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MINNESOTA OPERA PRESENTS ÓPERA AFUERA (OPERA OUTDOORS) AT ALLIANZ FIELD

This one-of-a-kind event features Latinx artists and vocal music.

MINNEAPOLIS (September 3, 2021) – Minnesota Opera begins its 2021-2022 Season with Ópera Afuera at Allianz Field. The one-of-a-kind outdoor experience features a live performance presented on the field that puts a unique twist on both old favorites and other selections in a safe, physically distanced atmosphere.

Ópera Afuera celebrates the music of the Spanish-speaking world through song, opera and instrumental music. Divided into three parts, the program highlights Latinx vocal music alongside some of opera's classic hits. Part one features excerpts from Spanish Zarzuelas, mariachi music from Mexico and vals criollo from Peru. Part two includes excerpts from the nineteenth century European catalogue that have historical significance in Latin America's Opera tradition, including, *La bohème*, *Rigoletto* and *Carmen*. Part three provides a sample of Latinx culture's contributions to opera, focusing on operas from the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Miguel Harth-Bedoya conducts the MN Opera Orchestra in a David Radamés Toro-directed concert that features soloists Andres Acosta, Vanessa Alonzo, Vanessa Becerra, Levi Hernandez and Zoie Reams. The cast and creative team includes Resident Artist Program alumni David Radamés Toro and Andres Acosta. Project Opera alumna Zoie Reams joins Acosta on stage alongside an array of talented artists new to Minnesota Opera, including Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza national vocal competition Grand Champion Vanessa Alonzo. Current Minnesota Opera Resident Artists Leah Brzyski, Symone Harcum, Aaron Keeney and Joseph Leppek join the main cast for larger ensemble pieces.

“Ópera Afuera celebrates the music of the Spanish-speaking world through song, opera and instrumental music,” said Director David Rademés Toro. “It reacquaints audiences with popular classic songs while introducing forgotten gems.”

In partnership with Allianz Field, Minnesota Opera has worked to make the health and safety of patrons, artists and staff top priorities for this event. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test with 72 hours of the event will be required for attendees over the age of 12. Guests under the age of 12 are highly encouraged to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to attending the event, but are not required. All guests over the age of two, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear masks in all areas of Allianz Field unless actively eating or drinking. To learn more, visit mnopera.org/safety.

This will be MN Opera's first live, in-person performance since 2020's Opera in the Outfield at CHS Field. This fall outdoor event was initially announced to be at CHS Field but was rescheduled and moved to Allianz Field due to a scheduling conflict. Purchase tickets at mnopera.org/opera-afuera.

What: Ópera Afuera

Where: Allianz Field, 400 Snelling Ave N, St Paul, MN 55104

When: Wednesday, September 22 at 7 p.m.

Tickets: General admission tickets are \$20. Stadium Club tickets are \$100 and include a festive dinner and wine and beer. Purchase tickets by calling Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669, Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or online at mnopera.org/opera-afuera.

Cast and Creative Team

Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Conductor
David Radamés Toro°, Director

Andres Acosta°, Tenor
Vanessa Alonzo, Mezzo-Soprano
Vanessa Becerra, Soprano
Levi Hernandez, Baritone
Zoie Reams‡, Mezzo-Soprano

°MN Opera Resident Artist alum

‡Project Opera alum

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Minnesota Opera changes lives by bringing together artists, audiences and community, advancing the art of opera for today and for future generations.