

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Updates on world premiere of new chamber opera based on the real-life stories of Southern Oregon Latino immigrants – now to be filmed in August 2021

Anima Mundi Productions, a Southern Oregon-based nonprofit organization dedicated to “healing the soul of the world through the arts,” is announcing a new production timeline for its new chamber opera, *Dreams Have No Borders*. Originally scheduled for April of 2020, then postponed for March 21, 2021, **this unique new work will now be recorded as a video this summer** and released as a film screening in a movie theater in the fall of 2021 as soon as the COVID situation permits large gatherings.

CAST UPDATES

With the change of schedule, one cast member, Rafael Moras, was forced to withdraw from the project and has been replaced. The company welcomes **tenor Daniel Montenegro** in the role of Gabrielito, a young Honduran refugee fleeing the destruction of his family farm. Mr. Montenegro has performed leading roles with major companies such as Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and New York City Opera, and has been praised by the Washington Post for his “natural sense of phrasing, elegant line, lovely, evenly produced sound.”

The production also features **soprano Estelí Gomez—nominated for two Grammy Awards and Grammy recipient for her work on *Roomful of Teeth*—and mezzo-soprano Cecilia Duarte, a featured soloist on the Grammy-winning recording, *Duruflé: Complete Choral Works*, accompanied by the Delgani String Quartet, called “the state’s finest chamber ensemble” by Oregon ArtsWatch. Also featured are the Teocalli Dancers, a Bay Area-based Aztec dance troupe.**

ABOUT THE VIDEO

Dreams Have No Borders will be filmed in August 2021 following strict COVID-safe protocols and released as a film later in the year. The film will be directed by Oregon-based filmmaker Nick Alexander, who received wide renown for his debut documentary feature *Illegal* last year.

Creating and releasing *Dreams Have No Borders* as a film will offer the additional advantage of digital distribution and multiple screenings, allowing Anima Mundi Productions to share more widely this timely new work about the humanity of migrants seeking refuge.

OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL AND CABARET TALENT

This production also features stage director Valerie Rachelle and lighting designer Michael Stanfill of Oregon Cabaret Theatre, as well as video designer Omar Ramos, who has worked extensively at Oregon Shakespeare festival over the last 10 years.

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A DIFFERENT KIND OF OPERA BASED ON OREGON'S LATINO IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

For many people, the word “opera” conjures up images of powdered wigs, foreign languages, and arcane stories of centuries past and far-away lands. *Dreams Have No Borders*, by contrast, is based on the real-life stories the creators heard during a year spent interviewing Latino immigrants and collaborating with Latino-advocacy nonprofits and community leaders in the Rogue Valley. While the work they ultimately produced is a fictional story created by compositing those interviews, everything that happens to the characters in the opera happened in real life to the Rogue Valley residents they interviewed.

WHO ARE THE CREATORS?

Dreams Have No Borders is the creation of Anima Mundi Productions' co-founders and resident artists Ethan Gans-Morse (composer) and Tiziana DellaRovere (poet). Local audiences attended their 2018 collaboration with the Rogue Valley Symphony, *How Can You Own The Sky?* which told the story of our region's Native American legacy.

Dreams Have No Borders is their third operatic collaboration. Their 2014 opera, *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* was hailed by The Oregonian as “A huge achievement... generous, carefully crafted and supremely compassionate. In a review of their second opera, *Tango of the White Gardenia*, Oregon ArtsWatch wrote “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.”

THE HEART OF HUMANITY CONCERT SERIES

Heart of Humanity concerts normally take place at the Oregon Center for the Arts on the campus of Southern Oregon University. The mission of the series is *to give voice to marginalized people with compassion and depth, turning the concert hall into a space for renewed hope, communal healing, and mutual understanding.*

Due to the special circumstances caused by COVID-19, the entire 2020-21 season of the series is being filmed and released as a festival of online videos throughout 2021.

Learn more and watch concert videos at www.HumanityTickets.com or by calling 541-833-3066.

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