

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2019

Phoenix, Oregon

Rogue Valley-Based Arts Organization Awarded \$25,000 OCF Grant to Produce *Dreams Have No Borders*

Anima Mundi Productions, a Rogue Valley-based nonprofit organization dedicated to “healing the soul of the world through the arts,” was one of only two Southern Oregon nonprofits to receive the Oregon Community Foundation’s highly competitive “Creative Heights” grant for 2019, the other being the Britt Festival.

According to the OCF, each year, OCF provides Creative Heights Grants to up to 15 of the most innovative and culturally impactful proposals by artists and groups across Oregon.

“The Creative Heights Initiative puts philanthropic dollars to work as innovation capital in the arts sector. Allowing artists to take creative risks on new work is essential to the overall arts, culture and heritage health of the state of Oregon,” said Jerry Tischleder, OCF’s Program Officer for Arts and Culture. “We celebrate their ingenuity, passion and efforts to create vibrant and accessible arts opportunities for all people throughout the state.”

Anima Mundi Productions received Creative Heights funding to support the creation and world premiere performance of a new musical work called *Dreams Have No Borders*, a narrative song cycle for three singers and string quartet which will premiere in Ashland on Sunday, April 26 at the SOU Music Recital Hall. The piece is based on a year of interviews that the creators of the work conducted with Latino immigrants in the Rogue Valley, which were then composited into a fictional story by resident author Tiziana DellaRovere and set to music by resident composer Ethan Gans-Morse with support from local nonprofits such as Unite Oregon.

The world premiere performance will feature world-class talent, including a Grammy-winning soprano, singers from Houston Grand Opera, and the Delgani String Quartet, called “The state’s finest chamber ensemble” by Oregon ArtsWatch. This project has also received funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Oregon Arts Commission, the Miller Foundation, and the Carpenter Foundation.

Anima Mundi executive director and project composer Ethan Gans-Morse said, “This project represents everything we seek to accomplish as an organization—it stands at the intersection of the fine arts and the urgent need to tell the stories of marginalized people in our community. We’re profoundly grateful to receive the support of the Oregon Community Foundation.”

The *Heart of Humanity* Concert Series

The world premiere performance of *Dreams Have No Borders* will be the final concert in the first season of the *Heart of Humanity* series, a new concert series which Anima Mundi Productions is launching in Ashland. All of these 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.

Tickets to the inaugural season of *The Heart of Humanity* concert series are on sale at www.HumanityTickets.com or by calling 541-833-3066.

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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 press inquiries, please contact executive director Ethan Gans-Morse: 541-778-1211 or ethan@animamundiproductions.com