



HALO

Holy City Arts & Lyric Opera
(843) 388-3243
info@holycityarts.org

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HALO PRESENTS SOCIAL DISTANCE-SING! CONCERTS

*Founding directors hit the streets to raise spirits in Low Country communities.
It's Opera. For y'all.™*

CHARLESTON, SC: It reads like the beginning of an opera—worldwide pandemic, out-of-work artists, tight-knit community, beautiful city. It is these fortuitous circumstances that led internationally renowned singers Leah Edwards and Dimitri Pittas out to their driveway to share the music that means so much to them.

“We believe in the idea that ‘it takes a village,’ so we’re trying to do our part to lift spirits during this incredibly trying time” Edwards says. “This town’s strength is in its residents, and as we’ve taken opera to them, people have been incredibly receptive to our initiative.”

Edwards and Pittas have called Mount Pleasant home since 2015 and founded Holy City Arts & Lyric Opera (HALO) in 2020.

The couple had intended to launch their new venture in the spring of 2021 with a large-scale production and a black tie gala, but their plans were halted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unsure of when audiences will feel safe to attend shows at a theatre again, Edwards and Pittas have seized the moment to move their vision forward to meet the community’s needs.

“We always envisioned HALO to be a community endeavor” Pittas says, “and now we’re as hopeful as ever that, together, we can reclaim Charleston’s legacy as the birthplace of opera in North America.”

To present the Social Distance-SING! concerts, HALO has partnered with Fox Music House, who transports a Yamaha NU1X hybrid upright piano in the bed of a pick-up truck to each concert location. Pianist Chee-Hang See, a long-time collaborator of Edwards and College of Charleston graduate, completes the ensemble.

The Social Distance-SING! team has a packed schedule for these roving performances and encourages all Charlestonians to become involved at www.holycityarts.org.

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Founded in 2020, HALO is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is the trademark holder for 'Opera. For y'all.' HALO can be found @HolyCityArts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For interviews or additional press coverage, please contact HALO at (843) 388-3243 or info@holycityarts.org.