Right after a triumphant New York premiere, the world’s first mariachi opera returns to Houston Grand Opera, where it was born in 2010.

*Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*—the world’s first mariachi opera—is coming back to Houston on May 17, 19, and 20, 2018.

Here in Texas, mariachi is part of our musical DNA. But for the audiences who experienced the HGO original production of *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* in 2010, the bright sound of a world-class mariachi band combined with the classical voices along with mariachi singers was exotic and new. The reaction proved that a great story and beautiful music can transcend all cultural barriers.

“Cruzar is a moving exploration of emotions that crosses languages and borders, and is both touching and entertaining,” says HGO Managing Director Perryn Leech.

Composed by the late, legendary José “Pepe” Martínez, with a libretto by frequent HGO collaborator Leonard Foglia, *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* (To Cross the Face of the Moon) is one of HGO’s most beloved commissions. For the past eight years, it’s been warmly embraced by international critics and audiences alike.

Since its premiere, the poignant and heartwarming story of three generations of a Mexican-American family and the border that divides them has struck a chord with people all over the world. With stories of immigration and displacement so prevalent in the national conversation, *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* is more timely than ever.

The opera is performed in Spanish and English and features a brilliant cast of opera singers and mariachi stars alike, including the stellar leads from the original 2010 cast: Octavio Moreno as Laurentino, Cecilia Duarte as Renata, and Vanessa Alonzo as Lupita. The Grammy Award–winning ensemble Mariachi Los Camperos plays onstage as the orchestra.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
production that involves opera and mariachi—the music of my country. I can’t wait to bring Cruzar back to its birthplace, and share it with a new Houston audience, as well as with those who have been waiting to see it again!"

The triumphant return of Cruzar la Cara de la Luna is made possible by our generous sponsors, including Bank of America, Novum Energy, Claudia and Roberto Contreras, Isabel and Ignacio Torras, Javier Aguilar, CitiQuest Properties, Glen Rosenbaum, Daniela and Manolo Sánchez, Habitat Construction, and William and Yolanda Knull.

As this community has pulled together in the face of extraordinary circumstances to present an amazing season, the ideas of home, family, and tradition matter to us more than ever before. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to share this beautiful opera with you in May. It’s a production we’re sure you will never forget.

“Bank of America is proud to help bring Cruzar la Cara de la Luna back to Houston, and we’re honored to have been part of this unforgettable production since its premiere in 2010. This work touches the hearts of so many people in our community, and is a testament to HGO’s commitment to telling the stories of Houston through beautiful music.”
—David Ruiz, Bank of America

“It’s wonderful, joyous, life-affirming music. Even when it’s sad, it’s very uplifting. And the story speaks to everyone,” Perryn says. “It’s a universal story about home, and what the idea of home means to different people.”

“This story resonates wherever we go. It is always moving to hear people telling us that they saw their story in this opera,” says mezzo-soprano Cecilia Duarte, who reprises the role of Renata. Along with Moreno and Alonzo, she has performed it not only in the world premiere but also on the HGO tour to Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris and with several U.S. companies, most recently New York City Opera.

“Now more than ever, I feel blessed as an artist to present such a beautiful and unique story,” Duarte continues. “Being an immigrant myself, I am proud of working with HGO, which has been a ‘home away from home,’ in a

To purchase tickets to José “Pepe” Martínez and Leonard Foglia’s Cruzar la Cara de la Luna, visit HGO.org or call 713-228-6737 today!

From Top: Chucho (Miguel de Aranda) and Laurentino (Octavio Moreno) decide to pursue their fortunes in the United States; Renata (Cecilia Duarte) prepares to cross the border to the United States, to reunite her family. Photos by Sarah Shatz, New York City Opera, 2018.

Front Page: Renata (Cecilia Duarte) and Laurentino (Octavio Moreno) celebrate their marriage. Photo by Felix Sanchez, HGO, 2013.
**HONEY, WE’RE HOME!**

We’ll see you back in the Wortham for 2018–19.

We are thrilled to announce that the Wortham Theater Center will be ready in time for our incredible 2018–19 season. We are proud of the work that we've done at the HGO Resilience Theater, and we are so grateful to you for going on this adventure with us—but we can’t wait for our return.

The Wortham is one of the world’s greatest opera houses, but you make it so much more than that. You make it a home. You’re a part of the HGO family, and when our doors open in October, we will be so excited to see you there!

Now is the time to renew your subscription. HGO’s stellar 64th season will be a homecoming to remember—a season of laughs, gasps, tears, and the kind of world-class music you expect from your opera company. With a bold world premiere, vibrant new productions, and some of the most beloved works in the repertoire, the greatest stars in opera today will join us in welcoming you to a truly special season.

You won’t want to miss a minute, so call 713-228-6737 or visit HGO.org to renew or purchase your subscription today!

---

**2018–19 SEASON**

- **WAGNER**
  - *The Flying Dutchman*
  - Oct. 19–Nov. 2, 2018

- **PUCCINI**
  - *La bohème*
  - Oct. 26–Nov. 11, 2018

- **CATÁN**
  - *Florencia en el Amazonas*
  - Jan. 18–Feb. 3, 2019

- **BIZET**
  - *The Pearl Fishers*
  - Jan. 25–Feb. 8, 2019

- **MOZART**
  - *Don Giovanni*
  - Apr. 20–May 5, 2019

  **World Premiere!**
  - TARIK O'REGAN | JOHN CAIRD
  - *The Phoenix*
  - Apr. 26–May 10, 2019

---

**HGO RESILIENCE**

**WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP**

With your help, no storm can stop us. Please consider making an additional gift to aid in HGO’s long journey of recovery from Hurricane Harvey. Houston is strong because we stand together. Please stand with us and help us touch the hearts and minds of everyone who experiences what HGO can make possible—on any stage.

**SEVERAL EASY WAYS TO DONATE:**

- Please visit [HGO.org/Harvey](http://HGO.org/Harvey)
- Mail your gift payable to HGO to: Houston Grand Opera 510 Preston Street Houston, Texas 77002
- Call or email Jennifer Wijangco, director of development, at 713-546-0200 or jwijangco@hgo.org

*“The unspoken story [of HGO’s La traviata] is what happened behind the scenes at Houston Grand Opera after Harvey destroyed their theater in August leaving them stageless...their need to make art was even greater than ever. Opening night was emotional with voices powerful and grateful....A tragic opera that ends in triumph.”*  
—NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt
TURNING PASSION INTO SERVICE

How Michaela and Nicholas Greenan’s love for opera sparked devotion to HGO

HGO Trustees Michaela and Nicholas Greenan are lifelong opera lovers. Michaela is the energy advisory principal at PwC and heads HGO’s Corporate Council, a group of corporate representatives who are passionate about the future of HGO.

Michaela was born in Vienna, where opera is everywhere and schoolchildren regularly attend performances. Nicholas is from England, where a school band director organized a trip for students to see Götterdämmerung when he was 16 years old.

“They took all the seats out to pack in more students. Sitting on the carpet for five hours is not an old man’s game…but my interest grew. The Ring Study Days at HGO took me back to those teenage years. The Wagner music dramas are complicated, so in-depth study is very valuable. The Ring is ambitious and powerful and profound. That’s the power of opera.”

Nicholas loves German opera and has traveled the world to see 12 full Ring cycles, including braving the famously uncomfortable chairs at Bayreuth three times.

One of the aims of the Seeking the Human Spirit initiative is to explore the healing power of music, something the Greenans have witnessed firsthand.

“I had an emergency room visit a couple of months ago, and I found that listening to opera performances on my stereo several times a week afterwards was fantastic escapism,” says Nicholas. “You sit and listen hard to follow what’s going on with the libretto on the iPad, and it takes a lot of mental power—in a good way. It took me out of the real world of treatment and medical stuff. It lets you push away all the problems and concerns and focus on this positive energy.”

Since they became supporters of HGO, the Greenans have enjoyed the warmth and friendship of our community. “People talk about the ‘HGO family,’ and that’s kind of true. If you get involved, you really can meet the people, have a chat, and see what goes into the production to learn how the magic really works.”

We couldn’t have said it better ourselves! We are so fortunate to have Michaela and Nicholas as part of our family.

WHAT OUR AUDITORS SAY ABOUT HGO

Your generous gifts are in good hands.

We take seriously the responsibility to steward the generous gifts that donors make to HGO. There is no substitute for sound financial management and accurate, reliable reporting.

According to the independent auditor’s report provided by Blazek & Vetterling to the HGO Board of Directors:

“In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Houston Grand Opera Association, Inc., as of July 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

Thank you for putting your trust in HGO.
ALAN YORK: SHARING BEAUTY

HGO Trustee Alan York is a native of the Houston area and a renowned appellate lawyer serving clients throughout the country.

He’s also a member of the HGO Laureate Society, a special group of opera lovers who have made commitments to HGO in their estate plans. Alan says that making HGO part of his estate plan was easy and left him with a tremendous sense of satisfaction, knowing that he’s doing his part to support the art form in our community.

“Opera is not only about what we experience; it is also about what we leave behind so others can share that experience,” says Alan. “In my relatively short time being involved with HGO, I know that I have benefited from the generosity of so many who have come before me. Whether through a fully realized Verdi opera or a wonderfully intimate Laureate Society recital, this art form has brought so much beauty and so many new friends into my life. I see it as our responsibility to ensure that opera in Houston remains at the top of the game so that everyone can share in that beauty.”

COME TOUR WITH US!

GARSINGTON & GLYNDEBOURNE
JULY 15–22, 2018

Enjoy the best of English countryside opera festivals at Garsington Opera and Glyndebourne, synonymous with beautiful gardens and great opera.

Garsington Opera
• The Skating Rink  World premiere opera by David Sawer, featuring Neal Davies, Sam Furness, Ben Edquist, and Susan Bickley
• The Magic Flute  Featuring Louise Alder, Benjamin Hulett, Jonathan McGovern, and Iride Martinez

Glyndebourne Festival
• Saul  Featuring Markus Brück and Iestyn Davies
• Pelléas et Mélisande  Featuring Christina Gansch, John Chest, Christopher Purves, and Brindley Sherratt

SANTA FE
AUGUST 14–19, 2018

A perennial favorite of HGO Patrons, this trip features spectacular open-air opera and dinners hosted by fellow HGO Patrons in their beautiful homes. The 2018 trip will coincide with the Santa Fe Indian Market.

Operas Include:
• Candide  Featuring Brenda Rae, Alek Shrader, and Kevin Burdette
• Dr. Atomic  Featuring Ryan McKinney and Julia Bullock
• Madame Butterfly  Featuring Ana María Martínez and Joshua Guerrero

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT HGO.ORG/TRAVEL
Contact Scott Ipsen 713-546-0242  |  sipsen@hgo.org
La traviata
All evening, [Albina] Shagimuratova and [George] Petean embodied the poetry and impact of bel canto singing at its best. They caressed Verdi’s melodies, bringing out the music’s feeling and sheer beauty; their voices welled up full-throatedly when passions exploded.
—Texas Classical Review

Julius Caesar
[C]ast, conductor, and orchestra alike were game to create an extraordinary musical experience to match the extraordinary setting. HGO Artistic Director Patrick Summers led an idiomatic and sensitive performance.
—Houston Chronicle

The House without a Christmas Tree
Houston Grand Opera offers a charming, family-friendly piece, in an alternative performance space, that manages to be heartwarming without being sappy.
—Wall Street Journal