

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND HONORING AND CONGRATULATING CECILIA VIOLETTA LOPEZ FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN OPERA.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Cecilia Violetta Lopez, a Mexican American, is an Idaho native, born and raised in Rupert to parents who immigrated from Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez credits her parents with instilling in her a powerful work ethic; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez inherited her love of music from her mother, who taught her traditional Mexican songs to pass time while they harvested beets during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, even Ms. Lopez's name is associated with music, as Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of music, and Violetta is the protagonist in the opera "La Traviata," a role that Ms. Lopez went on to play to great acclaim; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez learned English as a child by watching "Sesame Street," a show that also served as her first introduction to opera; and

WHEREAS, as a student at Minico High School, Ms. Lopez excelled academically and was a member of the elite dance team and two choirs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez was a local celebrity in Rupert and was often invited to sing at rodeos, weddings and quinceaneras; and

WHEREAS, following high school, Ms. Lopez worked as an orthopedic technician, married, started a family, and was encouraged by her husband to study music; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez attended college at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, where she majored in music education and began to perform in operas; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from UNLV, Ms. Lopez, a soprano with a range of four octaves, was hired by Opera San Jose; and

WHEREAS, in her years since graduating college, Ms. Lopez has had a fellowship with Martina Arroyo in New York City and has sung with opera companies across the nation, including Opera Idaho, Opera Tampa, Ash Lawn Opera, Virginia Opera, Opera Saratoga, the Michigan Opera Theatre, Eugene Opera and Loft Opera; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez has won numerous accolades as an opera performer, including both first place and the Audience Favorite Award at the Irene Dalis Competition in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez joined the Metropolitan Opera in 2015 and made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez's performance as Violetta in "La Traviata" with the Metropolitan Opera was praised by a critic for the New York Observer as "among the loveliest I have witnessed on any stage"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez will soon make her European debut singing the role of Norina in "Don Pasquale" with Zomeropera in Belgium; and

1 WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez will once again appear in Idaho during the 2017-2018
2 season, singing with the Boise Philharmonic and performing the role of Adina
3 in "The Elixir of Love" with Opera Idaho; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez was recently named one of "25 Rising Stars" by Opera
5 News; and

6 WHEREAS, while on a visit to Idaho in 2016, Ms. Lopez appeared at rural
7 schools from Bruneau to Grandview, encouraging students to explore "outside
8 their bubble" and follow their dreams; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Lopez's hard work, determination and dedication to her art
10 serve as an inspiration for all Idahoans in pursuing their goals and overcom-
11 ing obstacles.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
13 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
14 resentatives concurring therein, that we honor and congratulate Cecilia Vi-
15 oletta Lopez for her many achievements in the world of opera.