River of Women

- Rio de Mujeres -

A Bilingual Chamber Opera

by

Hector Armienta

"River of Women captures the essence of mystery and fascination with the supernatural found in Latin American cultures."
"Armienta's music is lyrical and expressive"

San Francisco Classical Voice

River of Women draws on Armienta's perspective balancing the American culture he was born into and his Mexican ancestry. The work was inspired by the life of his grandmother (Paula Lopez) and incorporates the mythical character, La Llorona/The Weeping Woman, who is in search of the children she lost in the river. The work is part two of the trilogy, *Aguas Ancestrales/Ancient Waters*, whose central theme is the spiritual element of water and the women in his family.

The Plot

1940's: San Antonio, Texas. The plot centers around the desire of one woman to escape the rural life of the river, but is thwarted by both her family and her culture. In the end, the spirit of the river and La Llorona claim both her dreams and the life of her only daughter.

Photos from 2001 production, directed by Josemaria Condemi at Theater Artaud. Center right (Linh Kaufman and Hope Briggs); Bottom left (Hope Briggs and Mark Hernandez); Center bottom (Paula Lopez, the composer's grandmother & inspiration for River of Women).

For more information, go to:
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DESCRIPTION

Length – One hour and ten minutes
Cast : six
Orchestration - Chamber Ensemble

Settings: The banks of the river, home of Cayetana and Cipriano, & a shack.

Production History

2001- Opera Pacific (Reading Act I)
2002- San Francisco, Theater Artaud (directed by Josemaria Condemi)
2005 - San Francisco by BASOTI
2008 - San Jose Ca (Mission Chamber Orchestra at the Mexican Heritage Plaza)

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