200 East Cheyenne Ave., North Las Vegas.

For more information and tickets to *Celebración Latina - A Mariachi Fiesta* please visit: [www.operalasvegas.com](http://www.operalasvegas.com).

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**ABOUT OPERA LAS VEGAS:**

The only professional company member of Opera America operating in Nevada, OPERA LAS VEGAS has been promoting and producing operatic performances and concerts in Las Vegas since 1999. Opera Las Vegas is a non-profit organization whose mission is to remain a strong cultural force in the Las Vegas Community by creating unforgettable moments of inspirational artistry and by bringing diverse representation into new explorations of the art of opera. Contact Opera Las Vegas at 702.263.6604 or visit them at [operalasvegas](http://www.operalasvegas.com/).com.