



# Dreams Have No Borders

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## A New Immigration-Themed Chamber Opera

*Dreams Have No Borders* is a new chamber opera by composer Ethan Gans-Morse and librettist Tiziana DellaRovere. Scored for three singers and string quartet, with a brief appearance by an Aztec dance troupe, it's designed to work equally well as a concert work, a chamber opera, or a hybrid of the two with light staging, simple costumes, and projections. The opera explores the courage and humanity of asylum seekers who are forced to risk their lives to reach the USA in order to survive.

The third operatic collaboration between composer Ethan Gans-Morse and librettist Tiziana DellaRovere, *Dreams Have No Borders* is based on over a year of interviews and immersion in the lives of Latinx migrants whose experiences provided every element of the story. It tells the story of Marisol, a young mother in central Mexico who is forced to flee her home when a drug cartel murders her husband and threatens her life and the life of her baby. It follows her harrowing journey to reunite with her older sister, Rosario, already living in the USA. Along the way, she is aided by a young Honduran man, Gabrielito, who is fleeing the loss of his family's farm when an oligarch killed his father and took over the region to create a palm oil plantation.

This work was scheduled to premiere in April in Ashland, Oregon but has been postponed until March of 2021 as a consequence of the pandemic.

Length: 80 minutes.

Word premiere production:

- Stage direction by Valerie Rachelle
- Video projections by Omar Ramos
- Grammy winner Estelí Gomez as Marisol (soprano)
- Grammy winner Cecilia Duarte as Rosario (mezzo)
- Rafael Moras as Gabrielito (tenor)
- The Delgani String Quartet
- Teokalli Aztec Dance Troupe (2 dancers and 1 drummer)

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**Ethan Gans-Morse** is a critically acclaimed **composer and producer** based in Southern Oregon. He is best known for composing and producing the opera, *The Canticle of the Black Madonna*, which The Oregonian called “A huge achievement... generous, carefully crafted and supremely compassionate.” He focuses on collaborative projects that foster greater human connection. He has written three socially conscious operas and a program symphony about the Native American history of Oregon which conductor Martin Majkut praised as “[providing] emotional catharsis on par with the great masterworks of the past.” As Eugene Weekly described his work, “Classical music is often rightly accused of ignoring the here and now. Fortunately, [composers such as Gans-Morse] are using classical and postclassical forms to help us understand the sometimes-unpleasant realities of the world we live in.”



Born in Milano, Italy, **librettist Tiziana DellaRovere** is an accomplished poet and an author of fiction and non-fiction. She has written three librettos for operas by composer Ethan Gans-Morse, the poetry for Gans-Morse’s program symphony *How Can You Own The Sky?* and the text of numerous art songs and choral collaborations. Tiziana’s writings flow from her convictions that the cultivation of love is a fierce, courageous, and down-to-earth power that can heal the heart of humanity. As Oregon ArtsWatch wrote of her second libretto, *Tango of the White Gardenia*, “Its messages are loud and clear and humane, and the art is fine enough to carry them... Not only can *Tango of the White Gardenia* turn people onto the sometimes-alienating ancient art form of opera, it also suggests that we can become better people.”



**Stage director and choreographer Valerie Rachelle** has directed theater and opera at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Opera, Fresno Grand Opera, Sierra Repertory Theatre, Glendale Center Theater, Performance Riverside, Lucid By Proxy, Oregon Cabaret Theater, Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theater, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Southern Oregon University, El Camino College, Summer Repertory Theater, PCPA Theaterfest and many others. She is currently the Artistic Director of the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland, OR, now in its 35th season.

## ANIMA MUNDI PRODUCTIONS



*Dreams Have No Borders* is being produced by Anima Mundi Productions, a 501c3 nonprofit in Ashland, Oregon dedicated to addressing urgent social issues through operatic and concert works. Our annual Heart of Humanity concert series has the mission of “giving voice to marginalized people with compassion and depth, turning the concert hall into a space for renewed hope, communal healing and mutual understanding.”