

Dear CCIS Members,

Let's do something unique for Valentine's Day this year. CCIS members have received an advance invitation--and limited time discount--to an exciting event featuring Italian wines and Italian opera.

**On February 15, come sip and learn about tantalizing Sparkling wines from the region of Verona and nibble on decadent bites in tribute to the timeless romantic tale of *Romeo and Juliette*. This event is perfectly paired with OPERA San Antonio's concert opera *The Capulets and Montagues*, a beautiful take on the classic love story by the Italian composer Vincenzo Bellini.**

**It includes an all-star cast featuring mezzo-soprano Corrie Stallings from the Pittsburgh Opera in a historic operatic "pants role" as Romeo, and MET soprano Rachele Gilmore as Giulietta, conducted by Antony Walker, Artistic Director and Conductor of Washington (D.C.) Concert Opera. Other cast members include Grammy Award-winning baritone Daniel Belcher and rising stars Jonas Hacker and Matthew Trevino.**

**Located in the Condos Student Gallery at the University of the Incarnate Word, attendees can stroll and enjoy the art exhibits and ask questions with an onsite sommelier. Participants will receive education on the wines, suggested pairings with the provided bites, insider background on the opera, and special reserved seating within the intimate Luella Bennack Music Center performance hall at UIW.**

The wine event takes place from 6-7:15 pm, followed by the concert opera at 7:30 pm next door in the performance hall at UIW.

To the public, tickets for the combined events are \$135 or \$250 for two. However...

**If 30 or more of us go as a group, tickets for the combined pre-performance event and reserved concert seats will be \$120 each. For the concert alone, tickets are \$45.**

We have a deadline of January 17 to collect money for tickets at the special rate of \$120 per person. Anyone wishing to add on tickets after that will be required to purchase them through eventbrite and pay the additional fees.

Please **respond by Friday, January 17** to ensure ticket availability, by texting Geraldine Merola Barton at 210-722-9428. You'll be contacted by CCIS for payment.

Italian opera is in our blood. Let's enjoy it together on Valentine's Day weekend as we support Italian opera in San Antonio!