



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS NEW CO-COMMISSION
EL ÚLTIMO SUEÑO DE FRIDA Y DIEGO
WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE, JUNE 13–30

Local Premiere of Bay Area Composer Gabriela Lena Frank's First Opera
with Libretto by Nilo Cruz in Production by Director Lorena Maza and
Conducted by Roberto Kalb



Scenes from *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*. Photos: Karli Cadel/San Diego Opera

Daniela Mack and Alfredo Daza Star as the Iconic
Twentieth-Century Artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com)
June 22 Performance Will Be Livestreamed

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 27, 2023) — San Francisco Opera presents the Bay Area premiere of *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* (*The Last Dream of Frida and Diego*) June 13–30 at the War Memorial Opera House. The new opera by Bay Area composer Gabriela Lena Frank with librettist and frequent collaborator Nilo Cruz is a San Francisco Opera co-commission and the Company's first Spanish-language opera (the performances will feature English and Spanish supertitles).

The opera takes place in 1957 on El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead), three years after the death of visionary painter Frida Kahlo. The last wish of her lonely husband,

famed muralist Diego Rivera, is to see Frida again and the underworld answers his call. The two artists enjoy one last opportunity at reunion, reconciliation and release from the pain of longing.

El último sueño de Frida y Diego had its world premiere with San Diego Opera in October 2022 and comes to the War Memorial Opera House stage in the original co-production by Mexican director Lorena Maza featuring the creative team of set designer Jorge Ballina, costume designer Eloise Kazan and lighting designer Victor Zapatero. Detroit Opera Music Director Roberto Kalb, who led the premiere performances in San Diego, takes to the podium in his Company debut. The opera is a co-commission between San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Fort Worth Opera, DePauw University, School of Music and with support from the University of Texas at Austin College of Fine Arts.

Gabriela Lena Frank's music is regularly featured by the nation's leading ensembles, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and Philadelphia Orchestra. She is Composer in Residence of the Philadelphia Orchestra and has composed new works for cellist Yo-Yo Ma, soprano Dawn Upshaw and conductors Marin Alsop and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. As the founder of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music for emerging music-makers in Northern California, Frank is a mentor to composers and creatives from around the world. *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* is her first opera.

Playwright Nilo Cruz is renowned for his stage works including his 2003 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Anna in the Tropics*. Increasingly Cruz's musical collaborations with composers, including Gabriela Lena Frank and Jimmy Lopez, have earned critical and popular acclaim.

Argentine mezzo-soprano Daniela Mack portrays Frida Kahlo, the Mexican painter who found in death the peace she never knew in life—until she is offered the opportunity to return to life for one day on El Día de los Muertos. A former Merola Opera Program participant and San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow, Mack made her Company debut as Lucienne in Korngold's *Die tote Stadt* in 2008 followed by Idamante in Mozart's *Idomeneo*, Rosmira in Handel's *Partenope* and, in three different seasons, Rosina in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* including the Company's return from the pandemic shutdown in drive-in performances at the Marin Center. For her recent performances in Rossini's *Otello* in Philadelphia, Parterre said, "whether in florid work (always cleanly articulated but also

bound into a legato phrase) or cantilena, the voice pours out like molten gold. We are fortunate to live in a time of sensational mezzos, and Mack is in the top tier."

Daniela Mack will be featured in San Francisco Opera's Webby Award-winning video portrait series, *In Song*; filmed on location in Buenos Aires, the new episode will be released this summer.

Mexican baritone Alfredo Daza, creator of the role of famed muralist Diego Rivera in the world premiere of Frank and Cruz's opera last October, returns to San Francisco Opera where, like Daniela Mack, he began as an Adler Fellow (Daza in 1998; Mack in 2008, 2009). *The San Diego Union Tribune* hailed Daza's "soulful restraint" in performing Frank's music for Diego which they described as "deep and mournful, reflecting the artist's regrets over his cruelty."

Chilean soprano Yaritza Véliz makes her house debut as Catrina, the Keeper of the Dead, and American countertenor Jake Ingbar is the young actor, Leonardo, who briefly returns to the world of the living in the guise of actress Greta Garbo. The cast also includes Mikayla Sager, Nikola Printz, Gabrielle Beteag, Moisés Salazar and Ricardo Lugo. The artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus are prepared by Chorus Director John Keene and the production includes choreography by Colm Seery.

Sung in Spanish with English and Spanish supertitles, the five performances of *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* are scheduled for June 13 (7:30 p.m.), 17 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 25 (2 p.m.) and 30 (7:30 p.m.), 2023.

LIVESTREAM: JUNE 22 PERFORMANCE

The Thursday, June 22 performance of Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* will be streamed live at 7:30 p.m. PT. The performance will be available to watch on demand for 48 hours beginning on Friday, June 23 at 10 a.m. PT. Livestream tickets are \$27.50. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital/Livestream.

PRE-OPERA TALKS & SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD PREVIEWS

San Francisco Opera's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* scholar in residence Jessica Bejarano, founder and conductor of the San Francisco Philharmonic, presents a Pre-

Opera Talk prior to each performance inside the theater. Beginning 55 minutes prior to curtain, the 25-minute Pre-Opera Talks are open to ticket holders for the corresponding performance.

June 5–8 at locations throughout the Bay Area, San Francisco Opera Guild presents a series of Opera Previews on *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* by scholar Lucy Caplan. Each 90-minute lecture provides in-depth insight into the opera's history, composer, story and music. For more information, visit sfopera.com/operapreviews.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* (*The Last Dream of Frida and Diego*) are priced from \$26 to \$464 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office, by phone at (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com. A \$2 per-ticket facility fee is included in Balcony 1, 2 and 3 zone prices; all other zones include a \$3 per-ticket facility fee.

The Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* tickets will be available beginning May 13 on a first-come, first-served basis at sfopera.com/operafortheday. Residents with a Bay Area mailing address zip code (beginning with 940–954) who have not bought a ticket to San Francisco Opera in the past three years may purchase up to two \$10 tickets for one performance.

Tickets for the June 22 livestream of *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* will include a 48-hour on-demand viewing option that begins at 10 a.m. the morning after the performance. Livestream tickets are available now at \$27.50 each. For more information visit sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

The San Francisco Opera Box Office window is located in the Opera House at 301 Van Ness Avenue. Box Office hours are Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Saturday phone only).

For up-to-date information about San Francisco Opera's safety measures, visit sfopera.com/safetyfirst.

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's Centennial Season, visit sfopera.com.

EL ÚLTIMO SUEÑO DE FRIDA Y DIEGO

* San Francisco Opera Debut †Role Debut

‡Current Adler Fellow +Merola Opera Program Graduate ++Merola and Adler Fellowship Graduate

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco)

EL ÚLTIMO SUEÑO DE FRIDA Y DIEGO (The Last Dream of Frida and Diego)

By composer Gabriela Lena Frank; Libretto by Nilo Cruz

NEW SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CO-COMMISSION

June 13 (7:30 p.m.), 17 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 25 (2 p.m.), 30 (7:30 p.m.), 2023

A San Francisco Opera co-commission with San Diego Opera; Fort Worth Opera; DePauw University, School of Music and with support from the University of Texas at Austin College of Fine Arts; Co-production with San Diego Opera

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 17 minutes including one intermission

Sung in Spanish with Spanish and English supertitles

Cast:

<i>Frida Kahlo</i>	Daniela Mack †++
<i>Diego Rivera</i>	Alfredo Daza ++
<i>Catrina</i>	Yaritza Véliz *†
<i>Leonardo</i>	Jake Ingbar *†
<i>Aldeano #1</i>	John Fulton *†
<i>Aldeano #2/Muchacho</i>	Moisés Salazar *††
<i>Aldeano #3</i>	Ricardo Lugo †
<i>Frida Image #1</i>	Mikayla Sager ††
<i>Frida Image #2</i>	Nikola Printz ††
<i>Frida Image #3</i>	Gabrielle Beteag ††
<i>Guadalupe Ponti</i>	Whitney Steele †

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Roberto Kalb *
<i>Director</i>	Lorena Maza *
<i>Set Designer</i>	Jorge Ballina *
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Eloise Kazan *
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Victor Zapatero *
<i>Choreographer</i>	Colm Seery
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene
<i>Fight Director</i>	Dave Maier

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD PREVIEW SERIES

June 5–8 at locations throughout the Bay Area, San Francisco Opera Guild presents a series of Opera Previews on *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* by scholar Lucy Caplan. Each 90-minute lecture provides in-depth insight into the opera's history, composer, story and music. For more information visit sfopera.com/operapreviews.

Marin Chapter

Thursday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Aldersly Retirement Community, 326 Mission Avenue, San Rafael

General Admission: \$10

Peninsula Chapter

Tuesday, June 6 at 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto

General Admission: \$10

San Jose Opera Guild

Wednesday, June 7 at 10 a.m.

Addison-Penzak JCC Silicon Valley, 14855 Oka Road, Suite 201, Los Gatos

Free to San Jose Opera Guild and Addison-Penzak JCC members; General admission: \$10

East Bay Chapter

Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mount Diablo Blvd, Lafayette

General Admission: \$10

San Francisco Chapter

Thursday, June 8 at 6 p.m. Zoom Webinar

General Admission: \$10. Register for the Zoom webinar at sfopera.com/operapreviews.

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San Francisco Opera is a member of



PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable artist headshots and production images for *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* are available at sfopera.com/press.

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