



## **Teatro Real, The Dallas Opera, and Meadows Museum Announce Innovative Partnership**

### ***New collaboration to yield cross-cultural exchange between Spanish and U.S. institutions, drawing together the visual and performing arts***

MADRID (Nov. 11, 2020)— Today the Teatro Real, The Dallas Opera, and the Meadows Museum, SMU announced plans for a new framework of cultural cooperation and social exchange among the three organizations. The accord is the first-ever between the two opera companies, and breaks new ground by establishing a long-term, interdisciplinary collaboration with a museum as a visual arts partner. Meadows Museum Director Mark A. Roglán, Dallas Opera General Director Ian Derrer, and Teatro Real Director General Ignacio García-Belenguer finalized their plans in a ceremony held at 1:00 p.m. at the Teatro Real Opera House, capping off Teatro Real's two-year-long bicentennial celebration.

Honorary Consul of Spain in Dallas Janet Kafka, who was a catalyst for the project and fostered the relationships among the parties, stated "This agreement is a great example of cultural diplomacy and how the exchange in the visual and performing arts among nations and their people serves as a conduit to foster international understanding."

A Joint Coordination Committee consisting of two representatives from each institution will be formed to advance specific activities and projects under the agreement. These include, but are not limited to:

- The cross-promotion of operas, concerts, musical and theatrical performances, and museum collections and exhibitions among the audiences of the three institutions
- Exhibition development with special attention and commitment to the performing arts
- Research and study projects
- Visits by professionals and patrons
- Publications
- Lectures, workshops, seminars, and special events

Early discussions have already begun to form some specific initiatives for spring 2020, when the Meadows Museum will present [\*Alonso Berruguete: First Sculptor of Renaissance Spain\*](#) (March 29–July 26) and The Dallas Opera will present Verdi's [\*Don Carlo\*](#) (March 20, 22, 25, 28) and Rossini's [\*The Barber of Seville\*](#) (April 24, 26, 29; May 2, 8, 10). Named court painter to Charles V (the real-life Don Carlo's grandfather), Berruguete was intimately connected with the Habsburg royal family, which included Charles's son Philip II (one of the main characters in the opera); additionally, the Meadows Museum's collection has a significant concentration of work by Sevillian artists, including Diego Velázquez and Bartolomé Esteban Murillo. Educational

programs are being planned for both venues that will elucidate the art historical and cultural connections between them, and the Meadows Museum has authorized the use of images from its permanent collection within The Dallas Opera production of *Don Carlo* and marketing materials. Soloists from The Dallas Opera will perform at selected Meadows Museum events, and both organizations are exploring ways for their patrons to discover what the other has to offer, whether that be through mutual ticket discounts, behind-the-scenes events, and more.

“The diverse and rich history of Spain has captured the artistic imagination for many centuries,” remarked Dallas Opera General Director Ian Derrer. “Composers, librettists, and designers of opera have all found tremendous inspiration there. Naturally, our seasons often include works that underscore the inspirations of Spain’s passion, romance, and exceptional heritage.”

"Bringing our three organizations together in this collaboration offers a remarkable opportunity for imagination, for those working in our institutions and for the audiences we serve in Dallas, Madrid, and around the world," said Roglán. "The histories of opera performance and the visual arts are intimately connected. Without the sets and costumes so often inspired by paintings, the canvas of the stage would look incomplete. Likewise, opera houses and famous singers and dancers have inspired painters and photographers seeking to capture the beauty, power, and inspiration of performance."

Teatro Real General Director Ignacio García-Belenguer stated that, “This agreement is part of our firm commitment to the internationalization of Teatro Real,” referencing the co-productions that have been made with different opera houses from other countries (Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Oper Köln, Oper Frankfurt, La Scala, and the Metropolitan Opera, among others); “My Opera Player,” the digital platform that allows one to see operas from anywhere in the world; and the partnerships with other opera houses such as the National Centre for the Performing Arts, China (NCPA). “All of this is possible due to the involvement of our benefactors,” García-Belenguer declared, “and especially, thanks to the support of the Diplomatic Circle and the International Council of Teatro Real. Teatro Real also recognizes support from the Allies of Hispanic Culture, Education and Science Foundation (AHCES), a U.S. nonprofit organized for the purpose of funding Hispanic arts and culture in the United States.”

### **About Teatro Real**

The Teatro Real is considered the top performing arts institution in Spain, serving as the country’s national opera and ranking as one of the top three cultural attractions in Spain. It also enjoys a significant international reputation.

The work of The Teatro Real has made it today one of the great international opera centers and a point of reference for Spanish cultural institutions. Its artistic programming strives for excellence, holding as much regard for traditional lyrical

repertoire as it does with contemporary works incorporating 20th-century music and the latest avant-garde.

The Teatro Real is commemorating, nationally and internationally, the 200th anniversary of its foundation in 1818, by order of King Ferdinand VII and the 20th anniversary of its reopening in 1997, after a complex and pioneering architectural renovation which made its stage a benchmark among its peers, both for its sophisticated theatrical technology, and for its functionality.

### **About The Dallas Opera**

One of the leading opera companies in the country, The Dallas Opera has an extraordinary legacy of world-class productions and thrilling premieres featuring the greatest operatic artists of our time. Inaugurated in 1957 with a concert featuring the incomparable Maria Callas, TDO is known for the notable U.S. debuts of a host of legendary artists including Plácido Domingo, Dame Joan Sutherland, Jon Vickers, Franco Zeffirelli, and Sir David McVicar. The company has long been an industry leader and innovator through groundbreaking initiatives like the Hart Institute for Women Conductors, free public simulcasts, acclaimed art song recitals, the national vocal competition, special concerts, and outstanding family and award-winning education programs. TDO's home is the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, a jewel in the Dallas Arts District. As one of the largest performing arts employers in North Texas, TDO is proudly committed to diversity, onstage and off, and is a major contributor to the economic vitality and international cultural reputation of this region.

### **About the Meadows Museum**

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows's vision to create "a small Prado for Texas." Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters. For more information visit [meadowsmuseumdallas.org](http://meadowsmuseumdallas.org).

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