Opera Cultura

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A Bilingual Children's Opera : Focus on reading and writing

"The Coyotes and the Rabbits", a bilingual children's opera by Hector Armienta

The Chiquita— Banana Sisters

The Story:

Composer Hector Armienta has adapted one of the oldest Mexican Folk Tales, "***The Coyote and the Rabbit***", and turned it into ***a lesson about the value of an education.***

The story is told by two mischievous but well intentioned rabbits, Chiquita and Banana. The story begins when a young Coyote, named Scrawny, is visited by his cousin, Loco. When Loco finds out that Scrawny is learning how to read, something no decent Coyote would ever do, Loco decides to set Scrawny on the "right path". What follows, are a series of misadventures, due to Loco's ignorance. In the end, Scrawny realizes that an education is the key to a fruitful life

How the work came to be

Hector Armienta was inspired by a book he read called, "The Coyote and Rabbit". He took a suggestion given to him by a colleague from Opera San Jose. She thought it would be a great idea to have the sort of characters you would find in an old Warner Brothers cartoon. Therefore, he based the villain on a coyote character from a Bugs Bunny cartoon. The Chiquita—Banana Sisters are the Mexican version of Chip and Dale. Scrawny is your typical hero.

What makes this bilingual opera unique:

- ***Educational***
- ***Fun to watch***
- ***Tied into the curriculum***
- ***Bilingual***
- ***Truly Interactive***

Educational/ Curriculum Tie in:

The work is based on a Mexican folk tale, called the *Coyote and the Lamb* or *the Coyote and the Rabbit.* The curriculum tie ins are science, English language development, and language arts.

Coyote Loco

Scrawny

The Musical Styles

This work introduces children to the operatic form, while at the same time exposing them the musical styles of:

- The Mexican Corrido
- Jazz
- Spanish Music
- *Rossini—like* quartets

A Proven Track Record

The opera has been performed in California and Texas.

Chiquita

The Details

Running Time:	40 minutes
Number of Performers:	Four Adult Performers
Student Involvement	There are several opportunities for audience participation. There is an optional student chorus section and an optional residency component.
Space Requirements:	A stage and a piano are recommended, but not necessary. Our show is designed to work in a multi use space/cafeteria and we have a portable keyboard.
Language:	**The libretto is in English, with occasional words and phrases in Spanish.** This allows English speakers to understand the work while providing Spanish speakers a unique connection to the art form and their culture.

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