SPARKS A-FLYIN' SPRING 2023

issue #10 April 2, 2023

Welcome to the new issue of our quarterly newsletter – the biggest recent *SPARKS* news is:

- Three *SPARKS* songs were featured in March events related to the world premiere of the opera The Fox and the Cookie: my lyric "Bruria" was part of the Women's History Month art showcase that opened March 6 at UTEP's Union Gallery, I performed "The Best" at a March 21 panel discussion event "Multicultural Impact of Aesop's Fables," and I performed "Kind" to open the March 27 & 28 ticketed opera evenings (which had record turnout for Opera UTEP). The performances were held at UTEP's 400-seat Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall whose streaming is now archived on Opera UTEP or UTEP Music Dept. Facebook pages (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLafm2hTz68), and here's a clip from an attendee: https://larrylesser.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/audienceclipKIND.mp4. This was my first unmasked performance in a real venue since the pandemic hit, and he is so happy to feel like these things are possible again and he is exploring more opportunities!

- Speaking of performing opportunities, I'm next really looking forward to playing (possibly with one or more accompanying musicians) the 12-1pm time slot on Sunday May 7 at the second annual Food Festival at El Paso's Temple Mount Sinai. If it's like last year's well-attended festival, you can hear the music for free and buy tickets if you want food. I plan to play some of the best *SPARKS* songs and also try out some post-SPARKS music. Spread the word and come on out!

- And finally, it's such a pleasure when collaborations yield more collaborations. I co-wrote an entry with *SPARKS* violinist Amalia Kelter Zeitlin for the *Love Song for Las Cruces* contest. In one evening, Amalia told me things she loves about living there, I made into a lyric, Amalia added melody, then Julio Campos added guitar arrangement. Go to https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/vlclovesong to see how our entry stacks up and look for results later this month at https://nmcostudio.com/lovesonglc/ -- wish us luck!

Wishing everyone a peaceful and healthy spring,

Larry
https://larrylesser.com/sparks/