

NEWS RELEASE

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With “a stunning voice, a confident multicultural vision grounded in her Mixtec Indian roots” (LA Times), the GRAMMY-winning vocalist brings a special night of music, celebrating Mexico’s Day of the Dead!

The Soraya Welcomes the Return of Seven-Time GRAMMY Award-winning Mexican American singer/songwriter Lila Downs with “Dos Corazones: Día de Muertos” featuring Ballet Folklórico

Saturday, October 14 at 8pm. Tickets start at \$41 and are now on sale at TheSoraya.org!

(Los Angeles, CA) October 2, 2022—The Soraya’s **Hecho en Las Américas Series** returns for its eighth season, premiering on Saturday, October 14 with the incomparable **Lila Downs’ *Dos Corazones: Día de Muertos***. Joining her onstage will be **Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles**, whose dancers combined with Downs’ windswept melodic voice will guide the audience through the cultural sights and sounds of Mexico’s annual communion with the spirits of departed loved ones. [*Dos Corazones: Día de Muertos*](#) will have an added poignancy as it follows the recent passing of Downs’ husband, Paul Cohen, who spent more than 25 years making music with his wife as a saxophonist, composer, arranger, and producer.

*“**Dos Corazones** is a beautiful way to honor my husband and partner of so many years,”* said Downs in a recent interview with The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber. *“It’s about the two hearts, the representation of life and how you find another spirit that accompanies you in life, creation, and music.”*

Downs is recognized worldwide as one of the most important Mexican artists who gives rousing concerts at any time of the year, especially for *Día de los Muertos*.

“What may be overlooked is that Lila has roots in both the United States and Mexico, and in our recent interview, she describes what the holiday means to her being ‘half Anglo.’ As an Anglo myself, I identify with what she said - that ‘letting it all out’ and getting in touch with emotions can be difficult — especially when dealing with the difficult topic of death,” Steingraber wrote. *“Whether the Mexican spiritual tradition is new to you or a long-held annual event, Lila Downs’*

concert tour, *Dos Corazones*, will no doubt be one of the most important cultural events in Los Angeles this year.”

For interview requests, please contact:

- The Soraya Communications Associate [Marie Estrada \(marie.estrada@csun.edu\)](mailto:marie.estrada@csun.edu)
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For questions or ticket information, visit www.TheSoraya.org or call the Ticket Office at (818) 677-3000. Office hours are 11a-4p, Tuesday through Saturday.

About Lila Downs—*Dos Corazones: Día de Muertos*

“Celebration is characteristic of Mexican traditions,” said Downs, “not only for the Day of the Dead but in every ritual where we have this sadness and celebration at the same time. The Day of the Dead is very important to me as I am going through the experience of loss right now. It’s such a deep and profound emotion—and helpful—for me to be singing as I can express my pain and my sadness, of course, but I can also express my happiness in this celebration.”

Downs returns with a concert that will feature her signature Latin-influenced sound. Winner of six Latin GRAMMY Awards and one GRAMMY, Downs is one of the most powerful and unique voices that exist today. Downs’ music reflects the cultures of Oaxaca, Mexico, and the U.S., in which she grew up. She sings in Spanish and English, sometimes incorporating indigenous Mixtec, Zapotec and Maya. With a symbolic stage presence and emotional storytelling through song, her singing transcends all language barriers.

For over three decades, Downs has pursued social justice through music and stayed true to her Indigenous Mixtec roots. This re-creation of the ancient cultural festival on The Soraya stage brings family and friends together to carry the light of those we remember into the future.

Born and raised in both Oaxaca and Minnesota, Downs is the daughter of a Mixtec Indigenous woman and Anglo-American father. She has written narratives of Indigenous resistance protecting the original vision of the sacred plants and food of her Oaxacan culture while keeping the traditions of the American continent. A passionate human rights activist, Lila Downs's lyrics often reflect stories of social injustice and the experiences within the suppressed Latin American stories of women of indigenous and working-class origins.

About The Soraya’s *Hecho en Las Américas* Series

“When we began *Hecho en Las Américas* eight years ago, we did so in response to CSUN/Northridge’s Chicana/o Studies Department,” said **Thor Steingraber, The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director**. “Those folks knew there was a vibrant San Fernando Valley Latino/Hispanic community that was eager to experience the music and dance that is so much part of the culture. I am happy to say that now *Hecho en Las Américas* is woven into The

Soraya's *Signature Series* and has grown to become a pillar of our annual performance programming."

Norteña specialists, Los Tigres Del Norte, blew the doors off the theatre when it performed during the Valley Performing Arts Center's first season in 2012. Soon after, Mariachi Vargas performed back-to-back concerts in 2013 and 2014 and proved that VPAC, now known as The Soraya, would become a home to Latin American artists and audiences in greater Los Angeles. ***Hecho en Las Américas*** was born.

Hecho en Las Américas was named to be inclusive of all the communities and cultures in North, Central and South America—and the artists whose work inspires and carries on those traditions.

Seven performances from five different artists will be presented beginning with ***Lila Downs—Dos Corazones: Día de Muertos*** on Oct 14. The series include three performances of the popular holiday ***Nochebuena, A Christmas Spectacular*** on Dec 16 and 17, ***Leyendas del Mariachi*** on Jan 25, 2024, Buena Vista Social Club guitarist ***Eliades Ochoa*** with special guest jazz pianist ***Harold López-Nussa*** on Feb. 10, 2024 (as part of The Soraya's third-annual Jazz at Naz Festival), and the series will conclude on May 4, 2024, with iconoclastic Chicano performance troupe ***Culture Clash***.

For Event Listings:

Sat Oct 14 | 8pm

[Lila Downs](#)

[Dos Corazones](#)

[Día de Muertos](#)

The Latin folk sensation gives voice to the joyous tradition of Día de Los Muertos. Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles dancers and Downs' windswept melodic voice guide us through the cultural sights and sounds of Mexico's annual communion with the spirits of departed loved ones.

For over three decades, Downs has pursued social justice through music and stayed true to her indigenous Mixtec roots. This recreation of the ancient cultural festival on The Soraya Stage brings family and friends together to carry the light of those we remember into the future.

Sat Dec 16 | 3pm & 8pm

Sun Dec 17 | 3pm

[Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular](#)

[Featuring Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles and Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar](#)

The beloved Soraya Christmas spectacular returns to celebrate the holiday traditions of Mexico. Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar pairs with the Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles to blend music, dance, and culture. Spirited folk tales are shared through a stunning display of vibrant colors and dance as the Mariachi music fills the air.

With a mission to spread a message of brotherhood and harmony, the band WAR was founded at a time when peace was the slogan in an anti-Vietnam America. The revolutionary band celebrates over 50 years of brotherhood with their popular hit songs like “Why Can’t We Be Friends?” and “Low Rider.”

Thu Jan 25 | 8PM

[Leyendas del Mariachi](#)

Mariachi Legends — Leyendas del Mariachi — brings together musical icons from several of the most famous and distinguished mariachi of the past three decades to share The Soraya stage. Exemplifying the beauty and traditions of Mexican music, this rare gathering of exceptional musicians is a true inspiration for generations old and new. The evening will include legendary members from Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, Mariachi Los Camperos, Mariachi Cobre, and Mariachi América de Jesús Rodríguez de Hajar.

Sat Feb 10 | 8pm

Jazz at Naz

[Eliades Ochoa with special guest Harold López-Nussa](#)

Sway to the hazy melodies and poignant rhythms of Cuba during The Soraya’s third-annual Jazz at Naz Festival. Colorful island sounds linger in the air as famed Buena Vista Social Club guitarist Eliades Ochoa brings the music of his homeland to the stage. This master session is a pulse-elevating evening of Latin Jazz you won’t soon forget.

About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, 1,700-seat theatre that opened in 2011 and was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers. In 2017, a transformative gift by Younes and Soraya Nazarian dubbed the venue The Soraya, from its former “Valley Performing Arts Center.” A vibrant performance program has served to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents, and further establish The Soraya as one of the top arts companies in Southern California.

The Soraya’s 2023-24 Season boldly advances the immersive sound of big orchestras; the free flow of jazz; an array of dance, and a cultural bounty drawn from the well of world traditions. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, excelling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect LA’s many distinctive communities and featuring new and original work from the Los Angeles region as well as artists from around the world.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University, Northridge, The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student opportunities in the arts and performing arts. This partnership fosters academic opportunity and artistic excellence, elevating the talents of CSUN’s students.

A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring The Soraya was completed and opened in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya’s Cornerstone Benefactors. The relationship between The Soraya and the Mike Curb College continues to grow, with robust offerings for students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Aida Cuevas, and Martha Graham Dance Company.

Tickets: Tickets range from \$39 to \$109. **For all ticket information visit www.thesoraya.org** or call the Ticket Office at (818) 677-3000

Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: www.thesoraya.org

Phone: 818-677-3000

For tickets and interview requests, please contact:

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