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NEWS RELEASE

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Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular
Returns to The Soraya for its 11th Celebration

Special Guest **Aida Cuevas** Joins
Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles and Mariachi Pueblo Viejo



Four performances Dec. 18-20; Tickets $42+ and are available at TheSoraya.org.

(Los Angeles, CA) (Nov. 19, 2026) —The family tradition of attending a Soraya holiday event continues in the 2026-27 Season, with the 11th edition of ***Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular*** featuring **Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles**. **Mariachi Pueblo Viejo** returns, joining the festivities from its home in Tucson, AZ and in this season of *Nochebuena*, GRAMMY® and Latin GRAMMY®-winning "Queen of Ranchera" Aida Cuevas leads as guest vocalist. Performances will take place on **Fri Dec 18 at 7PM; Sat Dec 19 at 1PM and 7PM; Sun Dec 20 at 1PM.**

Aida has performed at The Soraya seven times previously, and this season marks her *second* in the cast of *Nochebuena*. In December of 2020, The Soraya offered audiences around the region an opportunity to keep the spirit of performing arts alive during the pandemic, with *Nochebuena en Casa*, a streamed holiday event rather than an in-person concert due to in-person restrictions. Hosted by longtime Soraya friend and award-winning producer, artist and director, Dan Guerrero, the virtual concert was lauded as, "a wonderful way to get into the spirit of the holiday with great music, wonderful performers, and the feel of warmth, love and family during the holidays," by *LA Dance Chronicle.*

Six years after this triumphant streaming event, The Soraya is thrilled to have Aida perform with Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles and Mariachi Pueblo Viejo for the 11th-annual ***Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular***, helping to create the musical soundscape that takes us on a journey across the regions of Mexico and the varying traditional dances, costumes, and gatherings on Christmas Eve.

Kareli Montoya, Founder and Artistic Director of Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles, said the purpose of *Nochebuena* was to develop a show that brought in Christmas songs that Mexican Americans would recognize, and present them with Mariachi flair.

"The show has tons of excitement, but it also has a lot of nostalgia," Montoya said. "And I speak for even the families of my students, they have family members who cannot go back and visit their family in Mexico or in other countries — so I feel like a big mark that we make is having those memories come back to them."

Since its first debut in the 2015-16 Season, *Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular* has sold nearly 30,000 tickets, establishing itself as a beloved San Fernando Valley, and LA tradition. Last season, the original production marked a milestone, with four nearly sold-out performances and 6,000 new and returning fans in the Great Hall.

"When I look back, it just makes me feel like this has been the biggest opportunity of my life. To be able to express myself on a stage — but to be able to step on a stage like The Soraya...it is not common," Montoya said. "I'm very, very, very grateful that The Soraya saw potential in us."

About *Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular*

With the 11th celebration of ***Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular***, The Soraya continues its ongoing commitment to being a leader in producing and presenting programs that highlight cultural celebrations and traditions for the diverse audiences across Los Angeles and beyond.

An annual holiday tradition for many, *Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular,* provides captivating entertainment that celebrates Mexico's many vibrant regions and family traditions. Over the past

decade, the event has featured many prominent artists, a practice that will continue in 2026 with "the Queen of Ranchera music," Aida Cuevas.

The Soraya's vast lobby will be transformed for the holidays complete with festive trees, a decorated grand staircase, and photo opportunities. All performances of ***Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular*** include a special menu at concessions—featuring tamales, conchas (Mexican sweet bread), holiday cookies, and Abuelita hot chocolate available for purchase.

For story development and interview requests, please contact:
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Click HERE for your press kit, complete with photos, and press releases.

About Aida Cuevas

With a career spanning more than 50 years, Aída Cuevas is one of the most celebrated voices in traditional Mexican music. Known as "The Queen of Ranchera Music," she has released 35 albums and earned multiple GRAMMY and Latin GRAMMY® nominations and awards, becoming the first woman in mariachi music to win both honors.

Cuevas began performing professionally at a young age and rose to international fame through collaborations with legendary artists including Juan Gabriel and Armando Manzanero. Revered for her powerful voice, authenticity, and dedication to preserving Mexico's musical traditions, she remains one of the genre's most iconic and influential artists.

About Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles

Founded in 2011 by Kareli Montoya, Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles has graced venues including the Anaheim Convention Center, Orpheum Theater, Nokia Theater, Greek Theater, John Anson Ford Amphitheater, Santa Barbara Bowl, Valley Performing Arts Center, Staples Center, Tempe Center for the Arts, and Rady Shell at Jacobs Park. BFLA has worked with musicians Lila Downs, Pepe Aguilar, Mariachi Divas, Mariachi Los Camperos, Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán, Mariachi Vargas, and Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar.

BFLA assisted Disney Studios with the 2017 release of *Coco*, performing Pixar's *Coco Live* at the Hollywood Bowl and on Disney+. They also performed at the 90th Academy Awards with a rendition of *Coco*'s Academy Award winning song, "Remember Me."

Kareli Montoya's professional career began at age fifteen, when she became the youngest dancer to perform at the legendary La Fonda de Los Camperos. She continued her professional dancing career while attending Cal State LA, where she received a bachelor's degree in social work in 2011. Having become a first-generation college graduate, Kareli traveled to Mexico to study with Ballet Folklórico de la Universidad de Colima.

During her time in Colima, Kareli continued to acquire new techniques and a stronger passion for Folklórico which then led her to a return to Los Angeles with the goal of establishing her own professional dance company. From this drive, the Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles and BFLA Performing Arts Academy, currently known as The Academy, were born. She has choreographed for Disney Studios and for the off-Broadway musical *Americano*.

About Mariachi Puebli Viejo

Mariachi Pueblo Viejo was founded in May 2021 by Manuel Ponce with a vision to honor and preserve the authentic musical traditions of Jalisco, Mexico—the birthplace of mariachi. Rooted in a deep respect for the genre's history and artistry, the ensemble was created to bring the timeless sound, elegance, and passion of traditional mariachi to audiences across the Southwest and beyond.

In a remarkably short time, Mariachi Pueblo Viejo has established itself as one of the region's most respected ensembles, earning recognition for its powerful performances, refined musicianship, and unwavering commitment to authenticity. The group has appeared in sold-out performances at The Soraya in Northridge, California, and the historic Tropicana in Las Vegas, captivating audiences with dynamic interpretations of classic mariachi repertoire.

Mariachi Pueblo Viejo has also had the honor of sharing the stage with some of the most celebrated names in mariachi, including Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlán and the Grammy Award–winning Mariachi Los Camperos de Jesús "Chuy" Guzmán. In addition, the ensemble has served as the backing mariachi for internationally recognized artists Camila Fernández and Ximena Sariñana, demonstrating its versatility and ability to collaborate at the highest professional level.

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 one of Los Angeles' most prominent performance venues, recognized globally as the intellectual and cultural hub of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents. The stunning, architecturally significant building was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and launched as the Valley Performing Arts Center in 2011. In 2017, a transformative gift from Los Angeles residents and philanthropists Younes and Soraya Nazarian resulted in the venue being renamed The Soraya.

Today, The Soraya remains committed to innovation and amplifying access by presenting diverse performances representing LA's many distinctive communities, along with new works from local and international artists.

The Soraya's 2026-27 Season continues its journey by presenting the world's finest symphonic orchestras, innovative dance companies, the freestyle and vast vibes of jazz, innovations of dance luminaries, and as always, a vast array of global voices.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), 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 jazz legends Wynton Marsalis and Jason Moran, Queen of Ranchera music Aida Cuevas, superstar violinist Joshua Bell, and the Martha Graham Dance Company whose Centennial Celebration was launched at The Soraya in 2025.

For Calendar Listings: Holiday Programming at The Soraya

Edward Scissorhands Live to Film Concert
With CSUN Symphony
John Roscigno, conductor
Sat Dec 5 | 7PM
Sun Dec 6 | 3PM

Step into the shadowy, surreal universe of Tim Burton's *Edward Scissorhands*, where whimsy walks hand-in-hand with holiday magic. CSUN Symphony brings Danny Elfman's hauntingly beautiful score to life, performing live with Conductor John Roscigno. Lose yourself in the stunning visuals and heartfelt storytelling of this off-kilter modern fairy tale, following Edward (Johnny Depp) and Kim (Winona Ryder) in the story of the gentle outsider with scissors for hands as he navigates love, friendship, family, and the bittersweet challenges of fitting in. *Tickets $48-78*

Spanish Harlem Orchestra
Salsa Navidad
With Special Guest Arturo Sandoval
Sat Dec 12 | 8PM

"Salsa-fy" your holidays with Salsa Navidad, the latest release from three-time GRAMMY®-winning Spanish Harlem Orchestra and special guest the legendary Arturo Sandoval, widely recognized as one of the best trumpet players in the world. Blending traditional Puerto Rican holiday rhythms (plena, bomba, aguinaldo) with the group's signature New York "salsa dura" (hard salsa) sound, Spanish Harlem Orchestra is lauded for its joyful, authentic, and powerful arrangements. The band's latest album is a fresh and unique approach to holiday music and includes American Christmas classics done in a salsa style, with several of the ensemble's original music. *Tickets $43-95*

Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular

With Special Guest Aida Cuevas
Featuring Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles
and Mariachi Pueblo Viejo
Fri Dec 18 | 7PM
Sat Dec 19 | 1PM and 7PM
Sun Dec 20 | 1PM

Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular returns with a Soraya favorite and the Queen of Ranchera, Aida Cuevas — making The Soraya's 11th-annual tradition perhaps the most memorable yet. Experience and enjoy the holiday traditions of Mexico's many regions shared through the vibrant costumes and dances of Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles. Mariachi Pueblo Viejo returns for its third season, performing the musical soundscape that takes us on a journey across the regions of Mexico and their varying traditions on Christmas Eve. *Tickets $42-95*

What: ***Nochebuena: A Christmas Spectacular***
With Special Guest Aida Cuevas
Featuring Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles
and Mariachi Pueblo Viejo

When: Fri Dec 18 | 7PM
Sat Dec 19 | 1PM and 7PM
Sun Dec 20 | 1PM

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

Website: **TheSoraya.org**

Ticket Office: 818-677-3000

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