

Chopin festival again fills Chamizal with fall series of piano concerts

The El Paso Chopin Piano Festival has consistently offered free, high-caliber piano performances for nearly a quarter of a century. This 24th season is no exception. Eric Zuber performs on Sept. 22, Richard Dowling Oct. 6, and once more winding up the festival Oct. 20 is festival founder and director Lucy Scarbrough.

Zuber has won major prizes from ten of the world's most prestigious international piano competitions. He is also a two-time recipient of the Gina Bachauer Prize at Juilliard—one of only a handful of pianists in the school's history to have won the award in two consecutive years. The New York Times has called him “an especially impressive fine pianist,” and many of his career highlights have been in New York venues such as Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and Steinway Hall.

Zuber will perform Chopin's Preludes, Op. 28, Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise, Op. 22, as well as Beethoven's Sonata Op. 53 in C Major.

Dowling appears regularly across America in solo recitals, at chamber music festivals, ragtime and jazz music festivals, and as guest soloist with symphony orchestras. He is the first pianist in the world to perform the complete cycle of Joplin's 53 rags, marches, waltzes, and cakewalks in public. The National Federation of Music Clubs

honored for his outstanding performances of American music.

Dowling will perform “The Teenage Chopin,” masterpieces composed by Chopin between ages 14-19.

In addition to her work with the festival, Scarbrough is founder and director of the El Paso Civic Orchestra. The New Mexico native, who trained at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago and later taught at Chicago Musical College, has served three times on the Chopin Foundation of the United States' Selection Jury for the National Chopin Competitions.

Evanston Symphony conductor Hans Levy Heniot has described Scarbrough as a “highly respected musician,” adding “when she is going to perform, we know the Recital Hall will be filled.”

Scarbrough says she founded the festival because of Chopin's tremendous influence on the music world.

“Frederic Chopin was one of the great world ambassadors. His music is truly a universal language of beauty that knows no barriers of nation or culture.”

All performances are at 7 p.m. on Saturdays at Chamizal National Memorial, 800 S. San Marcial.

Admission is free, but people are advised to arrive early; concerts are almost always standing room only. For information: elpaso-chopin.com.

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Benise: Fuego! The Spirit of Spain

The Emmy-winning prince of Spanish guitar performs at 7 p.m. Wednesday, **Oct. 3**, at Spencer Theater in Alto, N.M. with a cast of dancers and band of musicians. Tickets: \$35-\$79. Information: (888) 818-7872, (575) 336-4800 or spencertheater.com.

'The World Goes 'Round'

No Strings Theatre Company presents the musical revue by Kander and Ebb **Oct. 5-21** at Black Box Theatre, 430 N Downtown Mall, in Las Cruces. Directed by Nora Thomas-Medina. Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., 2:30 p.m. Sunday Oct. 14 and 21; and 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18. Tickets: \$15 (\$12 students and seniors over 65; \$10 all seats Thursday. Reservations: (575) 523-1223.

The nonstop hit parade features unforgettable gems from “Cabaret” to “Chicago,” including “Mr. Cellophane,” “Maybe This Time,” and “New York, New York.”

El Paso Chopin Piano Festival

The 24th annual series of piano concerts are at 7 p.m. at the Chamizal National Memorial. Admission is free, but people are advised to arrive early; concerts are almost always standing room only. Information: chopinfest@sbc-global.net or elpaso-chopin.com.

Saturday, **Oct. 6**: Richard Dowling. Dowling appears regularly across America in solo recitals, at chamber music festivals, ragtime/jazz music festivals, and as guest soloist with symphony orchestras. He is the first pianist in the world to perform the complete cycle of Joplin's 53 rags, marches, waltzes, and cakewalks in public.

'Jazz at Lincoln Center' with Wynton Marsalis

Nine-time Grammy Award winning musical artist Wynton Marsalis performs at a special El Paso Pro-Musica fundraising concert featuring the music of Duke Ellington at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, **Oct. 6**, at First Baptist Church, 805 Montana. Wynton Marsalis is the only musician to receive Grammy's for work in both Classical and Jazz categories. Performance sold out at press time. Information: 747-8163 or eppm.org.

LCSO with Philippe Quint

Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lonnie Klein, opens its season with the guest violinist at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, **Oct. 6-7**, at NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall, featuring “La Quattro Stagioni” by Piazzolla and “Bachianas Brasileiras No. 7 by Villa Lobos. Tickets: \$35, \$40 and \$45. Information: (575) 646-3709, lascrucessymphony.com.

'Disney's The Little Mermaid'

Kids-N-Co. opens its season **Oct. 6-21**, at First Presbyterian Church, directed by Justin Hogue. The play features music by Howard Ashman, Glenn Slater and Alan Menken, with book by Doug Wright. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$7 (\$5 children, students, senior citizens, military), available at the door. Information: 274-8797 or on Facebook at El Paso Kids-n-Co.

'Why Would I Mispronounce My Own Name?'

No Strings Theater Company presents Irma Herrera's solo show, a new work that weaves history and comedic insights into stories about names, shedding light and throwing shade on societal prejudices and assumptions, at 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday, **Oct. 7**, at the Black Box Theater, 430 N. Main in Las Cruces. Free post-show talkback following both performances. Tickets: \$10-\$15; available at no-strings.org. Information: (575) 523-1223.

The Malpass Brothers — Grant County Community Concert Association opens its season with the retro traditional country artists at 3 p.m. Sunday, **Oct. 7**, at WNMU Fine Arts Auditorium in Silver City. Tickets: \$20. Information: (575) 538-5862 or gconcerts.org.

Hotel California

The Eagles Tribute opens the 2018/2019 Premier Series 7 p.m. Monday, **Oct. 8**, at Flickinger Center for Performing Arts in Alamogordo. Tickets: \$18, \$30 and \$40. Information: (575) 437-2202 or flickingercenter.com.

UTEP Choirs

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, **Oct. 9**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606 or utep.edu/liberalarts/music/.

Ballet Folklórico de México

Forty folklorico dancers and 20 mariachi musicians unveil a rich tapestry of national traditions at 7 p.m. Wednesday, **Oct. 10**, at Spencer Theater in Alto, N.M. Tickets: \$39-\$65. Information: (888) 818-7872, (575) 336-4800 or spencertheater.com

Commercial Music Ensemble

UTEP Department of Music presents the ensemble at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, **Oct. 11**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall. Ticket information: 747-5606 or utep.edu/liberalarts/music/.

Ecclesiastical Choral

UTEP Department of Music choral performs world music from Lebanon at 7:30 p.m. Friday, **Oct. 12**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

'Young Frankenstein'

UTEP Dinner Theatre opens its season with the Mel Brooks musical comedy **Oct. 12-28**. This musical re-imagining of the Frankenstein legend follows young Dr. Frankenstein and Igor as they attempt to create a monster. Show time is 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; non-dinner matinees are Sunday 1:30 p.m. Oct. 21 and 28; dinner matinee is 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14. Tickets: \$33.50 to \$43.50 Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday discount dinner performances; \$36.50 to \$48.50 (Friday and Saturday dinner performances), and \$19.50 to \$29.50 no-dinner matinee performances (Ticketmaster). Information: 747-6060 or utep.edu/udt.

Shakespeare on the Rocks

Shakespeare on the Rocks 30th season continues at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, **Oct. 13-14**, at the Chamizal National Memorial, with “The Comedy of Errors,” directed by Megan O'Toole-Pitts. This comedy about two sets of twins begins with mistaken identities and ends with the triumph of love and reconciliation. Tickets: \$10 (\$8 for full-time students with valid id, seniors 65 and older, active military; \$6 group rate, 10 or more. Information: 474-4275, dmills@elp.rr.com, shakespeareontherocks.com or on Facebook.

Black on Brown: African Influence on Latin American Guitar Music

UTEP Department of Music presents an evening of discussion and music with John Siqueiros, Dena Kay Jones and Felipa Solis at 7 p.m. Wednesday, **Oct. 17**, at Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall, as part of Hispanic Heritage Month events. Ticket information: 747-5606 or utep.edu/liberalarts/music/.

EPSO's 'Fire and Blood'

El Paso Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bohuslav Rattay, presents guest violinist Chloe Trevor at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, **Oct. 19-20**, in the Plaza Theatre. Selections include Michael Daugherty's “Fire and Blood” and

Opera opens 25th season with new artistic director

The El Paso Opera's 25th anniversary season in 2018-2019 will include a new look for publicity, a new artistic director, and a new type of opera for their spring production.

The Opera has announced “lots of exciting things planned” this year, including a brand transformation with a new logo and image.

They are also proud to announce a new Artistic Director, Justin Lucero. An El Paso native, Lucero has been with El Paso Opera for seven seasons in a variety of capacities and everyone at the Opera is “thrilled to have him provide our artistic direction.”

This 25th season begins with Encores & Overtures Saturday, Sept. 15, at El Paso Country Club, which highlights the coming season. The elegant evening will feature cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner and live performances headlined by bass-baritone Ricardo Herrera.

Herrera is a graduate of UTEP and Juilliard School. He is currently a member of the Voice Faculty at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and served for seven years as Director of the Opera Studio.

This season's performances begin 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 11-12, with “Mozart's The Magic Flute: In Concert” at El Paso Scottish Rite Theatre.

This will be a semi-staged, concert version of Mozart's classical opera. “The Magic Flute” was a part of El Paso Opera's very first season, so it seems the perfect time to bring back this beloved classic tale of love and good versus evil.

The season's grand production is a unique performance that El Paso Opera describes as a gift for the community in celebration of its 25th year. At 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 5- 6, at the Abraham Chavez Theatre, the Opera presents “Cruzar la Cara de la Luna.”

The world's first mariachi opera is a beautiful blend of both opera and mariachi, and will feature the world-renowned, Grammy-winning Mariachi Los Camperos. Mariachi and opera are both musical forms of storytelling and blending them together creates a wonderful musical experience, El Paso Opera officials said.

“Cruzar la Cara de la Luna” is a tale of three generations of a family separated by countries and cultures. Originally staged for Houston Grand Opera, the production has also been performed in New York, Fort Worth, Chicago, Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Season tickets go on sale Oct. 1 through the El Paso Opera office at 259-4999 or info@epopera.org.

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