

## ARTISTIC TEAM

### **Justin Gray - Executive Director/Contractor/Pianist (United States)**

Executive Director Justin Gray's administrative experience and executive work is a result of founding and running his own non-profit organization - San Diego Interfaith Choir and Orchestra - which performed for a number of years at the California Center for the Arts Escondido. Mr. Gray holds a Master's Degree in Instrumental Conducting, and is always in high demand as an accompanist, vocal coach, music director, arranger, and gala producer.

As the Music Director for the Welk Resorts Theatre (since 1994) he produced more than 100 musicals, played nearly 9,000 performances, and is well acquainted with theatre operations, both as a musician and as an administrator. Using his knowledge, experience and skills, he currently coordinates all activities, schedules, and events for the Pacific Lyric Association and serves as official representative of the company and its mission.

### **Carlos Oliva - Founder/Senior Advisor/ Baritone (Spain)**

Pacific Lyric Association Senior Advisor and Founder Carlos Oliva is from Spain. He pursued a very successful career in United States as a medical doctor to support his family. But opera has always been his true passion. Mr. Oliva received his academic training as a baritone in Spain, and has been one of the leading singers for PLA since its inception in 2007.

Mr. Oliva's wife Teresa is also a classically trained opera singer. Throughout the years her fabulous mezzo-soprano and acting talent contributed a great deal to the success of the Pacific Lyric Association. The contribution of Mr. and Mrs. Oliva to the art life of local communities is priceless, and their passion for opera and continuing financial support of the Pacific Lyric Association is transformational. Their hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated by our local artists and audiences.

### **Alexandra Keegan - Music Director/Conductor (Ukraine)**

Alexandra Keegan is a highly educated and well-established Romani-American conductor and violinist, with over twenty years of international experience working for professional and semi-professional orchestras and opera companies.

In addition to her professional conducting career, Ms. Keegan also does outstanding work as a local educator. She is a Co-Founder and Executive Director of San Diego East County Youth Symphony - a tuition-free comprehensive after-school orchestra program for gifted children and youth.

Ms. Keegan believes that old-fashioned opera houses are struggling to attract younger people for a good reason - their productions are in a foreign language, too long, too expensive to

attend, and are simply boring. Opera as entertainment can only be returned to the general public if children, youth and newcomers can easily understand and enjoy it. Ms. Keegan is excited to work for a company that presents operas in a perfectly adjusted to a shorter attention span of the modern audience format, where every show is dynamic, fun, exciting, and easy to comprehend.

#### **Gabriel Reoyo-Pazos - Director (Cuba)**

Director Gabriel Reoyo-Pazos is the recipient of the 2007 El Angel Award from the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts. He has sung leading operatic roles, as well as roles in zarzuelas, oratorios, and musicals with various companies, including Anchorage Opera, Spanish Lyric Theater in Tampa (Florida), West Bay Opera, Spokane Opera, Santa Barbara Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, LA Music Center, The European Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, and The Angeles Chorale.

Mr Reoyo-Pazos' s directing credits include Enrique Gonzalez-Medina' s opera *Serafina y Arcángela* at the Theater Center in Tijuana (Mexico), *The Marriage of Figaro*, The Ventura College Opera Workshop, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *Suor Angelica* for Riverside Opera, and *La Bohème* for Ridgecrest Opera Guild and Guild Opera Co. For the Pacific Lyric Association he has directed *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Tosca*.

#### **Melissa Bonilla – Stage Manager (United States)**

After graduating with a BA in Theatre from Utah Valley University, Melissa worked on a variety of projects. Some of her favorite credits are assistant stage managing for *Esto Es Navidad* at the Figali Convention Center in Panama, *Pasek and Paul: Lecture Series*, stage managing *Scarlet* in Salt Lake City, and being a productions assistant for the International Spoleto Festival USA.

Melissa is excited to be back in Southern California and is looking forward to working in her home town of San Diego County. Her most recent project was being the COVID-19 Compliance Officer for A Chorus Line at the Moonlight Amphitheatre in Vista, CA. Melissa is thrilled to be stage managing her first show since before the pandemic, and her first show at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.