

"MEXICAN WAVE" CONCERT WITH ALONDRA DE LA PARRA - RTE NSO

27th of February 2015



As the 7th Ambassador of Mexico to Ireland, witnessing the opening of the Commemorative Program to mark the 40th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, with this Gala concert, fills me with pride and satisfaction. The vibrant and harmonious work performed by the RTE National Symphony Orchestra and the Mexican conductor Alondra de la Parra is a faithful reflection of the rich links of friendship built by both countries throughout four decades.

However, the people of Mexico and Ireland have been united for much longer than that. Mexicans felt accompanied in their struggle for freedom because of the generous solidarity of Irishmen, like William Lamport, and the brave and noble martyrs of the Saint Patrick's Battalion. The first a precursor hero of our Independence and the latter sacrificed their lives by joining us to defend against foreign invasion.

Another strong link which unites us is music. A language that needs no translation, which knows no borders and has no barriers between generations. Mexico and Ireland are two deeply musical nations. Just look at Ireland's National Coat of Arms and in Mexico we can go back to the ancient Nahuatl and his reverence for "flower and song"(in *xóchitl*, in *cuicatl*), poetry and music. People worldwide sing and dance, not realizing that it is Mexican music, from waltzes by Juventino Rosas to songs by Consuelito Velázquez and Agustín Lara.

Therefore, what could be more fitting to start the official 40th Anniversary Celebrations, than this gala concert. Alondra De La Parra and the RTE National Symphony Orchestra together will show how the best language to communicate with the soul is, and always has been, music! This happy partnership will help make this year even more fruitful for the ties of friendship between our two countries.