



# OPERA NAPLES

Ramón Tebar, *Artistic & Music Director*  
Laura Burns, *Executive Director*



## Seville Soirée

*...Por Amor a la Música*



**February 28, 2023**

This major fundraiser celebrates

**CARMEN**  
by George Bizet

*Thank You*

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**Mayor Teresa Heitmann**

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# OPERA NAPLES

Ramón Tebar, *Artistic & Music Director*

Laura Burns, *Executive Director*

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# Message from the Chairs

Cindy Stegemann | Louise Ost



*Dear Friends,*

*It is truly an honor to serve as Co-Chairs for the Seville Soirée Gala. Tonight's theme underscores a love for music. It's music that connects us and brings us together for an evening of passion, joy and excitement.*

*We truly love Opera Naples. From the moment you arrive at a performance, you are taken away to another time, another place brought to life by the exceptional artists who grace the stage with beauty, elegance and commanding power.*

*The artists brought to Naples to perform in an Opera Naples production rival anything you'll find in the country. Each show, we walk away moved by the imaginative stories, beautiful sounds and stunning staging that can only be described as Opera Naples perfection.*

*Tonight provides a glimpse into the world of Opera Naples' imaginative productions and spotlights not only the stunning production of Carmen, being performed later this season, but also the next rising stars in Opera who are currently part of the Resident Artist program.*

*We hope you leave inspired by these exceptional artists who have a gift for moving our hearts, stirring our souls and allowing us to feel the passion of a life filled with love and hope for humanity.*

*We also express our deep appreciation to Reinhold Schmieding and the Arthrex One team for their hospitality. Thank you to our staff and Gala committee who have worked tirelessly to create tonight's memorable program. To our donors and sponsors, thank you for continuing to be a guiding light for Opera Naples and our community.*

*Sincerely,*



*Seville Soirée*

*Gala Co-Chairs:*

*Louise Ost*

*Cindy Stegemann*

*Special Thank You to Our Honorary Chair*



*"I am so proud of Opera Naples and all they give to our community and the Arts, and we need to support them."*

*- Mayor Teresa Heitmann*



## From the Desk of Laura Burns

*Executive Director*

*Dear supporters of Opera Naples,*

*Welcome to the Seville Soirée Gala—por amor a la música, “for the love of music!”*

*I am truly grateful to have you join us for this exciting evening. As our major fundraising event of the year, your attendance at the annual gala supports Opera Naples in countless vital ways.*

*This year, proceeds from the gala will not only support our award-winning performances and educational programs, but also the Opera Naples Rebuilding Fund as we work to rebuild the Wang Opera Center in the wake of Hurricane Ian.*

*I have witnessed firsthand the passion and commitment of arts patrons as they came together to provide strength and support in our most desperate hour of need, and I trust we will continue working together to move forward, rebuild and fulfill our mission for years to come.*

*Your continued support will also help us bring renowned artists from around the world to Southwest Florida to perform diverse opera productions of the highest caliber throughout the year, including at the upcoming Festival Under the Stars.*

*Our Resident Artists program and in-school education and outreach programs will continue to soar, exposing even more children to the power of music.*

*When I started this journey as the new Executive Director of Opera Naples almost five months ago, I never could have imagined the challenges I would face. But just like the rainbow that follows a storm, I am excited for the beautiful, amazing opportunities that lie ahead for Opera Naples.*

*We are truly looking ahead, and so fortunate to be a part of creating a richer cultural arts community because of your generous support.*

*Cheers to YOU!*

A stylized, handwritten signature of Laura Burns in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes.

**Laura Burns**  
**Opera Naples Executive Director**

**OPERA  
NAPLES**

**Ramón Tebar, Artistic & Music Director**  
**Laura Burns, Executive Director**





## **Ramón Tebar | Artistic & Music Director**

*Friends of Opera Naples,*

*I am excited to share a look into my world with you, tonight.*

*We will be whisking you away to the streets of Spain with a passionate evening of sultry Spanish music and dancing, cocktails, dinner and more.*

*Despite recent challenges, Opera Naples has experienced great success thanks to the support of caring donors like you. Just as the world was recovering from the pandemic, Southwest Florida was impacted by a nearly category 5 hurricane that left a significant amount of devastation in its wake, and our treasured theater was no exception. And yet, because of your generosity, we were able to recover and adjust our season to come back stronger.*

*Over the years, we have worked to bring diverse performances and renowned talent from around the world to Naples and enrich our local arts community. I am thrilled to be working side-by-side with Laura Burns as the new Executive Director to take our vision to the next level. And with your continued support, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.*

*Thanks to our donors and our community, the third annual Opera Naples Festival Under the Stars will return to include an expanded line-up of performances. Extending the Spanish theme from the gala to the festival, we are bringing some of the most popular opera stars to Naples, including brilliant up-and-coming Resident Artists, for lively productions of Carmen, Frida and more.*

*Your support this season and tonight at the gala helps provide crucial funding that will allow us to continue bringing the best possible opera performances to our community for years to come. Thank you for being a part of our musical world.*

*Yours,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ramón Tebar".

**Ramón Tebar**

*Opera Naples Artistic & Music Director, Naples Cultural Ambassador*

# Schedule of Events

## Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Arthrex One, 1 Arthrex Way, Naples (*on the Elegante Outdoor Terrace*)

- 5:30pm**      Arrival and Registration of Guests  
Seville Soirée Reception with Hors d'oeuvres indoors  
in the Cocktail Room (Arthrex 1 Auditorium A & B)
- 6:30pm**      Guests proceed to Lakeside Upper Terrace for dinner
- 6:50pm**      StepFlix Flamenco ensemble will perform an Alegria  
Flamenca and Spanish Rumba featuring Spanish guitar  
Cristian Puig, cajon Miguel De La Rua, and dancers Ania  
Dias & Lili Barrera
- 7:00pm**      Program Begins  
  
A Special Video Message from Gala Chairs  
  
Welcome from Larry Ost, Laura Burns and Ramón Tebar  
  
Performance by Opera Naples' Resident Artists, who will  
serenade us with Spanish inspired arias from *Carmen* and  
classic lyrical canciones  
  
Special Appeal
- 7:30pm**      Dinner
- 7:45pm**      Live Auction with Scott Robertson and Ramón Tebar
- 8:15pm**      Closing Remarks and Flamenco Performance
- 8:20pm**      Dance Party with the Steve Chase Band





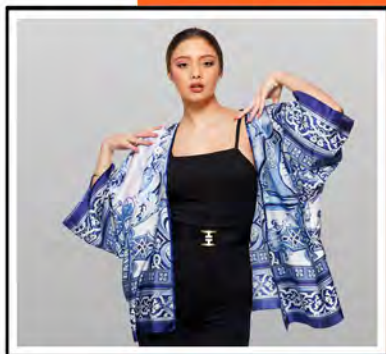
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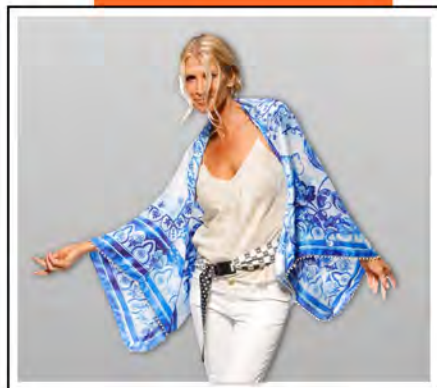
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## Fine Wines of Spain

*Las Flechas Garnacha Blanca, Navarra\**

*Letras Minusculas Tempranillo, Rioja Alavesa\**

# Menu

### Table Platters

*Sliced Iberico ham, Manchego Cheese,*

*Cabrales Cheese, Roasted Peppers,*

*Manzanilla Olives and Baccala.*

*Rustic Flatbread, Sweet Milk Bread,*

*Extra Virgin Spanish Olive Oil.*

### Salad

*Chargrilled Romain and Spanish Tomato*

*Salad with Marinated Heirloom Varietals,*

*Sweet Onions, Vinegar de Montilla*

*and Micro Oregano.*

### Entree

*Paella with Lobster, Shrimp, Mussels,*

*Clams, Served over Fortified Spanish Rice*

*with Chorizo, Peas, Tomatoes and Saffron*

*and Romesco Sauce.*

### Dessert

*Spanish Sampler of Basque Cheesecake,*

*Flan, and Almond Cake with*

*Fresh Berries and Sauce Rojo.*

*Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Hot Tea*



\*These fine Spanish wines are provided exclusively by SAWM Imports, an importer, distributor, and wholesaler of fine wines from Spain, the Americas and beyond. SAWM Imports supplies a nation-wide network of distributors with a thoughtful portfolio from family-owned wineries. Terroir-focused viticulture and a responsible approach to winemaking is the impetus behind the very best wines, and those we represent. Our wines can be found around the county and now in Naples, FL in the finest local restaurants and boutique wine providers. Ask for SAWM Imports exclusive wines by name wherever you shop or dine.

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OPERA  
NAPLES

*Gala Committee*

# *Seville Soirée*

*Co-Chairs*

**Louise Ost | Cindy Stegemann**

*Honorary Chair*

**Mayor Teresa Heitmann**

*Committee Members*

**Bronwen Adams**

**Angela Bell**

**Laura Burns**

**Emily Caraco**

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**Rufino Hernandez**

**Nicoletta Pepe**



## A CURTAIN CALL FOR OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS, DONORS, MEMBERS, AND PARTNERS.

We are deeply grateful to all our sponsors, private, corporate, and civic, who continue to give so generously to keep our operations running. We wish to acknowledge our elected State of Florida officials and their close work with the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council of Arts and Culture. We also wanted to thank our Collier County Commissioners and the Tourist Development Council for their support of the arts, and Naples City Council for their leadership and steadfast support. Special thanks to former Commissioner Penny Taylor and Mayor Teresa Heitmann for their encouragement of arts and culture in our community.



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# OPERA NAPLES

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Laura Burns, *Executive Director*

## *Education Programs*

### *Elementary In-School Tour*

Resident Artists tour a one-act children's opera to Collier and Lee County schools and after-school programs to expose grade school children to opera. The presentation includes an introduction about opera and etiquette, the performance, and a question-and-answer session between the students and performers. Previous in-school operas, specifically designed for elementary school students, have included *Stop, Bully*, *The Billy Goat's Gruff*, *The Three Little Pigs*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. Each school year, Opera Naples exposes more than 3,000 children to opera!

## *Youth Programs*

### *Student Apprentice Program*

This year-round program gives local students, ages 7-21 training and public performance opportunities including singing solo roles in main stage productions when applicable, singing in the Opera Naples Adult Chorus or Opera Naples Youth Chorus, and performing in "Scenes for Teens" programs and community concerts. Youth also perform in ON's outreach ensemble "Sing for Smiles" which visits local assisted and independent living facilities. Private vocal lessons and coaching are provided as well as group master classes. There is no cost to participants. Admission is determined by audition and interview.

### *Youth Chorus*

Children in Southwest Florida have the amazing opportunity to perform in mainstage productions alongside professional singers with an orchestra. This unique experience is one they treasure and will never forget.

### *Summer Youth Program*

Each summer, students ages 13-21 are engaged in a two week training program that culminates in performing an operetta. In addition to preparing the production, the youth participate in master classes and workshops focusing on a variety of topics associated with opera including proper vocal technique, acting and improvisation, set and prop construction, and costume design. All interested participants are accepted into the program and perform in the production regardless of experience or audition. Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of the tuition.



## ***Community Programs***

Opera Naples offers public concerts throughout the community at performing arts centers, assisted and independent living facilities and other area venues providing insightful performances through education and outreach to all ages and stages.

## ***Professional Development***

### ***Resident Artists***

This program provides an artistically challenging residency for emerging professional singers who are pursuing a career in opera. Resident Artists are selected through a national search to work with Opera Naples during the peak season and are provided with housing, a weekly stipend, and a travel stipend. Opera Naples staff, supplemented by other area professional artists, provide coaching, instruction, and career advice. The Resident Artists perform principal roles in operas at the Wang Opera Center, perform secondary roles in mainstage operas at Artis—Naples, perform a children's opera for the In-School tour program, and perform in various community events and concerts.







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— of Naples —



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# Live Auction 1

## ***Behind-the-Scenes in Spain***

***Join Maestro Ramón Tebar on an extraordinary four-day curated visit  
to his hometown—Valencia, Spain!***

As Opera Naples Artistic & Music Director and the Principal Conductor of the Orquesta de Valencia, Ramón will be your host for this musical and culinary adventure of a lifetime. Experience the real Valencia, exploring the sights, sounds and tastes of the town that tourists don't usually have the opportunity to discover.

You will be treated as Ramón's special guest to a behind-the-scenes opera or concert experience at the Palau de la Música de Valencia. Delight your palette while dining with Ramón at his favorite hidden venues or enjoying Paella and authentic dishes made with secret family recipes.

### **DETAILS**

- ***Accommodations include a three-night stay for (2) at the upgraded hotel of your choice.***
- ***(2) tickets to an opera performance at Palau de la Música de Valencia.***



Opera Naples to arrange your VIP experience based on your preferred dates and opera performance. Please kindly note that we are not able to confirm availability until we have received your confirmation and payment to secure the reservations.



## Live Auction 2



### *A Night on the Town*

*A VIP Festival Under the Stars experience for up to 8 special guests*

Experience an unforgettable evening of wine, dining and opera for you and up to 7 of your most treasured guests. Choose from any of the amazing performances at the 2023 or 2024 Opera Naples Festival Under the Stars!

This incredible package includes a gourmet dining experience at any of the Aielli Group restaurants along with private transportation.

Upon arrival to the Festival Under the Stars concert of your choice, you and your guests will be treated to a VIP experience with a cocktail reception and front-row seating at a reserved table. Enjoy an exclusive VIP Artist Meet and Greet Reception after the show. Pack your sweaters for the concert in your stylish Louis Vuitton bag!

#### DETAILS

- *Seating for (8) at VIP Table during Festival Under the Stars—2023 or 2024 Season.*
- *Dinner for (8) before the performance at your choice of Sea Salt, Barbatella, Dorona or Grappino.*
- *Luxury transportation for the evening will be provided by private shuttle bus, inclusive of four hours.*
- *Keepall Bandoulière tote bag by Louis Vuitton valued at \$2,570*

## Live Auction 3

### One-of-a-Kind Showstopper

*Wearable art pieces exclusively designed for the Opera Naples Seville Soirée Gala*

You're sure to steal the show with Turk & Turk's stunning custom wearable art collection including a kimono, clutch and pocket square exclusively designed and hand-crafted for Opera Naples.

The Frida collection is inspired by the work and life of Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo, and is designed to honor her vibrant legacy. The unique print features water lilies photographed at the Naples Botanical Garden that have been meticulously hand-painted by Rasit Turk, artfully portraying Frida's love of flowers, enduring spirit and deep appreciation for bringing nature to life.

The one-of-a-kind kimono is hand-made in 100% silk with inside French seam finishes and must-have hidden pockets. Ornate embroidery and beaded trim, as well as cuffs featuring dazzling beaded jewel embellishments, make this a truly special piece.



Donated by: Turk & Turk | Ilkay and Rasit Turk



## *Live Auction 4*

### *Celebrate Opera in Verona*

*Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Verona's Opera Festival this summer with a getaway for two featuring world-class opera, dining and wine tours!*

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Verona's Opera Festival with an exclusive pass to the most popular operas featuring international conductors and artists. Choose from a total of 50 unrepeatable performances that will be presented in the famed Arena Di Verona, the awe-inspiring Roman amphitheater transformed into the world's largest open-air opera theater. Select performances will include an incredible personal meet-and-greet experience with Plácido Domingo arranged by Maestro Ramón Tebar.

Your days and evenings will be filled with gourmet meals, private tours and a four-night stay at Vista Palazzo Verona, located in the heart of Verona. Wake up to a morning private walking tour of the city and end the day with a visit to Ca' Bruzzo Vineyard for a delicious four-course dinner paired with five wines, plus a private guided walk through the vineyard and wine tasting.

Your package also includes a day in beautiful Modena for a tour of the Museo Casa Pavarotti, private concert with piano accompanied by a singer and an unforgettable dining experience with wine pairings like no other at Trattoria La Francescana.

#### **DETAILS**

- *Accommodations include four-night stay for (2) at Vista Palazzo Verona*
- *(2) tickets to Verona's Opera Festival and tour of Museo Casa Pavarotti*
- *Day trip and four-course dinner and wine pairing for (2) at Ca' Bruzzo Vineyard*
- *Dinner for (2) at Trattoria La Francescana*



Trip must be booked within 30 days to ensure preferred ticketing. Trip or travel must be completed within 12 months to avoid any additional travel fees. Festival performances will be held between June 16 - September 9, 2023.

## Live Auction 5

### ***Bright Lights & Big City Livin' for Two***

*See the best of New York City with a behind-the-scenes*

*VIP Broadway & Opera experience*

Enjoy life in the big city with a four-day, three-night stay at The St. Regis New York and two exclusive premium tickets to *A Beautiful Noise*, the Neil Diamond Musical at Broadhurst Theatre. Tickets generously donated by Broadway Producer Sandi Moran.

Tony Award® nominee Will Swenson will leave you breathless as the lead in the story of legendary Neil Diamond in a gripping and uplifting new musical featuring hit songs like *Sweet Caroline*, *America*, *Cracklin' Rosie* and more! This exciting package includes an exclusive photo taken in the box where Neil Diamond sang *Sweet Caroline* on Opening Night.

Enjoy two premium tickets to the production of your choice at the Metropolitan Opera. Your experience at the Metropolitan Opera will include a meet-the-artist and special dining experience with a performing star.

#### DETAILS

- *Accommodations include a three-night stay for (2) at the St. Regis New York*
- *(2) VIP tickets to A Beautiful Noise, the Neil Diamond Musical*
- *(2) tickets to a production of your choice at the Metropolitan Opera this summer or the 2023-2024 season*

*Tickets to A Beautiful Noise donated by: **Sandi Moran, Broadway Producer***



Opera Naples to arrange your VIP experience based on your preferred dates and opera performance. Please kindly note that we are not able to confirm availability until we have received your confirmation and payment to secure the reservations. Please contact Opera Naples within 30 days of event to coordinate. All packages must be booked with 24 months.

## *Live Auction 6*



### ***Royal Ruby Sensation***

#### ***Fine Jewelry Cocktail Ring***

This handmade 18-karat white gold diamond and red ruby cocktail ring designed and created by Crown Jewelers is fit for royalty! This bold design features one centered oval-shaped clarity-enhanced ruby weighing 12.79 carats surrounded by white round brilliant diamonds weighing a total of 1.44 carats (E-F color, VS-SI clarity).

Representing power, the Ruby is the only precious stone four times more expensive than diamonds since the Middle Ages and the only gem used by royalty and high-ranking dignitaries for many years. It's sure to be the perfect statement piece for any jewelry collection!

***Donated by: Crown Jewelers of Naples | Gabriel Alves***

## *Live Auction 7*



### ***Shine like a STAR!***

***Be onstage during one of Opera Naples most popular operas in the world.***

Experience costume fittings, rehearsals and the excitement of being backstage before the opening of the show. Then, at the end of each performance, enjoy the thrill of stepping out into the lights in front of an enthusiastic audience. You'll share in the resounding bravos the entire cast typically receives at the end of another fabulous production.

***No singing required!***

***We're looking for budding thespians to complement our great cast of extras.***

***So step up to the stage, please!***

# OPERA NAPLES



OPERA  
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# *Under the Stars*

**MARCH 21 - APRIL 5 | 7 PM**  
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**MARCH 21**

**CARMEN**  
**MARCH 28 & 30**

**ZARZUELA / FLAMENCO**  
**MARCH 29**

**FRIDA**  
**APRIL 4 & 5**

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ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

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**AN EVENING OF HOPE: JONATHAN TETELMAN**  
COLUMBUS CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION  
**MARCH 22**

**GRAND PIANO SERIES: DOMINIC CHELI**  
MOORINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**MARCH 25**

**A NIGHT AT THE OPERA**  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA SYMPHONY  
**APRIL 2**

PERFORMANCES AT CAMBIER PARK STAGED WITHIN SOFTBALL FIELD





## MEET THE OPERA NAPLES RESIDENT ARTISTS



**Grace Skinner** is a mezzo-soprano and a recent recipient of the first-place prize in the Seattle Opera Guild Singers' Development Competition. She made her debut role performing *The Composer* with Vashon Opera and has worked with The Atlanta Opera covering the role of Giulio Cesare, and Utah Festival Opera covering the role of Carmen. Skinner was a vocal fellow of the prestigious young artist programs at the Music Academy of the West and the Aspen Music Festival.



**Steven Ricks** is a tenor and has performed as a young artist with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Saratoga and Idaho Falls Opera. He received the Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in both 2018 and 2019, as well as third place in the Classical Singers Magazine Competition.



**Jeffrey Goldberg** is a baritone with a voice praised as "rousing, full-throated," and "ringing," that has performed such roles as Guglielmo from Mozart's "*Così fan tutte*," Dr. Falke and Eisenstein in "*Die Fledermaus*" by Johann Strauss, Claudio in Berlioz's "*Beatrice et Benedict*," Bartolo and Antonio from Mozart's "*Le nozze di Figaro*," Peter in Humperdink's "*Hansel and Gretel*," Simone in Puccini's "*Gianni Schicchi*," and Howard in the Chicago premiere of "*Dog Days*" by David T. Little, as well as several partial roles. He has also performed with Pacific Symphony in their Opera for Kids! productions of Gilbert and Sullivan's "*The Pirates of Penzance*," and Humperdink's "*Hansel and Gretel*." On the concert stage, he has performed the solo in several beloved masterworks, including Handel's "*Messiah*," Mozart's "*Requiem*," and Beethoven's "*Symphony No. 9*." He is a graduate of Northwestern University, where he obtained a Master's degree in Voice and Opera, and before that, Chapman University where he obtained a Bachelor's in Vocal Performance.



**Sara LeMesh** is a soprano that has been hailed for her "vocal majesty and expressive translucency," as a dramatic presence on the opera stage, an avid chamber musician and an advocate of contemporary music. During the summer of 2022, she was a fellow at the Marlboro Music Festival. Most recently, she covered and performed the role of Young Leah/Lisa in the New York Premiere of Lori Laitman's "*Uncovered*" with City Lyric Opera. Other operatic roles include Lucy Brown in Weill's "*The Threepenny Opera*," Zerlina in Mozart's "*Don Giovanni*," Bess in Mazzoli's "*Breaking the Waves*," and Norina in Donizetti's "*Don Pasquale*." LeMesh earned a Bachelor of Music from Rice University and a Master of Music from the Bard College-Conservatory of Music.

# Morgan Stanley

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## Opera Naples — Seville Soirée

We support Opera Naples and their mission to provide quality opera, musical performances, education, and community engagement programs.



### The Calleja Group at Morgan Stanley

#### Jorge A. Calleja

*Managing Director – Wealth Management  
Senior Portfolio Management Director  
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jorge.calleja@morganstanley.com | 239-449-7892  
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# OPERA NAPLES

*Ramón Tebar, Artistic & Music Director  
Laura Burns, Executive Director*

**Our Mission is to be a professional opera company known for excellence  
and innovation by presenting quality opera, musical performances,  
education, and community engagement programs.**

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# OPERA NAPLES

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Wang Opera Center

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