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**THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S DAY OF THE DEAD CONCERT AND FESTIVAL RETURNS
WITH FREE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, OCT. 29**

ATLANTA – The **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO)** kicks off its new season of Family Concerts on Sunday, October 29 with a colorful program that will transport listeners to Mexico with favorites including *Huapango* and *Besame mucho*, with two performances at 1:30 and 3:00pm.

Surrounding the concerts, the ASO has planned a free **Día de los Muertos Festival** in the lobby of the Woodruff Arts Center and outdoors on Callaway Plaza, from noon to 5:00 pm. The family-friendly festival is open to the public and includes mariachi performances, Ballet Folklórico, stilt walkers, face painting, altar exhibition, traditional Mexican games and representation from various Latin American community organizations. There will also be themed food trucks with traditional food and drinks available for purchase.

“We are passionate about inviting our community to celebrate the vibrant culture of Atlanta through music,” said Jennifer Barlament, Executive Director of the ASO. “Our inaugural Dia de los Muertos Festival last year was so much fun and attracted so many people that we knew our season would not be complete without an even bigger and better festival, this time in coordination with our popular Family Concert Series. It’s a perfect way for families to explore Mexican culture through music, dance, dress, and delicious food.”

The ***Día de los Muertos* concert** is the first of three concerts of the Family Concert Series, which has grown so popular that the Orchestra has doubled the number of performances. This vibrant “Day of the Dead” musical program celebrates Mexican heritage by featuring a program of all Mexican composers and a loving celebration of life through music for all ages to enjoy.

In addition to the exciting musical selections, performed by the Grammy Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra led by conductor Pablo Zamora, Atlanta playwright Jessica Rosa Espinoza has created a dramatic narrative woven into the concert featuring letters to departed loved ones, celebrating family and life after death to bring out the true meaning of the holiday. Dancers from Alma Mexicana will add traditional Mexican dances to complete the sonic and visual spectacle.

While admission to the festival is free, tickets are required for both performances. The *Día de Muertos* concert will be performed by the ASO in Atlanta Symphony Hall at 1:30pm and 3:00pm on Sunday, Oct. 29. Tickets start at \$15 and can be purchased at aso.org/family and ticketmaster.com.

Día de los Muertos Festival

Woodruff Arts Center
Callaway Plaza and inside the Memorial Arts Building
1280 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta GA 30309
Sun., Oct. 29, 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Día de los Muertos Family Series Concerts

Woodruff Arts Center
Atlanta Symphony Hall
Sun., Oct. 29, 1:30 and 3:00 pm
Pablo Zamora, conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

GARRIDO

Pelea de Gallos (arr. Enrico Lopez-Yañez)

TRADITIONAL

Vista Alegre (arr. Enrico Lopez-Yañez)

GABRIELA ORTIZ

Kauyumari (*Blue Deer*)

GABRIELA ORTIZ

Excerpt from *Antropolis* (2019) for full orchestra

VELÁZQUEZ

Bésame Mucho (arr. James Kazik)

MONCAYO

Huapango

About Pablo Zamora

Pablo Zamora is an orchestra conductor and music educator. Originally from Costa Rica, Zamora now calls Atlanta his home. He currently works as a teaching artist for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. His conducting engagements include the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, the National Symphony Orchestra of Argentina, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the University of Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra, and the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra. As an educator he has worked with the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Atlanta Music Project, the National Honor Orchestras of the National System of Music Education of Costa Rica, and Orquesta Humanidades of the University of Costa Rica. He has worked in the teams of Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra 2, the Encuentros Festival of the Dudamel Foundation, the YOLA National Festival of the LA Philharmonic, and the Carlos Miguel Prieto Fellowship of the O Academy. He has studied under Marianne Ploger, Sarah Ioannides, Molly Turner, Catherine Larsen-Maguire, and Marin Alsop.

About Jessica Espinoza

Jessica Rosa Espinoza, founder of [Partner Learning](#), specializes in collaborating with arts organizations, districts, and school communities aiming to integrate the arts. Jessica brings a unique perspective to education through her experiences teaching K-5 general education, and intermediate grades in the area of fine arts, as well as pre-service teachers, in-service teachers, and working as an artist and producer. Jessica is the resident playwright and producer for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's family and school programs. She has also worked with various organizations including Harvard Project Zero, the Center for Puppetry Arts, Alliance Theatre, Young Audiences, Savannah College of Art & Design, ArtsNow, GA Tech CEISMC, University of North Georgia, City Springs Theatre, Aurora Theatre, and Cobb Energy Center's Arts Bridge. Jessica is the creator of [DreamBox Theatre](#) musicals, which includes a library of elementary musicals for youth performers. Jessica is currently finishing her Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction researching arts integration, specifically focusing on how the arts can be used to transform the ways we assess classroom learning.

About the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Under the leadership of Music Director Nathalie Stutzmann, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) offers live performances, media initiatives, and learning programs that unite, educate, and enrich our community through the engaging and transformative power of orchestral music experiences. The ASO engages the diverse international community of our city, bringing people together in harmony—including our youngest citizens, with extensive opportunities for youth and families to fall in love with music. Two hallmark education programs celebrate anniversaries this season: the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra celebrates 50 years, and the Talent Development Program turns 30.

The Orchestra's range and depth are featured in more than 150 concerts each year, including the flagship Delta Classical Series, Movies in Concert, Family Concerts, Coca-Cola Holiday series and many community and education concerts. In addition, the ASO presents many vibrant, wide-ranging events and artists through its Delta Atlanta Symphony Hall Live presentations. The ASO also performs with the ASO Chorus, originally founded by Robert Shaw, and currently under the direction of Norman Mackenzie. The Chorus is featured on nine of the ASO's 27 Grammy® Award-winning recordings.

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