



For Immediate Release

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## Michigan Opera Theatre Opens 2017-18 Dance Season with Ballet Hispánico

*Program to feature all Latina women choreographers*

*Oct. 28-29 at the Detroit Opera House*

Detroit, Oct. 5, 2017 - Michigan Opera Theatre opens its 2017-18 dance season with [Ballet Hispánico](#), the premier Latino dance organization in the United States. The company celebrates Hispanic culture through dance and will bring a program featuring all-female choreographers with works that explore flamenco, Mexican heritage and the circularity of the human condition. MOT will present two performances: Saturday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 29 at 2:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House.

"Ballet Hispánico's passionate movement and spirited music will enthrall audiences of all backgrounds," said MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord. "We are excited to present this incredible dance company that showcases and explores Hispanic culture."

MOT CEO Wayne Brown said presenting Ballet Hispánico is part of MOT's commitment to diversity.

"Throughout its history, Michigan Opera Theatre has presented and produced a variety of dance and opera productions that represent and serve the diverse cultures of Detroit," he said. "With Ballet Hispánico, we are proud to celebrate our Latino community with exciting works that highlight different aspects of the Hispanic experience."

Ballet Hispánico will open its program with "Linea Recta" by choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and will be performed to an original guitar composition by Eric Vaarzon Morel. The flamenco work explores the dance style's conspicuous absence of physical contact between dancers while maintaining the passionate communication between the sexes.

"Con Brazos Abiertos," a work choreographed by Michelle Manzanales, is a fun and frank look at a life caught between two cultures. The dance showcases Manzanales' experience as a Mexican-American child and explores the iconic Mexican symbols she grew up with, intertwining folkloric details with a distinctly contemporary voice in dance. The piece is set to music that ranges from Julio Iglesias to rock en español.

"We are thrilled that Ballet Hispánico will be performing at the Michigan Opera Theatre and excited to present the work of three extraordinary Latina choreographers," said Eduardo Vilaro, Artistic Director and CEO of Ballet Hispánico.

The performance will conclude with "Catorce Dieciséis," choreographed by Tania Pérez-Salas. The work draws inspiration from the number Pi to reflect on the circularity of the movement through life. It features intense theatricality and imagery set to music by Antonio Vivaldi and other Baroque composers.

In addition to the performance, Ballet Hispánico will offer a master class the morning of the Oct. 28 performance from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House Margo V. Cohen Dance Studio. The class is open to intermediate to advanced level dance students ages 13 and up. Attendance is \$25 or free with a corresponding performance ticket. Pre-registration is required and can be done via email at [dance@motopera.org](mailto:dance@motopera.org) or via phone at (313) 237-3251.

The 2017-18 dance season is made possible by the Lear Corporation.

Tickets for the ballet are \$29-\$89 and may be purchased online at [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org), by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

For more information visit: <http://www.michiganopera.org/dance/ballet-hispanico/>.

## **Ballet Hispánico**

*At the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit*

Saturday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 2:30 p.m.

## **About Michigan Opera Theatre**

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Stephen Lord, Principal Conductor, Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus), one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. Visit the website at [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org).

## **About Ballet Hispánico**

Ballet Hispánico, the premier Latino dance organization in the United States, brings individuals and communities together to celebrate and explore Latino cultures through dance. Whether dancing on stage, in school, or in the street, Ballet Hispánico creates a space where few institutions are breaking ground.

The organization's founder, National Medal of Arts recipient Tina Ramirez, sought to give voice to the Hispanic experience and break through stereotypes. Today Ballet Hispánico is led

by Eduardo Vilaro, an acclaimed choreographer and former member of the Company, whose vision of social equity, cultural identity and quality arts education for all, drives its programs.

Ballet Hispánico, a role model in and for the Latino community, is inspiring creativity and social awareness in our neighborhoods and across the country by providing access to arts education.