

Perla Batalla's

Songs and Sundries
Variety Hour (and a half) Part 2

TTOCA

October 21 & 22, 2022 | 7pm
Nakano Theatre

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TOCA

TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

In partnership with the City of Torrance, The Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation's mission is to enrich the community through the performing arts by providing diverse cultural, educational and entertainment experiences of the highest quality.

OUR VISION

The shared vision of the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation is to enrich the lives of all those within the City of Torrance and surrounding communities through the performing arts. By presenting relevant, accessible and quality performances of all genres, we bridge cultural divides, inspire the young, support economic development and begin conversations relevant to the human condition.

THANK YOU TO THE CITY COUNCIL
AND CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
TOCA AND THE ARTS IN THE SOUTH BAY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation would like to acknowledge that the Armstrong Theatre is located on the traditional and ancestral territory of the Tongva people in the Swaanga Village. We ask you to join us in acknowledging the Tongva community, their elders both past and present, as well those of future generations. www.tongvapeople.com



WELCOME!



On behalf of the entire Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, we would like to welcome you to the 2022-2023 season. In the last year, we confirmed what we have always known: some things are better when they are shared in person. We moved through the pandemic and its challenges as a united community, and TOCA was proud to help our friends and neighbors rediscover the joy of live performances. Our organization continues our mission to make the arts accessible to everyone and remains firm in our belief that they play an essential role in creating a more whole society.

Joining us in this mission are our supporters who share the same belief that the arts elevate a community and unite a people. TOCA is grateful for the generosity of those who make what we do possible: the City of Torrance, private donors, corporate partners, and our patrons.

With multiple venues and an exciting, eclectic program of performances, this season promises to appeal to a wide audience. We encourage you to become a season subscriber so you and loved ones can continue to be delighted by everything the arts have to offer. TOCA relies on the support from everyone who sees value in our mission, and there are many ways to give. Consider becoming a volunteer or committing to a one-time or regular monthly donation. The latter is as simple as texting TOCA25 to 44321.

I am honored to serve TOCA and our community as the new president this year. Together, we will continue the meaningful work that was started by visionary city leaders decades ago when they built the Armstrong Theatre. We look forward to sharing a season of new and familiar experiences with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Wendy Shu
President



Welcome to TOCA's 2022/2023 season. We are so excited to be able to continue our mission of bringing quality entertainment to the South Bay and beyond.

Our 21/22 season was filled with lots of fun and excitement. Just being back inside a theatre filled with arts supporters was exciting. Now, our 22/23 season, we are able to continue the fun with an eclectic line up filled with a diverse selection of artists.

Good news! TOCA's Studio Cabaret Series in the Nakano is back! While many restaurants are still struggling with staffing issues, we know that part of the allure of our Cabaret series is that it is a complete evening out. So while we aren't able to provide our usual buffet style dinners, we are able to offer phenomenal charcuterie boxes... and of course, treats from Torrance Bakery, TOCA Treats and more.

As always, if there is anything we can do to make your time with us more enjoyable, please let us know by emailing us at info@torrancearts.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Christopher H. Wolf
Executive Director
Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation

Perla Batalla's

Songs and Sundries
Variety Hour (and a half) Part 2

www.perla.com

Representation:

Cadence Arts Network, Inc.
rachel@cadencearts.com
www.cadencearts.com



Off the heels of a successful European Tour, Perla Batalla's return to our cabaret will feature hand-picked selections from this celebrated singer's vast repertoire.

The night will include Perla's own inspired arrangements of Spanish language classics, Great American songbook, original songs from her one woman show, and of course, personal favorites from Perla's mentor, the great Leonard Cohen.

Expect a surprise guest or two, plenty of laughs and a few tears when Perla returns to TOCA, and the south bay venue and community she considers her home.

Perla Batalla

We have precious few moments of true musical discovery in our lives, but when that one song or singer lodges in the heart it is a treasure found and to be kept forever. A rare few artists command such a response; women like Amalia Rodrigues, Edith Piaf, Patsy Cline or Aretha Franklin, perhaps, whose emotional power is equal to their magnificent voices. We merely describe their talents in adjectives that can

never match the thrill of hearing them sing. Hearing Perla Batalla's voice for the first time is an epiphany. One may go to hear the songs, but you end up feeling the joy and the pathos in the music like never before. There is a tone, a depth of emotion and a sublime expressiveness along with her transcendent voice that makes the experience unforgettable.

Perla was born in L.A. to a family immersed in music. Her dad was an Afro-Mexican mariachi, and radio personality, and her Austrian-Jewish-Argentine mom ran the family record shop called "Discoteca Batalla". There at the shop, by her mothers' side, Perla was exposed to an education of non-stop music that cut across genre & language. It was also in the shop where she began dreaming of one day becoming a singer. Perla's early training included operatic, classical, and ultimately a full scholarship to

study stage performance at the Lee Strasberg Institute in Los Angeles.

While, Batalla has shared the stage with musicians such as John Cale, Anohni, Nick Cave, Lou Reed, Rufus Wainright, U2, k.d. Lang and others, it was her years touring and recording with the legendary Canadian poet, Leonard Cohen that fully transformed her direction as an artist. At Cohen's urging, Perla launched a solo career. Since then she recorded and released seven albums, has been featured in film and TV, staged two one-woman shows and performed in some of the most prestigious venues around the world. Batalla's original Frida Kahlo theater piece, "Blue House", commissioned by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art was chosen for development by the prestigious Ojai Playwrights Conference.

Perla's personal homage to Cohen, "Bird on the Wire" was produced with Leonard's blessing; he attended the recording sessions, weighed-in on material, arrangements, and uncharacteristically participated in a photo session at his Los Angeles home to promote Batalla's recording project. (Says Perla, "Leonard was having so much fun -at the last minute he ran to his closet for a silk ascot to look suaver in the photos!") Cohen's passing also reaffirmed her mission of

sharing the lesser-known songs of Canada's poet laureate to a younger public, mostly familiar with "Hallelujah". Perla also wanted to dispel the too-common mischaracterization of Cohen as "The Godfather of Gloom". The man she knew was more often than not, motivated by jokes, irony and absurdity. Her one-woman Cohen show features selected songs and storytelling that serve to reveal Cohen's lighter side and continues to play to rapt audiences throughout Europe and North America.

Perla Batalla's mission of exposing youth to the beauty of music & poetry is ongoing through her outreach throughout some of the poorest communities in the U.S. She has been honored with two U.N. awards: the Earth Charter Award for "extraordinary devotion to social and economic justice" and The Environmental Peacebuilding Award, for advancing social justice through music. Perla is also the recipient of New Mexico's Premio Fronterizo Award in recognition for healing work in the world.

Karen Hammack

A Southern California native, Karen Hammack is a multi-genre keyboardist who has performed and recorded with some of the most respected artists in the business including Cyrille Aimee, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Perla Batalla, Diane Schuur, Melissa Manchester, Niki Haris, Maurice Hines, John Clayton, Greg Leisz, Tierney Sutton, Kate McGarry, Larry Koonse, and the late great jazz vocalist Kevin Mahogany. As a composer Karen recently placed her original song Rosebud Lane in the new film of the same title by actor and filmmaker John Lacy. The film is winning major film festivals around the country and the song itself has gotten great reviews for its empathic tone. She has three solo albums and has recorded on countless other projects. When not performing or recording, Karen is also a sought after music production teacher and performance coach.

"Onstage, offstage, digital or analog, I love Perla Batalla."

— Leonard Cohen

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Wishing the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation another successful season.

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Thank you for the outstanding work you do!

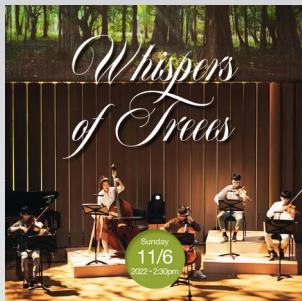
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TOCA



NOVEMBER

- 5 [My Dog is better... 8pm](#)
- 6 [Whispers of Trees 2:30pm](#)
- 18 &
19 [Ali Angel 7pm](#)

DECEMBER

- 2 [Irish Christmas in America 8pm](#)
- 3 [Art & Study of Taiko — Recital 6pm](#)
- 4 [Art & Study of Taiko — Concert 2pm](#)

JANUARY

- 7 [Garrison Keillor Tonight 8pm](#)
- 21 [Spinphony 8pm](#)
- 27 &
28 [Joselyn & Don 7pm](#)

FEBRUARY

- 11 [Songs of Harry Chapin 8pm](#)
- 18 [Friendship Festival 7pm](#)
- 25 [South Bay's Got Talent 7pm](#)
- 26 [The Latsos Piano Duo 7pm](#)

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call
[\(310\) 781-7171](#) or visit [TorranceArts.org](#)