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GINA CHAVEZ TO HOST MUSIC VIDEO PREMIERE AND BENEFIT CONCERT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11 AT STATESIDE AT THE PARAMOUNT

All-star lineup featuring Mother Falcon, Elizabeth McQueen and Riders Against the Storm to celebrate the official Video Premiere of Chavez's award-winning song, 'Siete-D' at an unforgettable evening benefiting the Niñas Arriba college fund

Chavez wins Musician of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year, Latin Band of the Year and the AMP Esme Barrera Award for Music Activism and Education at this year's Austin Music Awards

Austin Mayor names today, April 2, 'Gina Chavez Day' in Austin

(AUSTIN, TEXAS – April 2015; source: Juice Consulting) – Eight-time Austin Music Award winner **Gina Chavez** is proud to host the official **"Siete-D" Video Premiere** on **Saturday, April 11** at **Stateside at The Paramount**, located at **719 Congress Ave., Austin, Texas**. Two-time Austin Music Award winner for Band of the Year **Riders Against the Storm (RAS)** will emcee the evening, which will feature a collaborative set with **Gina Chavez** and **Mother Falcon**, as well as **Elizabeth McQueen's** new project **EMQ**. The event will benefit **Niñas Arriba**, a college fund Chavez co-founded for young women in El Salvador. Doors are at **6:30 p.m.** and the show begins at **7:30 p.m.** VIP Tickets (\$60) and General Admission Tickets (\$26) are available for purchase at www.austintheatre.org.

One of Austin's most beloved world music/indie artists, Chavez is known for an inimitable sound that blends North American and Latin influences. Her latest independent release, *Up.Rooted*, won the praise of National Public Radio (NPR), USA Today, and was declared "as confident as it is refreshing" by the Boston Globe. The album, which received a rare four-star review in the Austin Chronicle, topped the iTunes and Amazon Latin charts following an interview on NPR's All Things Considered.

The April 11 benefit celebrates the official Video Premiere for her song "Siete-D," a rock-cumbia-rap mix that explores the delights and dangers of El Salvador from a window on the 7-D bus she rode as a volunteer there in 2010. The Spanish-language song won the Grand Prize in the 2014 John Lennon Songwriting Contest (JLSC) and features Chavez's first rap. The official video - filmed last October in El Salvador - follows Chavez on an exciting cross-country journey to reunite with a group of young women she considers her Salvadoran sisters, four of whom are able to attend college on Niñas Arriba scholarships.

"The idea for 'Siete-D' came to me while I was living in Soyapango. The public transit there is wild!" says Chavez. "You climb into old American school buses that are bursting with color and blaring *reggaeton* (Latin hip hop) as they tear through crowded city streets and hold on. On the surface, 'Siete-D' is a party song, but ultimately it's a tribute to the spirit of the Salvadoran people who endure gang violence and extortion every day with quiet resilience and the most giving hearts I have ever known."

Last October, Chavez and fellow Niñas Arriba co-founder Jodi Granado returned to El Salvador for the first time since their volunteer year ended in 2010. When news of the JLSC award reached the pages of the country's major newspaper, *La Prensa Grafica*, YouTube hits for "Siete-D" surpassed 40,000 views in two days, just before her debut tour. The result was a whirlwind tour of packed shows and adoring fans in major cities, remote mountain towns, theaters, community centers and schools. Chavez and her trio drove 520 miles, gave 16 radio and TV interviews, performed nine concerts in seven days, and were gifted a lively performance of "Siete-D" by more than 40 children at an alternative elementary school in the mountains of Morazan. Most importantly, she and Granado were reunited with their Salvadoran sisters.

"We had no idea how much we'd missed the girls until we got to give each one a bear hug and see their smiles," says Chavez. "El Salvador is like home because of those girls, and it means so much to me that they agreed to be in the video for 'Siete-D.' They're the reason I wrote that song and my first rap!"

All sponsorships and proceeds from the concert will benefit the Niñas Arriba college fund, which currently supports four young women -- Xiomara, Marta, Vanesa and Rosmery. Two of the scholarship recipients are nearing graduation, and Chavez and Granado are gearing up for another sold-out show to support their Salvadoran sisters.

Chavez is excited to return to the Stateside this year with fellow Black Fret grant winners Mother Falcon and Elizabeth McQueen. Attendees are in for an incredible night of music hosted by 2014 Band of the Year, hip-hop duo Riders Against the Storm. It's sure to be a wild ride! For more information, please see: www.ginachavez.com.

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About Niñas Arriba:

Niñas Arriba is a campaign to change the world, one girl at a time. Donations directly fund high-quality, low-cost college education for young women in a gang-dominated suburb in El Salvador where founders Gina Chavez and Jodi Granado taught English for eight months. The campaign currently supports full scholarships for three students - Xiomara, Marta and Vanessa - to attend Don

Bosco University, a private, Catholic college in Soyapango, San Salvador. Each scholarship covers monthly tuition, academic fees and supplies, food and transportation, and funds are sent directly to the university in the students' names. All donations are accepted through the fund's fiscal sponsor, [Stone Room Concerts](#), a 501(c)(3) public charity. Donations are tax-deductible. For further information, please visit ninarriba.wordpress.com.

About Mother Falcon:

Mother Falcon began as a jam session among a few adventurous high school cellists eager to break out of the rigid repertoire predominate in their musical training. In the seven years since, Mother Falcon has grown to a 20-piece indie orchestra known for impassioned performances of intricately detailed, yet muscular soundscapes interwoven with inventive string, horn and vocal arrangements. NPR named the band an Artist To Discover at SXSW 2013 and landed in "Bob Boilen's 15 Essential Moments From SXSW." To support their third studio release, *You Knew*, Mother Falcon launched the "Dirty Summer Tour 2013," moving 17 members to New York City for the month of June to perform weekly collaborative residencies with local artists. The three-time Austin Music Award winning ensemble has headlined Idea Fest at The Kentucky Center for the Arts, The Austin Chamber Music Festival, and collaborated with Alejandro Escovedo, Amanda Palmer, Raul Midon, Tony Trischka, Ben Sollee, Kelli Scarr, Gary Lucas, Christopher Cross and Jherik Bischoff. Following their latest release, *MF Computer*, Mother Falcon's orchestral interpretation of the Radiohead classic *OK Computer*, they return to the studio to continue work on a long form composition set for release as an EP.

About EMQ

EMQ is the new project from Elizabeth McQueen (the Grammy-nominated former female singer for Asleep at the Wheel), Lauren Gurgiolo (guitarist for Okkervil River and leader of the experimental noise rock band the Dialtones) and Lindsay Greene (former bass player for Paula Nelson and Seth Walker). This group is exploring what might happen when they mix and meld of all of their influences - - at once. At the center of the sound are Elizabeth's crystalline vocals. Her singing has been compared to "Loretta Lynn spliced in honey." Or maybe Peggy Lee copping Ella Fitzgerald licks. It's a sound that comes straight out of the mid-twentieth century. But rather than surround that voice with appropriate instrumentation -- say live drums, upright bass and jazz guitar -- it's surrounded instead by Lindsay Greene's Moog bass lines and Micro Korg riffs and Lauren Gurgiolo's distorted guitar loops. The band also uses sampled drum beats courtesy of "little Dave Sanger," the mpc1000 that the band has affectionately named after McQueen's drummer husband, rather than live drums. All of this may not be what you would expect from a singer who spent eight and half years traveling over a million miles with the legendary western swing band Asleep at the Wheel, but McQueen, a 13-year resident of one of the country's most creative cities, feels confident that people will accept this new route. "Austin is the most accepting city that I've ever seen. I never felt like my past in the country and swing world had to determine my future musical path. The way I see it, I'm taking the best of what I learned in my time with the Wheel — the vocal technique, the song structure, the guitar style and how to connect with an audience — and blending it with all the other kinds of music that I love. And I'm playing with some of my best friends on the planet. It's all so interesting and exciting for me. And I know it will be interesting and exciting for other people as well."

***MEDIA NOTE:**

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