

DREAMS AMERICANOS

A Chamber Opera in Two Acts

Dreams Americanos is a new opera loosely based on *Cyrano de Bergerac* rooted in the contemporary immigrant experience. Sung in English and Spanish, this bilingual opera is set in a pub in the oceanside town of Santa Cruz. It features complex characters not defined by their labels: Latinx, Caribeño, white, college-educated, LGBTQ+, working-class, first and second-generation immigrants. It presents the complex social fabric found in America; it follows the character's dreams and challenges while tracing a classic love triangle with heartbreaking results.

Creative Team:

Christopher Pratorius-Gómez: Music, Concept, and Spanish Text

Alan Olejniczak: Co-Librettist

Synopsis:

Dani, a queer singer/songwriter and recent immigrant from Guatemala, falls silently in love with Maddie, a fellow server and young university student. But Dani has a rival, Cristian, the pub's barman. Cristian wants to impress Maddie with a song and asks Dani, a prolific songwriter, to write one for him in exchange for English tutoring. It all goes wrong when Cristian cannot remember the song, and Dani must sing the Spanish lyrics to Cristian while he sings them in English to Maddie (the balcony scene). The ballad works its magic, and Maddie falls for Cristian. The couple dates for a time, but Cristian eventually tires of the relationship and breaks Maddie's heart. Dani tries to comfort Maddie and is compelled to kiss the woman she has longed for. She is denied. Dani learns that in love, as in life, one must always take the risk.

Score and Production Information:

Duration: 60 minutes

Cast of six: Dani, Latina, 20's *mezzo-soprano*; Maddie, white, 20's *soprano*; Cristian, Latino, 20's, *tenor*; Mateo, Black or mixed race, 40's, *Bass-Baritone*; Taylor, any race, 20's, *soprano*. Darcy, white, 20's (*non-singing role*)

Instrumentation (10): two violins, two violas, double bass, guitar, clarinet, bassoon, marimba, percussion

Current Development: The full music score is completed.