

March.01.2025
5:00/p.m.



CONCURSO NACIONAL
PARA JÓVENES
MEXICANOS
CANTANTES DE
ÓPERA.

NATIONAL CONTEST
FOR YOUNG
MEXICAN OPERA
SINGERS.

XVI

CONCURSO SAN MIGUEL

A beneficio de Ópera de San Miguel, AC

Teatro Ángela Peralta, Mesones 82 | Centro, San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato.



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES
COLONIAL HOMES
SAN MIGUEL



Opera de San Miguel Supporters!

**First & Flagship
Office in Mexico!**

**"#1
REAL ESTATE
BRAND GLOBALLY
BY SALES VOLUME!"**

**ALMA CECILIA RAMIREZ
BROKER**

**GREG GUNTER
BROKER**

OUR SPHERE OF GLOBAL INFLUENCE

THE
WALL STREET
JOURNAL

duPont
REGISTRY

MANSION GLOBAL
ONLY THE EXCEPTIONAL

Netjets

FINANCIAL
TIMES

UNIQUE
HOMES

居外
juwai.com

PRESTIGE

Correo #3, Centro, beside the Jardin, Office: 415-154-4972
BHSColonialHomesSanMiguel.com

A message from the Artistic Director

Dear Angels & Friends:

After celebrating the 20th anniversary of **Ópera de San Miguel** and the 15th **Concurso San Miguel** last year, we did a survey with our Angels and friends entitled "Visions of the future", as well as three focus groups. One of the main takeaways from those inquiries with our donors and sponsors was the suggestion to collaborate with other cultural organizations in San Miguel.

So, on January 5, 2025, we embarked on our first co-sponsored event, at the request of our long-time sponsors and friends, Camino Silvestre's Jim McKeever and Alfredo García-Lucio: a preview of the new opera by composer Derek Bermel and writer Sandra Cisneros, based on her best-selling novel *The House on Mango Street*, which will have its world premiere at the Glimmerglass Festival in New York this summer. The event, that took place at Aguamiel, was a fund-raiser for the **San Miguel Book Fair (Felisma)**.

On January 25 we combined two of our traditional events as one single fund-raiser: the **Mexico-Canada Concert** and the **Baroque Concert** at Santa Amalia ranch, near Comonfort, featuring two past Concurso singers, a OSM Prize winner at **Les Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques** in Montreal, and our very own Santa Amalia Baroque Ensemble.

Speaking of Les Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques, our good friend and long-time judge at Concurso San Miguel, Alain Nonat, sadly passed away on December 31, 2024, after a long illness. We have been notified that his legacy will continue going forward, as will our partnership.

On February 7 and 8, for the very first time, we participated with **Pro Música** and **Ópera Insurgente** in support of their production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, an endeavor we hope to continue going forward, as many of the singers that have participated in these operas for the past 15 years have been alumni of **Concurso San Miguel**.

After this year's 16th Concurso we will continue our outreach with the larger community of

Guanajuato, as the **Teatro del Bicentenario** has - once again invited us to hold our **Winners Recital** in León, on March 15.

Finally, this summer it is our intention to participate once again with a concert at the 3rd **Festival de las Artes de San Miguel (FASMA)**, as an opportunity to extend our presence in beyond our traditional winter season, and reach out to new audiences.

San Miguel de Allende continues to be a hub for culture and the arts in the Bajío region of central Mexico, and **Ópera de San Miguel** will continue on its mission to discover and support the unique and talented voices of young Mexican singers, thanks to the continued support of our Angels, and the hospitality of this historic theater, named after the famous Mexican soprano Ángela Peralta, known as the "Mexican Nightingale", who inaugurated the theater in 1873.

In late 2024 we received applications from 152 singers from 26 of the country's 32 states, and in early January we auditioned 78 of them to select the 8 finalists and 2 special guests you will hear this evening.

Thank you for your support!

Charles Oppenheim
Artistic Director
Ópera de San Miguel AC

© Design by Osvaldo Esquivel



Considered the very first opera in history, *Dafne* by composer Jacopo Peri and librettist Ottavio Rinuccini was premiered at the Palazzo Corsi in Florence during the Carnival of 1597. Based on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, it tells the story of the nymph Daphne, who flees from the Olympian deity Apollo when he falls in love with her, and she turns into a laurel tree, becoming the symbol of poetry, music and freedom.



ÓPERA DE SAN MIGUEL, AC (OSM) is devoted to discovering and nurturing the careers of Mexico's most talented and promising young opera singers. Through **Concurso San Miguel**, OSM promotes the professional aspirations of young artists through scholarships for advanced study, career development and performing opportunities, providing professional mentoring, and awarding cash prizes at its annual voice competition. Since the first Concurso in 2008, **Ópera de San Miguel** has become one of the most recognized opera competitions in the country for promoting the careers of young Mexican singers.

All funds that support the work of **Ópera de San Miguel** are raised privately with donations from individuals and local business sponsors in San Miguel de Allende. Our major donors are the **Angels of Ópera de San Miguel**, the backbone of our programs.

More than 200 past finalists and winners of **Concurso San Miguel** have achieved a level of national and international success that was previously unheard of for Mexican singers. Our singers have made their debuts at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and other important venues across the country, as well as in theaters in the U.S. such as the Metropolitan Opera of New York, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, San Francisco and Santa Fe, among other American cities; in Canada they have appeared in Banff, Haliburton, Montreal, Quebec and Toronto; in Europe: Aachen, Barcelona, Basel, Bologna, Eisenach, Hannover, Innsbruck, Lubeck, Meiningen, Naples, Regensburg, Stuttgart, Taormina, Zurich... throughout the Netherlands, and even Abu Dhabi.

These young singers have given concerts in Amsterdam, Bratislava, Istanbul, Moscow and several cities in China. In addition, several OSM alumni have received full scholarships to the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia (AVA), the Ryan Opera Center in Chicago, and have participated in several young artist programs, from Los Angeles, California, to Valencia, Spain, and in voice contests such as the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition in New York, the Carlo Morelli National Competition in Mexico City, and the Maria Callas Competition in São Paulo, Brazil.

These results could not be boasted if it were not for the generosity of the **Angels of Ópera de San Miguel**. In appreciation of their support, they all receive priority seating not only for the Concurso but for all the concerts and fund-raisers we organize during our winter season, among other benefits.

We gladly accept all donations, but we especially invite you to consider joining our Angels program for a minimum contribution of \$1,000 US dollars. In addition, U.S. citizens who contribute through the **San Miguel Community Foundation** receive an annual tax-deductible receipt that they can submit with their annual return. Similarly, Canadians who donate through **Amistad Canada** receive an equivalent tax benefit.

For more information, contact **Ópera de San Miguel** executive director Daniela Ahlenius: dahlenius@operadesanmiguel.org, and explore our website: <https://www.operadesanmiguel.org/>

Angels of Ópera de San Miguel

The Angels are the driving force behind the success of **Ópera de San Miguel** and its Concurso. The remarkable generosity of this group of major donors makes possible the dreams of the extraordinarily gifted young singers we will hear tonight.

Thanks to our Angels' donations, **Ópera de San Miguel** is able to provide practical educational and career assistance to these worthy artists through monetary grants, international-quality mentoring, scholarships and performance opportunities.

Our Angels have helped launch the careers of Mexican opera singers that have participated in **Concurso San Miguel** and have made our community one of the cultural cornerstones of Mexico.

The future of **Ópera de San Miguel**, and indeed the future of our extraordinary singers, depend on the support of our Angels.

We invite you to join us in this crucial mission.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Angels of this **Concurso San Miguel XVI**, whose names are listed on the next page.

To become an **Angel of Ópera de San Miguel** or for more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.operadesanmiguel.org/en/angelesdelaopera>



BE AN ANGEL!

**To keep track of your contributions,
please notify us at:**

dahlenius@operadesanmiguel.org



Canadian donors, please visit
<https://www.amistadcanada.org/donate/>
for details regarding the several procedures
available for donations to **Ópera de San Miguel**, or write to
donations@amistadcanada.org

ANGELS**Archangels: \$10,000 USD +**

Álvaro Nieto

Seraphim: \$5,000 USD +

Adriana and Stephan Benediktson

Teresa González de Usabiaga

Eleanor and Bernard Hilberman

Margah and Thomas Lips

Teresa Orantes and Luis Javier Usabiaga

Gold Angels: \$2,500 USD +

Joy Levine

Silver Angels: \$1,500 USD +

Christa Green

Janet Jarman and Filip Lein

Nicole and Peter Mills

Bunny Serlin and Austin Briggs

Maggie Woodley

Angels: \$1,000 USD +

Leticia Barba

Carla Carlsen and Winfried Boedecker

Leona and Art DeFehr

Judith and Jack Hadlock

Dennice and Stephen Leahey

Pat Lenz

Eva and Lynn Maddox

Jim McKeever and Alfredo García Lucio

Jenny and Gregory Mayer

Mayumi Miyamatsu and David Goadby

Elisa Nieto and Sergio Covarrubias

Gabriela Pablos and Guillermo Nieto

Elizabeth & Jym Scott

Lauren Sevrin

Susan and Howard Swartz

Victoria and Lee Tashjian

Betty Ann Taylor and Margot Young

Emily Toby and Ken Hazlett

Carolyn Weicker and Robert Seiffert

Wendy Wright and Mel Kliman

Ineffable Vineyards

Fan Club: \$500 USD +

John Murtaugh

Melissa Hirsch

Friends of OSM: \$100 USD +

Anonymous donation — Amistad Canada

Cindy and David Barr

Mark O'Neill

FULL SCHOLARSHIPS**The Banff Arts Centre Award**

Full scholarship to attend the summer 2025 Chamber Music and Opera residency for three weeks in the Canadian Rockies of Alberta. Sponsored by Adriana and Stephan Benediktson.

The Highlands Opera Studio Award

Full scholarship to attend the summer 2025 HOS in Haliburton, Ontario. Sponsored by: Anne and Anthony Arrell, Blanche and Neil Carragher, Sue Lowe, Susan McKenzie, Nicole and Peter Mills, Mayumi Miyamatsu and David Goadby, SueAnn Wickwire and Steve Headford, Susan and Howard Swartz, and James Wright. Joy Levine, transportation sponsor.

The Steans Music Institute Award

Full scholarship to attend a summer 2025 fellowship at the Ravinia Center, Illinois. Sponsored by Kevin Murphy and represented by Cori Ellison.

Fundación Arte Contra La Violencia Award

Full scholarship for a diploma program specializing in Mexican Opera, and participation in a program for creating new opera as a soloist singer for season 2026-2027. Sponsored by Dr. Enid Negrete.

EXPLORING THE LUXURY OF SLOW LIVING—ONE PAGE AT A TIME. ARCHI VOBSOLETO.COM



Obsoleto.

An *enduring archive* of art, culture, and lifestyle. A unique *print and digital* publication that celebrates *the luxury of slow living*—the art of a good life. From *bold fashion* statements to emerging *artistic expressions*, we are a living archive that documents and promotes *the cultural evolution of a modern and authentic Mexico*. We capture the pulse of contemporary culture through stories and narratives rich in meaning.

THE RESTAURANT



**IN HOUSE
EVENTS & OFF
SITE CATERING
AVAILABLE**



Sollano 16, Centro. SMA • +52 (415) 154.7877

@therestaurantsma • therestaurantsanmiguel.com

Sun-Tues-Wed 12-10pm • Thurs-Fri-Sat 12-11pm

SPECIAL PRIZE SPONSORS

Les Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques Award

One-week in Montreal in the autumn of 2025 to sing in a concert and audition for more than 12 opera directors from 10 countries, for cash prizes and performance opportunities. Sponsored by Vanessa Nonat in memory of her father, Alain Nonat, and represented by Jens Neundorff von Enzberg.

The Meiningen-Eisenach Award

One-week in the spring of 2026 in Germany, for vocal lessons, rehearsals and participation in a concert. Sponsored by Jens Neundorff von Enzberg.

The Maria Callas Competition Award:

Direct pass to the semi-final stage of the 2026 Maria Callas Singing Competition in São Paulo, Brazil, in the spring of 2026. Sponsored by Paulo Esper.

Morelli Competition Award:

Direct passage to the semi-final phase of the 42nd anniversary of the Carlo Morelli National Singing Contest in Mexico City, in the summer of 2025. Sponsored by Francisco Méndez Padilla.

The Escena 77 Producciones Award:

An invitation to a Concurso finalist to sing a role in an opera production for the 2026 season, including fee, room and board. Sponsored by Patricia Pérez Aguilar.

The Pro Música Award: An invitation to a Concurso finalist to sing in an upcoming event during the 2025-2026 season of Pro Música de San Miguel de Allende, including fee, transportation within Mexico and accommodation. Sponsored by Pro Música President, Michael Pearl.

The Iván López Reynoso Award: Consists of three work sessions on how to build an operatic character, with the former musical director of the Bellas Artes Opera. Sponsored by Iván López Reynoso.

The Grupo Árinder Awards: One year of contractual legal counsel for all eight finalists. Sponsored by Jorge Arturo Alcázar.

CASH PRIZES (pesos)

\$ 75,000: The Maestro John Bills 1st Prize

\$ 50,000: The Amistad Canada 2nd Prize

\$ 25,000: The Angels of OSM 3rd Prize

\$ 20,000: The Pro Ópera Audience Prize

\$ 15,000: The Opera de San Luis Award

Ángel Gómez, 27, Countertenor, Acapulco

Rodolfo Ituarte, 26, Baritone, Tijuana

Alejandro Hernández Pacheco, 26, Tenor, Mazatlán

Mayela López, 32, Mezzo-Soprano, Guadalajara

Ana Paula Espinoza Pavlovich, 23, Soprano, Hermosillo

CONCURSO SAN MIGUEL XVI FINALISTS



SPECIAL GUESTS





Jacqueline del Rocío Medina, 26, Soprano, San Luis Potosí



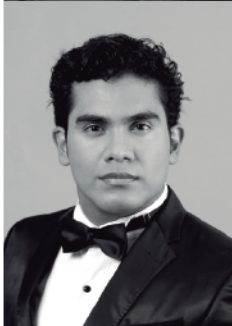
Teresita del Carmen Mena, 28, Mezzo-Soprano, Mexico City



Génesis Moreno, 30, Soprano, Venezuela



Élide Rocha, 28, Mezzo-Soprano, Torreón



Brandon Rufino Casstillo, 25, Tenor, Acámbaro

CONCURSO SAN MIGUEL XVI FINALISTS

SPECIAL GUESTS

The Opera de San Miguel Master Teacher Program

A unique feature of Concurso San Miguel, the Master Teacher Program gives our finalists the opportunity to work with international opera figures through Master Classes, career advice and mentoring. The insights that our Master Teachers impart, gained from their extensive professional careers, are an invaluable experience to the contestants.

Jane Bunnell Master Teacher

Mezzo-soprano **Jane Bunnell** joined the faculty of Michigan State University's College of Music in August 2015 as professor of voice. She has enjoyed an illustrious international career for 40 years. She has an especially long association with the Metropolitan Opera where she has sung 30 roles in more than 420 performances, including new productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Otello*, *Les Troyens*, *Faust*, and *Romeo et Juliette*, and the Met premieres of Nico Muhly's *Marnie*, Britten's *A Midsummer Nights' Dream* and Wolf-Ferrari's *Sly*. She has also recorded with the Met for Sony/BMG and has toured Europe and Japan. She is frequently heard on Sirius XM radio.

She has sung with the opera companies of Toulouse, Vienna, Cologne, Schwetzingen and the Bellas Artes Opera in Mexico, and with American companies as Houston Grand Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Diego Opera, Minnesota Opera, Florida Grand Opera and New York City Opera.



Ms. Bunnell has collaborated with such notable conductors as James Levine, Valery Gergiev, Seiji Ozawa, and Robert Shaw. She has appeared in concert with the Boston Symphony, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, and the Minnesota Orchestra.

Ms. Bunnell was on the faculty of New York University for nine years before joining the faculty at DePaul University from 2006 to 2015. Her students have sung with the Metropolitan Opera, Opera Toledo, and Dayton Opera, and they have been young artists at the Ryan Center in Chicago, LA Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Milwaukee Opera, and Opera Madison in Wisconsin as well as creating new music in LA and New York.

Mario Alberto Hernández Resident Pianist

Mario Alberto has been OSM's Resident Pianist since its inception in 2008. His inexhaustible energy, talent as a pianist, vast knowledge of operatic repertoire and style, and unique ability to communicate with singers have made him an invaluable member of our team. Maestro Mario Alberto has been a Piano Accompanist and Assistant Conductor of the Festival Internacional Cervantino, the Festival of Sinaloa, and the Mexico City Festival. He served on the faculty of the Bellas Artes Superior School of Music, in Mexico City, for 34 years.



¡LOS INVITAMOS A CONOCERNOS!

www.proopera.org.mx

APOYAMOS Y DIFUNDIMOS LA ÓPERA
EN MÉXICO DESDE HACE MÁS DE
TRES DÉCADAS.

Nuestra programación incluye **conferencias virtuales** así
como **actividades presenciales**.



VIAJES OPERÍSTICOS

Organizamos viajes
grupales en México y
el extranjero.



CONFERENCIAS

Cada mes ofrecemos un ciclo de
conferencias en torno a los títulos,
autores y efemérides más destacados,
así como el club *Ópera en casa* que
se desarrolla a lo largo del año.



BOLETOS

Servicio de reservación
de boletos para
actividades operísticas
en México.

for the
pleasure of
good travel



WE ARE A FAMILY GROUP PROVIDING
RELIABLE, SAFE AND COURTEOUS
TRANSPORTATION AND TOURS.



(415)121 2540 / (415)103 5353

E-MAIL: OTBESTUR@YAHOO.COM

WWW.BESTURMEXICO.COM

THE JUDGES

Cori Ellison has served as Staff Dramaturg at Santa Fe Opera, the Glyndebourne Festival, and the New York City Opera. Active in developing contemporary opera, she leads Opera Lab, a unique practical training program for composers, librettists, and performers at the Juilliard School, where she serves on the Vocal Arts faculty. She is a founding faculty member of American Lyric Theater's Composer Librettist Development Program, and has participated in the Yale Institute for Music Theatre. She has served as production dramaturg for several projects in the United States and Salzburg. She is a faculty member at the Ravinia Steans Music Institute Program for Singers and has taught and lectured for schools, performance venues, and media outlets worldwide. She creates supertitles for opera companies across the English-speaking world, and helped launch the Met Titles simultaneous translation system. She has often written for the *New York Times* and has contributed to books including *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera* and *The Compleat Mozart*.



Jens Neundorff von Enzberg studied musicology, theater marketing and cultural sciences in Berlin and Leipzig. In 1992 he started working as a dramaturg for all genres at the South Thuringian State Theater in Meiningen. In 1996 he moved to the Semperoper in Dresden where he also worked as a dramaturg. In addition, he was entrusted with the artistic direction of the "*kleine szene*": the experimental stage of the Semperoper. From 2000 to 2007, Jens was chief dramaturg for music theater and a member of the artistic direction of the Bonn Theater as well as artistic director of the experimental music theater series "*Bonn chance!*" From the seasons 2007-08 to 2011-12, Jens worked as opera director and music theater dramaturg at the Braunschweig State Theater. At the beginning of the 2012-13 season, he became intendant at the Regensburg Theater and headed the five-section theater with great artistic and economic success until 2020-21. Since the beginning of the 2021-22 season, Jens Neundorff von Enzberg has been the intendant of the Meiningen and Eisenach State Theaters.

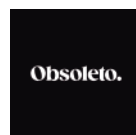


Artistic Director

Charles Oppenheim has a degree in Communication from the Ibero-American University in Mexico City, and has worked as a journalist and a translator for 47 years in magazines, newspapers, radio, television and the Internet. He has been the editorial director of *Pro Ópera* since 1997, now an online platform published in Spanish in Mexico City: www.proopera.org.mx. In parallel to his journalistic career, he has participated as an actor in plays, films and TV series. As an opera singer since 2003 he has participated in many recitals and concerts. Since his debut at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City in 2005, he has sung over 40 operatic roles for bass, mainly by composers such as Donizetti, Mozart, Rossini and Verdi, as well as 12 symphonic works and oratorios, in the main theaters and with the principal orchestras of Mexico. He has also been a judge, a member of the audition team, a simultaneous translator, and an advisory board member of the Concurso San Miguel since 2013, and is the artistic director of Opera de San Miguel since 2020.



Opera San Miguel gratefully salutes our artistic sponsors and charity organizations:



Opera San Miguel gratefully salutes our corporate sponsors:



To access this **Concurso San Miguel 2025** program in Spanish, please scan here:

Para acceder al programa de este Concurso San Miguel 2024 en español, favor de escanear aquí:



Acknowledgements

An event like this cannot occur without the tireless help of many dedicated people. I want to express my sincere thanks to: the families who hosted our 10 singers this year; our hosting coordinator **Carla Carlsen**, our master-teacher **Jane Bunnell**, our resident pianist **Mario Alberto Hernández**; and our judges **Cori Ellison**, and **Jens Neundorff von Enzberg**, for their dedication to our young singers and their devotion to this Concurso.

I would also like to thank our webmaster, cover designer, photographer, videographer and community manager **Oswaldo Esquivel**, our back-stage manager **Jim Wright**, **Juan Carlos Lozano** and the staff at the Ángela Peralta Theater, **Kathleen Ellsworth** and the ushers who volunteered to help us with the seating arrangements

Special thanks to the President of OSM, **Alvaro Nieto**, and our Executive, Director, **Daniela Ahlenius**.

Thank you to the sponsors of this year's scholarships and awards.

And many thanks to our Angels who make all this possible.

Charles Oppenheim



Board of Directors

Álvaro Nieto

President

Elisa Nieto

Secretary

Ali Watson

Treasurer

Charles Oppenheim

Artistic Director

Daniela Ahlenius

Executive Director



Un bel dì, vedremo...

One fine day, we'll see...

Un hermoso día, veremos...

Madama Butterfly
Giacomo Puccini



