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**News Release  
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***Fort Worth Opera's Bold New Initiative Noches de Ópera,  
A Four Year Celebration of Contemporary Spanish-Language Operas,  
Continues to Build Momentum in 2017 with Exciting Community  
Programming Leading to the North Texas Premiere of Cruzar la Cara de  
la Luna***

**FORT WORTH, TX—Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) celebrates its latest initiative *Noches de Ópera*, with thought-provoking, educational symposia and thrilling events, culminating in *Fiesta Fort Worth*. Launched for the first time, this incredible celebration of Latino culture will feature family-oriented activities, and exciting performances from artists in our community.** Kicking off the second phase of the company's landmark, 10-year Opera of the Americas initiative, this historic, four-year campaign introduces powerful, contemporary Spanish-language operas to North Texas audiences, enriched by year-round community programming. Beginning in 2017 with the groundbreaking mariachi opera *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* and extending through the 2020 Festival, FWOpera will celebrate the incredible diversity and rich cultural heritage of Fort Worth, with an engaging line-up of outreach programs that embrace Fort Worth's growing Latino community and offer local audiences a fresh Festival experience.

***Noches de Ópera* Spring Events Lineup:**

**Thursday, February 23, 2017**

Latino/a Identity Symposium

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Tarrant County College**

**Trinity River Campus – Energy Auditorium**

FWOpera's upcoming production of *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* tells a poignant tale of adversity, forgiveness, and the resilience of the human spirit. Without politicizing the hotly contested issue of border security, the opera's inspiring narrative humanizes the immigrant experience as it tells the uplifting story of one family across generations. The piece also explores the themes of identity, through two step brothers; one who grew up in the United States with a daughter who doesn't speak Spanish fluently, and the other a lifelong citizen of Mexico. 'Cruzar la Cara de la Luna' and FWOpera's

upcoming symposium Latino Identity, invite audiences to engage in an open and honest discussion on topics such as discrimination, gender roles, traditions and values, religion, and artistic expression.

Led by moderator Frances de Leon, this fascinating symposium features Milo Ramirez, owner of Salsa Limón, Jennifer Ibarra of Blue Zones Project Fort Worth, State Representative Ramon Romero Jr., Erika Beltran of the Texas State Board of Education, and Carlos Rodriguez, Brand Planning Director of the multicultural agency Richards/Lerma. Our distinguished group of panelists will share their opinions, personal backgrounds, and discuss how their Latino heritage has defined and shaped their lives. Call 877.396.7372 or visit us online at <http://www.fwopera.org/events/noches-de-opera-events/> for more information.

### **Thursday, March 9, 2017**

History of Mariachi Lecture

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth**

Part academic lecture, part musical journey, this fascinating night of sight and sound will explore the birth of mariachi during the 19th century, as it developed throughout the Mexican states of Jalisco, Colima, Nayarit, and Michoacán, who all claim its origin. Dr. Donna T. Emmanuel of the University of North Texas will delve into the history and the evolution of Mariachi tradition, alongside curated audio selections and thrilling live performances from JP Elder Middle School Mariachi. A celebration of life in baptisms, weddings, holidays, and funerals, Mariachi enriches Fort Worth's cultural and artistic landscape, and continues to be an essential form of entertainment and ceremony for all. Call 877.396.7372 or visit us online at <http://www.fwopera.org/events/noches-de-opera-events/> for more information.

### **Thursday, March 23, 2017**

A Celebration of Mexican Artist Jan Barboglio

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Neiman Marcus: The Shops at Clearfork**

FWOpera's incredible Hattie Mae Lesley Apprentice Artists will collaborate with Guitar Fort Worth and Ballet Folklorico Azteca de Fort Worth in a celebration of Mexican artist Jan Barboglio, at the new Neiman Marcus. Featuring a sizzling set of red-hot Spanish Zarzuela arias, this colorful performance highlights the rich diversity of Fort Worth's arts organizations and Barboglio's gorgeous, old Mexico-themed designs, which have blossomed into an extensive home accessories and furniture collection sold at Neiman Marcus and other fine specialty stores. The artist will be on site to discuss her designs and raffle tickets will be available for purchase, to win beautiful pieces signed by Jan Barboglio herself. Call 877.396.7372 or visit us online at <http://www.fwopera.org/events/noches-de-opera-events/> for more information.

### **April 29, 2017**

**5:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

Fiesta Fort Worth

## **Sundance Square Plaza**

This spring, FWOpera kicks off a thrilling new event entitled *Fiesta Fort Worth*, to honor the incredible cultural diversity of our North Texas community and celebrate Latino culture and heritage. The state-of-the-art Sundance Square plaza will be filled with local artists, such as Sol de Fort Worth Ballet Folklórico, Guitar Fort Worth, Ballet Folklórico Azteca de Fort Worth, JP Elder Middle School, Mariachi Espuelas de Plata of North Side High School, Ballet Folklórico de Fort Worth, Inc., a performer from the Kimbell Art Museum, and more.

This incredible, one-night-only event will feature family-oriented activities, mariachi ensembles, traditional Mexican folkloric ballet, and appearances by community leaders from Telemundo, the Mexican Consulate, and other prominent members of our community such as Mayor Betsy Price, Rep. Marc Veasey, FWISD Trustee Jacinto "Cinto" Ramos Jr., and Rep. Ramon Romero Jr. Call 877.396.7372 or visit us online at <http://www.fwopera.org/events/noches-de-opera-events/> for more information.

## **April 29, 2017 & May 7, 2017**

*Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*

**April 29 at 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

**May 7 at 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Bass Performance Hall**

FWOpera's *Noches de Ópera* events culminate in the exhilarating regional premiere of *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* (To Cross the Face of the Moon), the world's first opera composed for mariachi. Featuring music by the late José "Pepe" Martínez of the world-famous *Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán*, this exhilarating bilingual theatrical experience blends Mexican folk traditions with opera, to tell a gripping story of a family divided by borders and their struggle to exist between two worlds. Beyond racial divisions, beyond economic challenges, audiences see themselves in *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*'s unforgettable characters, because their struggles exemplify the hopes, dreams, and fears of everyone. Call 877.396.7372 or visit us online at <http://www.fwopera.org/events/noches-de-opera-events/> for more information.

## **Noches de Ópera Community Events**

**Thursday, February 23, 2017 – May 7, 2017**

- Latino/a Identity Symposium (February 23, 2017)
- History of Mariachi Lecture (March 9, 2017)
- A Celebration of Mexican Artist Jan Barboglio (March 23, 2017)
- 2017 Fort Worth Opera Festival (April 15 – May 7, 2017)
- Fiesta Fort Worth (April 29, 2017)
- Performances of *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* at Bass Hall (April 29 & May 7, 2017)

**ABOUT FORT WORTH OPERA:** Founded in 1946, Fort Worth Opera is the oldest continually performing opera company in Texas, and one of the 14 oldest opera companies in the United States. Under the leadership of General Director Darren K. Woods since 2001, the organization has received national attention from critics and audiences alike for its artistic excellence, pioneering spirit, and steadfast willingness to take risks. From its first world premiere, *Frau Margot* in 2007, to 2016's globally-anticipated new work *JFK* – a co-commission with American Lyric Theater and Opéra de Montréal by the acclaimed creative duo of David T. Little and Royce Vavrek – FWOpera continues to augment its worldwide reputation as a trailblazing, civically minded arts institution.

Known throughout the operatic world as a champion of new and rarely-performed works, FWOpera has taken a leadership role in engaging audiences beyond the operatic stage, while producing cutting-edge, contemporary operas. Beginning in 2017, FWOpera will launch the second phase of its landmark, 10-year *Opera of the Americas* initiative with *Noches de Ópera* (Nights of Opera), a groundbreaking campaign which will introduce powerful operas, each reflecting the diverse cultures of new American audiences.

The 2017 FWOpera Festival will include a time-honored classic, Bizet's incendiary tale of tragic seduction, *Carmen*; a vibrant, contemporary mainstage production unlike anything in FWOpera's repertoire, *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*; and the riveting regional premiere of *Voir Dire*, an insider's look into the fascinating, hilarious and often insanely bizarre world of courtroom drama. The Festival will also usher in the fifth year of Fort Worth Opera's critically-acclaimed new works showcase, *Frontiers*.

***Carmen***

April 22, 30, & May 5

***Voir Dire***

April 23, 25, 29, 30, & May 2, 6

***Cruzar la Cara de la Luna***

April 29 & May 7

***Frontiers***

May 3 & 4

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