

Teatro de la Luna

—al mejor estilo latinoamericano
—with the best Latin American flavor

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Press Release – For Immediate Release
August 15, 2012

Contact: Nucky Walder
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WHAT: ARPAS DE AMÉRICA *Latin American Harp Festival*

WHO: RENÉ DEVIA (Colombia), JULIO GONZÁLEZ (Mexico),
LORENZO GONZÁLEZ (Paraguay) and JULIE CRYSTAL PEÑA (Paraguay)

WHERE: ROSSLYN SPECTRUM THEATER
1611 N. Kent St., 'LL' Level, Arlington, VA 22209 (free parking)
(2 blocks from the Rosslyn Metro Station)

WHEN: Friday, September 14 & Saturday, September 15, 2012 – 7:30 pm

TICKETS: \$30; \$25 (Students & Seniors); Children (Age 7-13) \$10

INFORMATION: 703-548-3092; www.teatrodelaluna.org

TEATRO DE LA LUNA presents 'ARPAS DE AMÉRICA' Latin American Harp Festival

TEATRO DE LA LUNA takes great delight in presenting RENÉ DEVIA of Colombia, JULIO GONZÁLEZ of Mexico and LORENZO GONZÁLEZ and JULIE CRYSTAL PEÑA of Paraguay, four masters of the Latin American harp, in performances at ROSSLYN SPECTRUM THEATER, 1611 N. Kent St., Arlington, Virginia, on Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.

Teatro de la Luna, through its desire to introduce the Washington, D.C. area to the best of Latin America's artists, musicians and actors, gladly presents these superb harpists, and invites all music lovers to come hear the strings of these acclaimed masters.

Teatro de la Luna, a non-profit theater company, is hosting these concerts to raise funds for its upcoming *15th International Festival of Hispanic Theater*.

In addition to the concert, there will be a concession stand of typical foods of the harpists' homelands. The harpists' CDs will be available for purchase in the lobby, as well as hand-crafts from South and Central America.

Rosslyn Spectrum Theater is two blocks from the Rosslyn Metro Station on the Blue and Orange lines. There is also ample free parking under the building, accessed from Arlington Ridge Road. For more details, please visit our website at www.teatrodelaluna.org/directions

Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.teatrodelaluna.org

TICKETplace.org and Goldstar.com also offer discounted tickets for this event.

**NOTE TO THE PRESS: Two courtesy tickets await your call.
To claim them please call the number below.**

Information and Reservations: 703-548-3092

Email: info@teatrodelaluna.org

www.teatrodelaluna.org

This program receives the support of the Arlington Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington Economic Development and Arlington Commission for the Arts and individual contributions.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

René Devia. In 1964 and 1965, René Devia started to emerge as a musician who was restless and eager to achieve great things. He showed an interest in and love of music, which he indulged by learning to play the guitar and two Latin American stringed instruments – the Colombian tiple and the Venezuelan cuatro – even as he began to create his own musical compositions. Two years later, he discovered that the harp was the instrument he liked best. And that decision marked his destiny and launched a chapter of his professional life. He joined a group of adolescents involved in the regional music of the llanos, the plains of Colombia and Venezuela. Some years later, living in Bogotá, Devia signed a contract with the SONY music label and recorded six LPs, enjoying fast popularity. When an opportunity arose to travel to Europe, he took advantage of it, spending more than five years outside of Colombia. During that time, he learned a great deal thanks to the advice of accomplished musicians; that led him to cultivate an interest in international music. Today René Devia derives great satisfaction from sharing the fruits of his labor with the beautiful people who believe in him. He hopes (through his music) to offer them a light of hope, love and joy. A native of Columbia, he now resides in San Antonio, Texas.

Julio González. With a 15-year career as a harpist, he has presented onstage throughout Mexico, interpreting various genres of music and taking part in national and international festivals since 2004. Born in Mérida, in the Yucatán area, he began his musical studies with guitar in Champotón, Campeche. At 17, he moved to Cancún in search of broader opportunities and, since the age of 19, he has dedicated himself to the harp – the instrument and music that defines his musical career. Since 2007, Julio González has taught at the first harp school in southeast Mexico, the same area of the country that, in 2008, saw its first International Harp Festival. His career as a harpist has included workshops and concerts with the harp world’s masters, among them Nicolasito Caballero, Alberto de la Rosa, Celso Duarte, Martín Portillo and Marcelo Rojas. His goal is to consolidate the *Primer Centro de Expresión de Arpa* (First Center of Harp Expression) in Mexico’s southeast region, raising up a new generation of harpists to spread the virtues of the instrument that brought him such satisfaction. He is founding president of the Association of Caribbean Harpists and founder and director of the *Mario Barradas Primer Centro de Expresión del Arpa en el Sureste*.

Lorenzo González is a virtuoso harpist born in Paraguay. With artisans in his home country, he designed a distinctive harp that allows him to play a variety of musical genres. He has also perfected his technique and style so that he can reproduce sounds ranging from the classical harp and classical

guitar to the mandolin, the Greek bouzouki and the piano. Through his long experience as a performer and his travels across South America, North America and Europe, Lorenzo González has acquired an extensive repertoire of music, including popular, romantic, classical, Spanish flamenco, South American and Mexico folk music and Broadway melodies. Since moving to Dallas, he has played in restaurants, private clubs, country clubs and hotels in cities in Canada, Mexico and the United States. When he arrived in the United States in 1969, he was invited by the Embassy of Paraguay to participate in a great concert of Latin American music before President Richard Nixon at the White House. In 2009, he took part in the World Harp Festival in Asunción. A year later, he was invited to the National Independence Concert in the Embassy of Paraguay in Costa Rica and, more recently, to Paraguay's bicentennial celebration in Houston. Of his five albums produced with local musicians, the first bears his name; it was followed by 'Encounter', 'With Love', 'Romance' and 'Tribute', which includes more traditional songs of Paraguay.

Julie Crystal Peña was acclaimed as a talented interpreter of the Paraguayan harp from a very early age. She began to study this magical instrument when she was 8 years old, under the guidance of Paraguayan maestro Pedro Gaona. In addition to developing her own style, Julie Crystal Peña learned techniques from another recognized maestro, Paraguayan Silvio Solis. She also studied piano at the prestigious Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C. under the Piano Chairman Gregory Sioles. This training, as well as her talent as a composer, allows her to interpret compositions never before executed on the harp. The *Washington Post* has described her as 'phenomenal' and the *Washington Times* called her 'amazing'. She can carry you to tears of happiness when she plays sacred music or create an atmosphere of jubilation on other occasions. She has performed in front of large audiences, in intimate meetings and before notable artistic and government figures. On television since the age of 9, Julie Crystal Peña has gained much exposure and recognition, and won numerous awards and distinctions. In July 1999, she performed before 40,000 spectators at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada. Her 1998 Christmas album included her own composition, 'Road to Bethlehem'. A year later, she recorded a CD of international music. Her latest release features sacred harp music. In addition to her musical career, she recently completed a doctorate in medicine and is working on a master's degree in public health.