



The Coyotes and the Rabbits - A Bilingual Musical Operetta



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 She thought it would be a great

What makes this bilingual work unique:

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

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.

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 is both a musical and light operetta. It also exposes students to:

- The Mexican Corrido
- Jazz
- Spanish Music

LINKS:

[Video Recording](#)

[Informational Page](#)



Image - property of Hector Armienta

THE

Running Time: 40 minutes

Number of Performers: Four adult singers and one pianist.

Student Involvement: There are several opportunities for audience participation. There is an optional student chorus section and an optional residency component.

Target Grades: Grades Kinder - 5th

Space Requirements: A stage or multi use space/ cafeteria.

Language:

The libretto is primarily in English, with some 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.