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Date: **October 13, 2006**
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UTSA HONORS 250TH BIRTHDAY OF MOZART
Gala performance will feature UTSA alum Jennifer Root of Houston Grand Opera

The UTSA Lyric Theatre will present the “Mozart Opera Gala” at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 20 in the 1604 Campus Arts Building Recital Hall. The concert will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birthday of one of Europe’s most enduringly popular composers, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Four distinguished UTSA alumni will return to campus to lend their voices to this concert that will honor some of the composers most popular and recognizable pieces.

Returning alumni will include sopranos Jennifer Root, April Hufty and Jourdan Laine Burger, as well as lyric-baritone John Seesholtz. Performance pieces will include selections from “Le Nozze di Figaro” (The marriage of Figaro), “Don Giovanni,” Die Zauberflöte” (The Magic Flute), and “Cosi fan tutte.”

Jennifer Root, currently celebrating her fourth season with the Houston Grand Opera Studio, has been a featured singer in the company’s performances of La Nozze Di Figaro, Don Giovanni and the title character of Verdi’s Aida. Additionally, she has performed with the renowned Aspen Opera Theatre Center and in 2004 she placed second in the Dallas Opera Guild Vocal Competition.

John Seesholtz, who is the recipient of the Irwin Bushman Award as well as the Alice Dutcher Thornton award, is currently performing the role of Guglielmo in “Cose fan tutte” in Venice, Italy as part of the Galuppi Opera Festival. A native of San Antonio, he is currently a full-time teaching fellow at the University of North Texas.

April Hufty, who teaches voice at O’Connor High School in San Antonio, has studied at the Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. A native of Abilene, she is the recipient of the 2002 National Association of Teachers of Singing Excellence Award.

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Jourdan Laine Burger, a recent graduate of UTSA, has performed with the Abilene Collegiate Opera and with the Lyric Opera of San Antonio. She is the winner of the Kathleen Weir Vocal Excellence Award.

Guest artists for the performance will include Allyson Dawkins, principal violist of the San Antonio Symphony and soprano Linda Poetschke, professor of voice at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Terence Frazor will lead the ensemble as guest conductor. Frazor, who currently holds the position of Music Director and Conductor of the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra, has served as guest conductor with some of the leading orchestras of Europe and North and South America, including the American Symphony Orchestra (New York), Sao Paulo State Symphony (Brazil) and the Mozarteum Orchestra (Austria).

Tickets for the event are \$25 and will be available for purchase at the door or in advance by calling (210) 458-5685.

About The University of Texas at San Antonio

The University of Texas at San Antonio is one of the premier institutions of higher education in South Texas and one of the fastest growing universities in the state. One of nine academic universities and six health institutions that comprise the UT System, UTSA is the second largest institution in the system. Celebrating its 36th anniversary, UTSA serves more than 28,000 students enrolled in 62 bachelors, 43 masters and 19 doctoral degree programs.

Programs are offered through the colleges of Architecture, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Honors, Liberal and Fine Arts, Public Policy, and Sciences, and the Graduate School. A Top 100 Hispanic-serving institution, UTSA is ranked among the top 10. A university of access and excellence, UTSA is committed to research and discovery, teaching and learning, and public service.

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