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For Immediate Release

Viva La Zarzuela celebrates Latinx Music, Dance, and Food

University Park, IL (October 4, 2021) – Take a musical and culinary tour: from the Iberian Peninsula to Latin America on Sunday, October 10. After a year and a half of virtual performances and empty seats, Governors State University (GSU) Center for Performing Arts (the Center) welcomes audiences back with live music and dance. Part of the esteemed Opera Up Close series, **Viva La Zarzuela** pays tribute to Zarzuela and Spanish art songs from around the world as well as Mexican folk songs and Spanish favorites such as “Besame Mucho” and songs by Argentinian and Peruvian composers.

A traditional Spanish genre, Zarzuela is written in an operatic style that incorporates arias, ensembles and dance. Not only will audience members experience the power of the unamplified human voice, up close, while seated on stage with the artists, special guests dancers Jonathan Pacheco and Olivia Serrano from Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater will also be featured.

Opera Up Close curator and host John Concepcion says, “My father was born in Havana, Cuba, and grew up singing the songs of Ernesto Lecuona and Fernando Moreno-Torroba. When I discovered Zarzuelas and began performing the popular melodies, I remember his emotional reaction to hearing them again after so many years. He was instantly transported to the homeland he remembered so fondly. I have wanted to share these songs with my Opera Up Close friends for years and have finally found the right time to do so.”

Meet the Cast

Nicole Besa, Soprano
John Concepcion, Host
Jared Esguerra, Tenor
Beatriz Helguera-Snow, Pianist
Joe Sonnefeldt, Percussion
Jonathan Pacheco, Ensemble Español Dancer
Olivia Serrano, Ensemble Español Dancer

About Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater in Residence at Northeastern University

Ensemble Español is the premier Spanish dance company and center in the United States to have in-residence status at a university, making its home at Northeastern Illinois University. Founded by Dame Libby Komaiko in 1975, and incorporated in 1976, the company tours nationally and internationally,

provides extensive arts education to young students, maintains a pre-professional training academy, offers university level dance courses for college credit, and conducts a wide range of community outreach programs and classes. The organization includes 40 dancers, singers, and musicians. The company also produces the annual American Spanish Dance and Music Festival in the Chicago area.

Tickets

Tickets are \$50 per person. Admission includes an individually packaged sampling of Spanish charcuterie and a beverage of your choice.

Seating is limited so advanced ticket reservations are encouraged.

Online at CenterTickets.net

Over the phone at 708.235.2222

In person at the Box Office: 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484

Box Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays and two hours prior to show times.

Flex Packages

Tickets are currently on sale to Flex Buyers (patrons who purchase three or more shows). Flex buyers save 15% off tickets, receive priority seating, and enjoy exchange privileges. For a full line-up of events at the Center, visit [https://www.govst.edu/About/Center for Performing Arts/All Events by Date/](https://www.govst.edu/About/Center_for_Performing_Arts/All_Events_by_Date/)

Know Before You Go

Your health and safety are our priority.

Audience members are required to show proof of vaccination or proof of negative Covid-9 test (within the 72-hour period of the performance) until further notice. Proof can be an electronic, photo copy or official CDC vaccination record card with photo ID at time of entry into the venue with valid ticket.

Face masks are required on campus, even if vaccinated. Reduced capacity and socially distanced seating may be in place based on Governors State University and State mandates. Hand sanitizer will be made readily available throughout the venue and patrons are strongly encouraged to make use of them. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and do not attend an event.

Center for Performing Arts' COVID-19 policies are mandated by Governors State University. For the most updated COVID-19 policies being implemented across campus please visit: <https://www.govst.edu/coronavirus/>

Parking is free. For best GPS directions, use the location search term “Governors State University.”

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