



# ANIMA MUNDI PRODUCTIONS

Healing the soul of the world through the arts

## Press Release

Contact: Ethan Gans-Morse  
Phone: 541-778-1211  
Email: ethan@animamundiproductions.com  
Web: www.AnimaMundiProductions.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 22, 2019  
Ashland, Oregon

### **Local Arts Organization Launches New Socially Oriented Concert Series in Ashland**

Anima Mundi Productions, a Rogue Valley-based nonprofit organization dedicated to “healing the soul of the world through the arts,” proudly announces its new *Heart of Humanity* concert series which will debut this fall in Ashland. All *Heart of Humanity* concerts will take place in the Oregon Center for the Arts Music Recital Hall on Mountain Ave. on the campus of Southern Oregon University. The upcoming 2019-2020 season will be the inaugural year for this series, with concerts planned on October 6, 2019, January 12, 2020, and April 26, 2020.

*The Heart of Humanity* concert series is distinguished for its strong emphasis on addressing an urgent social theme at each concert, often through the creation and premiere of new and inspiring concert works by composers who are directly involved in the concert, including Rogue Valley-based composer Ethan Gans-Morse, poet Tiziana DellaRovere and pianist/composer Jodi French. The series features internationally renowned performers, including Estelí Gomez, a Grammy-award winning soprano; mezzo-soprano Cecilia Duarte; the Delgani String Quartet, which has been hailed as “the state’s finest chamber ensemble” by Oregon ArtsWatch; and Malek Jandali, a Syrian-American composer/pianist whose work has been called “a major new addition to the 21<sup>st</sup> century symphonic literature” by Fanfare Magazine. Each concert will be followed by discussion about the concert’s theme with the opportunity for dialogue with the audience.

At the series opening concert, entitled “Peace Through Music,” on October 6, 2019, Anima Mundi Productions will present the Malek Jandali Trio. Malek Jandali, an award-winning composer and “acclaimed pianist” (BBC WorldNews) will present an afternoon of his original compositions inspired by the musical heritage of his native Syria. Mr. Jandali’s compositions incorporate ancient melodies from Aleppo, Damascus, and other stops on the Silk Road, echoing UNESCO’s call to preserve and protect the rich cultural heritage of Syria and the Silk Road at a time when it is being eradicated. Mr. Jandali’s trio includes local cellist Michal Palzewicz and Eugene based David Rogers on oud, the Middle Eastern ancestor of the lute. Mr. Jandali is the founder of Pianos for Peace, an annual open festival of music using pianos beautifully painted by local artists and place in public spaces for all to play and enjoy in order to unite people in the community. Anima

TELEPHONE 541.778.1211  
ANIMAMUNDIPRODUCTIONS.COM

P.O. BOX 1323 PHOENIX, OREGON 97535



# ANIMA MUNDI PRODUCTIONS

Healing the soul of the world through the arts

Mundi Productions is proud to collaborate with Mr. Jandali to bring *Pianos for Peace* to Ashland in the weeks preceding his October 6 concert.

For the second concert in the series, entitled “With Malice Toward None, With Charity for All,” Anima Mundi Productions will present baritone Christopheren Nomura accompanied by pianists Daniel Lockert and Ashland pianist Jodi French. Mr. Nomura will present an unforgettable recital of classical and popular works that explore the pressing topic of healing the wounds of war and restoring compassion. Repertoire will include the world premiere of new works by Jodi French and Anima Mundi resident artists Ethan Gans-Morse and Tiziana DellaRovere. Known for the “force and beauty of his voice,” (The Washington Post) and “first rate” performances (The New York Times) as well as his personal charm, Mr. Nomura will take audiences on a healing journey through song. Mr. Nomura is a long-time Rogue Valley favorite, who was last heard in the Valley on the Rogue Valley Symphony’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

For the final concert of the series, entitled *Dreams Have No Borders*, on April 26, 2020, Anima Mundi Productions will present the world premiere of the newest work by composer Ethan Gans-Morse and poet Tiziana DellaRovere. This narrative song cycle about immigration is based on the real-life stories of Oregon’s migrant families as told to Gans-Morse and DellaRovere in interviews held throughout 2018 and 2019. Featuring Grammy-winning soprano Esteli Gomez, mezzo-soprano Cecilia Duarte and tenor Rafael Moras, accompanied by the Delgani String Quartet, *Dreams Have No Borders* follows a young mother’s harrowing journey to create a better life for herself and her family. The creation of *Dreams Have No Borders* has been supported by a grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust. Mr. Gans-Morse and Ms. DellaRovere’s previous work, entitled “How Can You Own the Sky,” was commissioned by the Rogue Valley Symphony for its 50<sup>th</sup> season-closing concert in April 2018, which was met with enormous enthusiasm by sold-out audiences in Ashland, Medford, and Grants Pass.

Subscription season tickets to the inaugural season of *The Heart of Humanity* concert series are now on sale by visiting [www.HumanityTickets.com](http://www.HumanityTickets.com) or by calling 541-833-3066. Single tickets will go on sale on July 1, 2019.

###

Anima Mundi Productions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to creating, promoting, and producing original works that harness the power of art to stir the soul, foster community, and address urgent social problems.

For further inquiries, please contact executive director Ethan Gans-Morse: 541-778-1211.