

DREAMS AMERICANOS

A Chamber Opera in Two Acts

Dreams Americanos is a new opera, loosely based on *Cyrano de Bergerac*, that is 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 who are not defined by their labels: Latinx, Caribeño, white, college educated, LGBTQ+, working class, first and second-generation immigrants. It presents the complex social fabric that is often found in restaurants in California, the characters dreams and challenges, while tracing a classic love triangle with heartbreaking results.

Creative Team:

Chris Pratorius Gómez: Music, Concept, and Spanish Text

Alan Olejniczak: Libretto

Synopsis:

Dani, a recently arrived Guatemalan lesbian, 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 song 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. Not all love stories end happily, but Dani learns that in love, as in life, one must always take risks.

Score and Production Information:

Duration: One hour and forty 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*; Darcy, white, 20's, *Baritone*; Taylor, any race, 20's, *soprano*.

Proposed Instrumentation: small string section, 2 flutes, oboe, english horn, bassoon, guitar and various percussion instruments.

Current Development: After several drafts, the working libretto was completed in January 2019 and the Act One vocal-writing is nearing completion. The estimated date of full completion of music score with instrumentation is December 2019.