



Arturo Sandoval

Pacific Symphony Pops underwritten by
 the Sharon and Tom Malloy Family

LATIN FIRE WITH ARTURO SANDOVAL

Friday, Feb. 16, 2024 @ 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 @ 8 p.m.

Enrico Lopez-Yañez, conductor
 Latin Fire - Mónica Ábrego & José Sibaja
 Arturo Sandoval, trumpet
 Pacific Symphony

PROGRAM

RAFAEL HERNÁNDEZ
 Arr. Albert Gonzales

El Cumbanchero

MARIA GREVER
 Arr. E. Magallanes

Júrame

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA
 Arr. José Sibaja

Libertango
 for Trumpet and Orchestra

GEORGES BIZET
 Arr. Enrico Lopez-Yañez

Carmen Suite for Soprano,
 Trumpet, and Orchestra

ARY BARROSO
 Arr. Enrico Lopez-Yañez

Aquarela do Brasil for
 Soprano, Trumpet, and
 Orchestra

ERNESTO LECUONA
 Arr. José Sibaja

Malagueña for Soprano,
 Trumpet, and Orchestra

-INTERMISSION-

Arturo Sandoval
 Selections to be Announced



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mónica Ábrego is one of Mexico's most outstanding sopranos. She has performed on stages around the world with a diverse repertoire that includes opera, lied, oratorio, folk, and popular music.



Ábrego has performed with many orchestras such as the San Diego, Colorado, Iowa, Key West, Delaware, La Jolla, Aguascalientes, and Bulgaria symphony orchestras, as well as Chihuahua Philharmonic Orchestra with whom she toured Mexico and the USA. She has performed the roles of Serpina (*La serva padrona*), Norina (*Don Pasquale*), Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*), Gilda (*Rigoletto*), Magda (*La rondine*), Violetta (*La Traviata*), Manon (*Manon*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Olympia (*The Tales of Hoffmann*), Nanetta (*Falstaff*), Susanna (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*), María (*Tango Operita - María de Buenos Aires*), and recently as Micaëla (*Carmen*).

Ábrego made her debut at Carnegie Hall in 2003 in New York City as a soloist for the Pacific Opera Encore company; she also has sung in Lincoln Center's Merkin Hall and has continued performing in these venues on numerous occasions. Her passion for music has given her the opportunity to proudly perform traditional Mexican music alongside Champaña Nevin Mariachi, both in Mexico and the United States, and several concerts at the Jacobs Music Center. In 2012, her first album "Alma Mía" was released by Vientos del Sur Productions. Her debut recording includes Bossa nova, Mexican music, musical theater, and tango.

Mónica Ábrego has a Bachelor of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music. She has received awards from the USA National Association of Teachers of Singing (1998), La Jolla Symphony & Chorus in California (1997-98), RYLA Rotary International Club (1998), Mexico's National Fund for Culture and Arts (1999-2002), and the Musical Merit Foundation of San Diego (1998-2002).

José Sibaja is one of the most highly acclaimed Costa Rican trumpet players of his generation, with worldwide audiences and broadcast media in the classical, Latin, jazz, and pop musical genres.



His career ranges from international appearances as an orchestral soloist with Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela, and Orquesta Sinfonica

Nacional de Costa Rica, to worldwide tours with Ricky Martin for the *Vuelve* and *Living la Vida Loca* tours. Currently, he plays lead trumpet with the world-renowned Boston Brass.

Receiving his musical training at the New World School of the Arts and the University of Miami, Sibaja's vast musical repertoire and his masterful artistry make him a prominent figure in a new generation of musicians. He has held positions as Principal Trumpet with the Miami Symphony, the Sinfonietta de Caracas, and Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela, as well as a position with the Dallas Brass.

With televised performances on the *American Music Awards*, the *MTV Awards*, the *GRAMMY® Awards*, and the *Latin GRAMMY® Awards* shows, as well as appearances on *Conan O'Brian*, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *The Today Show*, *Late Night with David Letterman*, and numerous television appearances in more than 40 countries. Sibaja's talents are not limited to live audience performances. Having recorded with such artists as Ricky Martin, Alejandro Sanz, Luis Enrique, Rey Ruiz, Tito Nieves, Celia Cruz, and Gloria Estefan among others, Sibaja redefines the idea of a concert artist with a rich mix of stylistic genres surpassing the very stereotype of today's classical musician. Currently, Sibaja can be heard with the Boston Brass on their *Latin Nights* CD.

Having held a faculty position at Carabobo Conservatory in Valencia, Venezuela, José Sibaja currently serves as a clinician with the Boston Brass for the Jupiter Company, giving master classes as an educational ambassador worldwide. Proclaimed internationally as "a major young talent, the next Wynton Marsalis," Sibaja played his solo debut at age 17 with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra after only five years of trumpet and music training.

Sam Pilafian, founding member of the Empire Brass, past President of the International Tuba Euphonium Association and Professor of Music at Arizona State University, states: "José Sibaja is a trumpet artist uniquely positioned to be the most influential player of our time. His artistry is a unique blend of stylistic influences...Whether traveling the world with Boston Brass, at the highest level of classical orchestral and solo performance or his storied Latin and jazz career, live and in the recording studios with the major stars of our time...that's José!"

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A protégé of the legendary jazz master Dizzy Gillespie, Arturo Sandoval was born in Artemisa, a small town in the outskirts of Havana, Cuba, on November 6, 1949, just two years after Gillespie became the first musician to bring Latin influences into American Jazz.



Sandoval began studying classical trumpet at the age of 12, but it didn't take him long to catch the excitement of the jazz world. He has since evolved into one of the world's most acknowledged guardians of jazz trumpet and flugelhorn, as well as a renowned classical artist, pianist, and composer.

He is one of the most dynamic and vivacious live performers of our time, and has been seen by millions at the Oscars, at the GRAMMY® Awards, and the Billboard Awards. Sandoval has been awarded 11 Grammy Awards, and nominated 19 times; he has also received six Billboard Awards and an Emmy Award. The latter for his composing work on the entire underscore of the HBO movie based on his life, *For Love or Country* that starred Andy Garcia as Arturo. His two latest Grammy award-winning albums, *Dear Diz (Everyday I Think of You)* and *Tango: Como Yo Te Siento* are now available worldwide. Sandoval's newest CD is *Eternamente Manzanero*. Performing the music of revered Mexican romantic pianist/singer/songwriter, Armando Manzanero, this is a true labor of love. Performing Manzanero's music with co-headliner Jorge Calandrelli, the album is a fresh, modern, and pleasant take on his beautiful bolero music.

Recently released, is a new book chronicling his relationship with Dizzy Gillespie entitled *The Man Who Changed My Life*. Sandoval is also the 2013 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was a founding member of the GRAMMY® Award-winning group Irakere, whose explosive mixture of jazz, classical, rock, and traditional Cuban music caused a sensation throughout the entertainment world. In 1981, he left Irakere to form his own band, which garnered enthusiastic praise from critics and audiences all over the world, and continues to do so.

Sandoval is also a renowned classical musician, performing regularly with the leading symphony orchestras from around the world. He has composed his own *Concerto for Trumpet & Orchestra*, which can be heard on *Arturo Sandoval: The Classical Album*. He has performed with the

foremost orchestras in the country as well as abroad and recorded John Williams' *Trumpet Concerto* with the London Symphony Orchestra. His classical artistry has earned him the respect and admiration from the most prestigious conductors, composers, and symphony orchestras worldwide.

Sandoval's versatility can be heard on recordings with everyone from Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Woody Shaw, Michel Legrand, Josh Groban, Tony Bennett, Bill Conti, and Stan Getz to Johnny Mathis, Frank Sinatra, Paul Anka, Rod Stewart, and Alicia Keys, among many others. He has performed with John Williams with the Boston Pops, and at the Super Bowl with Tony Bennett and Patti LaBelle.

Sandoval's compositions can also be heard in movies including *1001 to 1*, starring Beau Bridges; *At Middleton* starring Andy Garcia and Vera Farmiga; Dave Grusin's soundtrack for *Havana* and *Random Heart*; in the *Mambo Kings* soundtrack with his GRAMMY® nominated composition *Mambo Caliente*, in the soundtrack of *The Perez Family*, *61, Mr. Wrong*, the documentary *Oscar*, and *The Family Fuentes*, among others. He also was commissioned by the Kennedy Center to compose the music for the ballet *Pepito's Story*, *Soul Possessed*, as well as *Oman O Men*, and *The Chocolate Hot Nutcracker*, choreographed by Debbie Allen.

Sandoval reaches beyond the scope of mere effort. His struggles while in Cuba and since his defection have given him more energy and strength, urging him to accomplish and surpass his childhood dreams. Filled with a virtuoso capability, he desires nothing more than to share his gift with others who feel the same intense adoration for music as he does. One frequently speaks of Sandoval's virtuoso technical ability or his specialty in high notes, but whoever has seen him on the piano, lyrically improvising a ballad, or has had the opportunity to enjoy the diversity of his music, through his compositions from the most straight ahead jazz, Latin jazz, or classical, knows that Arturo Sandoval is a prominent musician, and one recognizes that he is one of the most brilliant, multifaceted, and renowned musicians of our time.

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

Enrico Lopez-Yañez is the newly appointed Principal Pops Conductor of Pacific Symphony. He holds the Hal and Jeanette Segerstrom Family Foundation Principal Pops Conductor Chair. In addition, Lopez-Yañez is Conductor of Dallas Symphony Presents and serves as the Principal Pops Conductor of the Nashville Symphony. Lopez-Yañez is quickly establishing himself as one of the Nation's leading conductors of popular music and becoming known for his unique style of audience engagement. Also an active composer/arranger, Lopez-Yañez has been commissioned to write for the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, Houston Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and Omaha Symphony, and has had his works performed by orchestras including the Baltimore Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Ft. Worth Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, National Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and Utah Symphony among others.



Lopez-Yañez has conducted concerts with a broad spectrum of artists including: Nas, Gladys Knight, Ledisi, Itzhak Perlman, Stewart Copeland, Kenny Loggins, Toby Keith, Mickey Guyton, Kelsea Ballerini, Leslie Odom Jr., Renée Elise Goldsberry, Hanson, The Beach Boys, Kenny G, and more. Lopez-Yañez also conducts the annual Let Freedom Sing! Music City July 4th fireworks show which was first televised on CMT in 2019 reaching millions of viewers across the nation.

This season, Lopez-Yañez will collaborate with artists including Ben Rector, Cody Fry, Patti LaBelle, Trisha Yearwood, Tituss Burgess, Vanesa Williams, Lyle Lovett, Jefferson Starship, Portugal. The Man, Guster, Ben Folds, Aida Cuevas, Lila Downs, and Arturo Sandoval. Lopez-Yañez will appear with the Colorado Symphony, Houston Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, and Milwaukee Symphony as well as make return appearances with the Detroit Symphony, National Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, and more. Previously, Lopez-Yañez has appeared with orchestras throughout North America including the Baltimore Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, and the Seattle Symphony among others.

Lopez-Yañez is the recipient of the 2023 "Mexicanos Distiguídos" Award by the Mexican government, an award granted to Mexican citizens living abroad for outstanding career accomplishments in their field. As an advocate for Latin music, he has arranged and produced shows for Latin Fire, Mariachi Los Camperos, The Three Mexican Tenors, and collaborated with artists including Aida Cuevas and Lila Downs.

As Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Symphonica Productions, LLC, Lopez-Yañez curates and leads programs designed to cultivate new audiences. Symphonica manages a wide breadth of Pops and Family/Education productions that "breathe new, exuberant life into classical programming for kids and families" (*Nashville Parent Magazine*). Symphonica's productions have been described as "incredibly special – and something that needs to become the new norm" (Lima Symphony). Symphonica Productions is also a sheet music publishing house representing a diverse offering of genres and composers. Their roster of composers includes GRAMMY® nominated composer Clarice Assad, Sverre Indris Joner, Andres Soto, Charles Cozens, Vinicio Meza, and more.

As a producer, composer, and arranger, Lopez-Yañez's work can be heard on numerous albums including the UNESCO benefit album Action Moves People United and children's music albums including *The Spaceship that Fell in My Backyard*, winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, Hollywood Music and Media Awards, Family Choice Awards and Kokowanda Bay, winner of a Global Media Award as well as a Parents' Choice Award where Lopez-Yañez was lauded for his "catchy arrangements" (Parents' Choice Foundation).