



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Message from President Michael D. Higgins

This year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Ireland. They have been a fruitful forty years during which we developed and strengthened our trade relations and investment partnerships. They have also been years during which we discovered the great passion for culture which our two countries share.

Mexico, like Ireland, has a proud and rich musical heritage; a heritage that has been shaped and formed by circumstance and context, and continues to evolve and change as it reflects the prevailing society of its time. Today, in an increasingly globalised world, Irish and Mexican music reflect a wide range of contemporary influences while retaining their unique national identities.

In Ireland we are always pleased to welcome so many international musicians to our shores. As we mark this 40th anniversary, and as Patron of the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, it is a particular pleasure that the RTÉ NSO and Alondra de la Parra will together honour the strong cultural ties between our two nations.

Alondra has been widely praised as one of the most compelling conductors of her generation, and her contribution to the international world of music has been significant. I would like to thank Alondra and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra for making this wonderful occasion possible, and for taking part in this celebration of the enduring friendship that exists between our two countries.”

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland

12 February, 2015