



Order of Granaderos y Dámas de Gálvez

October 1, 2018

Subject: ***Yo Solo / I Alone***
Bernardo de Gálvez (for whom Galveston is named) and the Spanish contribution to the American Revolution

My Dear Friends,

I am forwarding you an announcement about ***Yo Solo***, an opera showcase / synopsis at the Rice University's Shepherd School of Music on October 30, 2018, at 7:00 PM, which I hope you will attend. Admission is FREE, followed by a wine and tapas reception.

Yo Solo / I Alone is an opera about the life of the great Spanish patriot of the American Revolution, Bernardo de Gálvez. He came unannounced to America, at the request of George Washington to Carlos III King of Spain in 1776 to help save America, so it was not divided between England and France. Bernardo de Gálvez, He Alone, went up and down the Mississippi and took over, without shooting one bullet or cannon, all the British and French forts on either side, which immediately raised their white flags of surrender. Therefore, his crest and motto "***Yo Solo***" were bestowed upon him by King Carlos III of Spain....and he remained the "**UNSUNG and UNKOWN HERO**" ... until now!

Bernardo de Gálvez was "**RECOGNIZED**" when Felipe VI, the present King of Spain, brought a portrait of Gálvez to Congress two years ago.

For his great heroism, Congress named Gálvez The Eighth Honorary Citizen of the United States of America in 2014, admitting him to the Ranks of Lafayette, Churchill and Mother Theresa. With the gift of the Portrait of Gálvez, King Felipe VI helped Congress fulfill a resolution from **1790** to display his portrait in the "Halls of Congress." The King's gift now hangs in the Senate Foreign Relations Gallery of the Capitol in Washington D.C. Now Gálvez, ***He Alone*** is known, and he will be "**SUNG** about" in the up and coming opera!



Yo Solo was commissioned to bring attention to the critical roles of Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain in our war for independence. Gálvez, who was Governor of Spanish Louisiana, clandestinely provided supplies, intelligence and support to George Washington and the American colonists from 1776 to 1779. Later, once Spain declared war on Great Britain, he recruited an army of 7,500 men and defeated the British at Baton Rouge, Mobile, and Pensacola. This kept the Gulf out of enemy hands, kept the Mississippi open as a critical line of supply, and prevented attacks from the south. Gálvez also organized cattle drives from **Texas** to feed his Revolutionary War army!

Bernardo de Gálvez was a man dedicated to freedom and to the cause of liberty, while remaining acutely loyal to his King. His life was filled with heroism, love, and tragedy. It was, in short, the substance of great opera, and the Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Houston Chapter has commissioned Mary Carol Warwick to compose it.

The librettist, Marec Bela Steffens, has created a witty story full of historical innuendo which poignantly educates the viewer (our goal!) about Spain's support to the American Revolution and about the life of our hero! Warwick's score is lyrical and sumptuously magnificent. Her music is beautifully melodic, and we are honored to secure her talent for the Gálvez **Yo Solo** opera project! At her website www.marycarolwarwick.com you can learn more about this gifted composer!

I would greatly appreciate it if you could please send this to anyone that you consider might be interested in hearing the showcase of this beautiful, educational opera. This would include anyone interested in American History as we try to bring this unknown segment to light! It would also include any music and opera lovers who would enjoy the luminous score by Mary Carol Warwick and the talented, professional singers that will be performing!

Thank you very much for your help with this, and I look forward to seeing you October 30th! At that time, we would also appreciate your comments and insights about **Yo Solo!**

Very sincerely yours,

Christina Girard

Christina Girard

Dama de Gálvez

Recipient of the medal of Isabel la Catolica, bestowed by King Felipe VI of Spain

The Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez – Houston Chapter

