

EASTMAN OPERA THEATRE

FLORENCIA EN EL AMAZONAS

Music by Daniel Catán

Libretto by Marcela Fuentes-Berain

Inspired by Gabriel García Márquez's Love in the Time of Cholera

OCTAVIO CARDENAS, Director

WILSON SOUTHERLAND, Conductor

March 30 – April 1, 2023 | 7:30 PM

April 2, 2023 | 2:00 PM

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

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Octavio Cardenas

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Wilson Southerland

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Michael Bennett Lewis

Sound Design &

Audio Engineer

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Intimacy Choreographer

Lindsay Baker

Assistant Stage Director

James Kenon Mitchell

Rich Wattie

Lighting Designer &

Photographer

Nic Minetor

Assistant Music Director

Luke Poeppel

Costume Designer

Becky Holtz

Nicole LaClair

Choreographer

Anne Harris-Wilcox

Artistic Director of EOT

Steven Daigle

Music Director of EOT

Timothy Long

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Mark Houser

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Katherine Duprey

Production Stage Manager

Josh Lau

Wig Craftsperson

Miloh Costanzo

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Ashlee King

Ori Marcu

Mackenzie Minguillo

Amy Pressman

Wig & Makeup

Miloh Costanzo

Renee Proulx

Jessamyn Slon

Guo Wu

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José Maisonet

Ramon Rivera

Mike Houser

Steve Woznick

Daniel DiPaola

Dylan Skwirba

Costume Construction & Wardrobe

Claudette Hercules

Leah Camilleri

Becky Holtz

Kathryn Piña

Ashlee King

Alanna Beilke

Jessamyn Slon

Graduate Opera Assistants, Pianists

Cynthia Chun Hsin Liu, Sunmin Anna Park, Guhan Peng

CAST

March 30, 7:30 PM

April 1, 7:30 PM

March 31, 7:30 PM

April 2, 2:00 PM

Sofia Scattarreggia

Hannah Moreno

Madelin Morales

Adam Catangui

Christopher Sánchez

Elizabeth Healy

Jack O'Leary

Florencia Grimaldi

Rosalba

Paula

Arcadio

Alvaro

Riolobo

Capitán

Amanda Hornig

Victoria Hill

Alicia Barry

Andrés Ramírez

Isaac Pendley

Minghang Wang

Peter Schoellkopf

Ensemble – Chorus:

Caroline Cooke, Ashlee King, Anna Louise Martin, Kathryn Piña,
Daniela Reyes, Rachel Singh, Daniela Sosa, Samantha Sosa, Meg Brilleslyper,
Liz Jackson, Joelle Lachance, Laura O'Neill, Kayla Sconiers, Seiko,
Liam Anderson, Adam Holthaus, Benjamin Krutsch, Andrew Miller,
Holden Turner, Finn Bucci, Logan Dubner, David Griffith, Simon Lea,
Jason Rober, & S Joshua Sheppard

Dancers:

Bethany Good, Noelle Niegsch, Alaina Olivieri,
Elyssia Primus, Katherine Serna, Donetta Tchoroleev

Covers:

Samantha Sosa for *Florencia Grimaldi*
Anna Louise Martin for *Rosalba*
Kayla Sconiers for *Paula*
Andrew Miller for *Arcadio*
S Joshua Sheppard for *Alvaro*
Jason Rober for *Riolobo*
Logan Dubner for *Capitán*

ORCHESTRA

Wilson Southerland, *conductor*

Flute

Xander Day
Jahshanti Henry

Piccolo

Jahshanti Henry

Oboe

Peter Davies
Payton Brown

Clarinet

Sophie Fears
Kailan Fournier

Bass Clarinet

Kailan Fournier

Bassoon

Cole George
Roan Alonzo

Contrabassoon

Roan Alonzo

Horn

Cristina Vиейtez
Amanda Friedman
Jack Finlay
Jenny Williams

Trumpet

Eric Lofgren
Derek Gong

Trombone

Jacob Ellgass
Talia Berenbaum

Tuba

Michael Witt

Violin I

Rebecca Villalta
Anne-Marie Wneck
Anatole Keshwani
Jia Wen Lin

Violin II

Suwon Kim
Alex Tada
Qiyue Zhang
Jessica Zhuang

Viola

Xinye Xu
Ally Keller
Douglas Rodriguez
Hannah Esquivel

Cello

William Harris
Alfred Western
Cori Trenczer
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Bass

Janae Gaddy
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Harp

Catherine Reid

Timpani

Remy Thomas

Percussion

Anders Wong
Sean McWilliams
Kaiwen Luo
Irene Yang

Piano

Guhan Peng

SETTING & SYNOPSIS

Setting

The El Dorado, a steamboat sailing down the Amazon from Leticia, Colombia, to Manaus in the early 1900's.

~ *There will be one 15-minute intermission* ~

Act I

On the riverbank, **Riolobo**, a mystical character who can assume many forms, excitedly announces that the El Dorado is bound for the opera house in Manaus. There, the legendary opera diva **Florencia Grimaldi**, who has not set foot in her native South America for 20 years, will give a concert to reopen the theater. From among the crowds lining the riverbank and selling their local wares, we glimpse the ship's passengers coming aboard: a young journalist, **Rosalba**, who is working on a biography about Florencia Grimaldi, **Paula** and **Alvaro**, a middle-aged couple journeying to hear Grimaldi in hopes of rekindling their marriage, and the diva herself, traveling incognito.

As the ship pulls away from the busy port, Florencia reflects on the emptiness of her life and her longing to rediscover herself and find her long-lost lover, Cristóbal, a butterfly hunter in search of the rare *Emerald Muse*. Rosalba's notebook is rescued from the river by the ship Capitán's nephew, **Arcadio**, and they exchange confidences about their longings and desires. Alvaro and Paula attempt to dine on deck, but misunderstandings about the exotic menu lead only to bitter exchanges.

Florencia, awakened by the sounds of the jungle, learns from the **Capitán** that the butterfly hunter has disappeared into the jungle without a trace. Later, a tempestuous game of cards reveals the growing affection between Rosalba and Arcadio and the increasing tension between Paula and Alvaro. A violent storm quickly develops and the ship is carried helplessly in the rushing currents in a downpour of pink rain.

Alvaro saves the boat from being crushed by tree trunks but is plunged overboard. With the Capitán unconscious, Riolobo appears in the guise of a river-spirit and implores the mercy of the gods of the river. Arcadio ably takes the helm but is unable to stop the forces of nature as the ship runs aground.

SETTING & SYNOPSIS

Act II

In the quiet after the storm, Florencia wonders whether she is alive or dead. Arcadio and Rosalba rejoice to find they have survived the storm, but frightened by the intensity of their feelings for each other, vow not to fall in love and risk disillusionment. Paula laments the loss of Alvaro, recognizing that the wall between them was pride—not a lack of love. Rioloobo once again calls upon the mystical and transformative powers of the Amazon. Suddenly Alvaro is returned to the boat, explaining that Paula's voice called him back from the brink of death. On behalf of all the passengers, Florencia thanks him for saving their lives and they resume their journey to Manaus.

Rosalba finds her ruined notebook containing all her notes for the biography of Florencia. She is distraught by the loss of two years' work, but Florencia tells her she has lost nothing irreplaceable. The two women begin to argue about the source of Grimaldi's talents, and when Florencia passionately declares that the diva's gift sprang from her love for a man, Rosalba suddenly realizes the woman standing before her is the opera singer herself.

With both pairs of lovers reconciled to their need for each other, the ship is about to reach Manaus when it is discovered that no one may disembark because of a cholera epidemic. In despair at being unable to fulfill her search, Florencia's spirit drifts toward Cristóbal in a mystical reunion.

Florencia en el Amazonas was commissioned by
Houston Grand Opera, Seattle Opera, and Los Angeles Music Center Opera
in part through a grant from Drs. Dennis and Susan Carlyle.
The World Premiere performance took place on 25 October 1996
by Houston Grand Opera.

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WXXI Classical

PRESENTS LATIN MUSIC PROGRAMS

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Concierto, Tuesdays at 10pm *Concierto* is the nation's first bilingual classical music program. Whether you're a classical music fan or a casual listener, you'll enjoy this series that celebrates classical music of Latin American, plus Spanish composers and musicians. Host Frank Dominguez offers an accessible path to classical music appreciation.

Tango with Cally, Wednesdays at 10pm *Tango with Cally* is hosted by Saint Louis Symphony musician Cally Banham. She shares tango recordings from the late 1920s to today, along with stories about the history and culture of tango music and dance.

Fiesta! Thursdays at 10pm *Fiesta!* features the hottest Latin-American music from the 16th to the 21st centuries. Host Elbio Barilari guides you on a trip through the hidden treasures of Latino concert music, the symphonic tango, and shares little-known wonders from the Latin-American baroque and classical guitar.



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Lotte Lenya Competition Celebrating 25 Years

Sponsored by Kurt Weill Foundation for Music

Saturday, April 29, 2023
Kilbourn Hall

10:00 AM
Panel Discussion -
In Conversation: Past Competition Winners

11:00 AM
Panel Discussion -
Other Perspectives: Past and Present Judges

1:00 - 4:30 PM
Final Round of the 2023 Competition

8:00 PM
***25th Anniversary Gala Alumni Concert
& Awards Presentation for 2023 Finals***

Winners spanning the competition's 25 years return to Kilbourn Hall for a special concert of musical theater and operatic favorites. The 2023 Competition awards presentation follows the concert.

Come see who will take home the top prize of \$25,000!

UPCOMING OPERA EVENTS AT EASTMAN

Saturday, May 6, 2023
Jessie Kneisel Competition
Kilbourn Hall, 1:30 PM
Free Admission

Saturday, May 13, 2023
Jessie Kneisel Winner's Concert
Kilbourn Hall, 8:00 PM
Free Admission

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Find information about upcoming Eastman concerts and events at:
esm.rochester.edu/events
www.facebook.com/ConcertsAtEastman

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