

# CORE ENSEMBLE

*Celebrating Diversity through Chamber Music Theatre*

## Tres Vidas



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Tres Vidas is a new chamber music theatre work for singing actress and chamber music trio. The piece is based on the lives of three legendary Latin American women: renowned Mexican painter **Frida Kahlo**, Argentine poet **Alfonsina Storni**, and Salvadoran peasant-activist **Rufina Amaya**.

The script is by award-winning writer and scholar Marjorie Agosin; the musical score includes arrangements of popular and folk music from Latin America, music by tango master **Astor Piazzola** and new music by **Oswaldo Golijov**, **Alice Gomez**, **Orlando Garcia**, **Pablo Ortiz**, and **Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez**.

The singing actress, performing in both Spanish and English, portrays the three heroines. The show includes images of Frida Kahlo's dramatic visual work, excerpts from **Alfonsina Storni's** passionate poetry, and passages from **Rufina Amaya's** heartfelt testimony about the brutal massacre of her village of El Mozote

## CHARACTERS THAT YOU WILL MEET IN TRES VIDAS

### Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)

Frida Kahlo, the Mexican painter, had a life marked by physical suffering. Beginning with the polio which she contracted at the age of five, her condition was worsened by a bus accident in her twenties. Many of her works were painted lying in bed.

And yet Frida Kahlo left us a joyful legacy, through her paintings that celebrated the colorful Mexican culture that she loved. She was loved by her friends and family for her delight in the Mexican landscape, the flamboyant Mexican ethnic costumes and jewelry that were her trademark, her delight in fiestas and parties, and her gifts as a cook in preparing traditional Mexican cuisine.



*Frida Kahlo: El Camion (The Bus), 1929.*



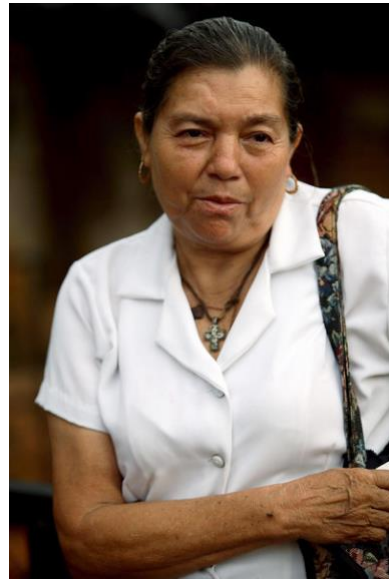
*Frida Kahlo: Las Dos Fridas (The Two Fridas), 1939*

## CHARACTERS THAT YOU WILL MEET IN TRES VIDAS

### **Rufina Amaya, (1943-2007)**

Rufina Amaya was a 38-year old Salvadoran housewife and mother of four children when the Civil War broke out in her country. Because of the devastation in her homeland, and her mountain village of El Mozote, she became a dynamic human rights activist.

She has been recognized by the New York Times, the Washington Post and journalist Mark Danner in his book, *El Mozote*. In addition to speaking out on behalf of those who are powerless, Rufina Amaya works on behalf of child welfare as the founder of a day care center in the mountains of the Morazon region of El Salvador.



## CHARACTERS THAT YOU WILL MEET IN TRES VIDAS

### **Alfonsina Storni (1882-1938)**

Perhaps Argentina's most beloved poet, Alfonsina Storni was years ahead of her time in advocating for women's rights.

Throughout her multifaceted career as an actress, shop girl, teacher, and market analyst, and her lifelong devotion to her only son, she stood alone in her time in seeing through the hypocrisy of social conventions. She lived at a time when women in Latin America were in total subjugation to husbands and fathers, yet she broke away.

It is a tribute to her gifts as a writer and her passion for living independently, that so many men and women in Argentina revere her work today.



## INSTRUMENTS THAT YOU WILL HEAR IN TRES VIDAS

**PIANO:** A member of the keyboard family. Sound is produced by the action of strings being struck by a hammer. The forerunners of the piano were the organ, the harpsichord and the forte-piano. The modern piano as we know it was developed in the 1800s.

**CELLO:** The cello is a member of the string family. It evolved over the course of several centuries, finding its roots in the earliest stringed instruments of ancient times: the plucked lute of Greece, the medieval viols, the gamba of the Renaissance and the Baroque cello of the 1600's. The modern string family consists of violin, viola, cello, string bass and guitar.

**PERCUSSION:** A percussion instrument can be anything that is struck in some way to make a sound. The performer can use drum sticks, metal bars, mallets, or his hands. Instruments used in the Core Ensemble videotape include: drums of different sizes, a vibraphone (invented in America and used in jazz as well as classical music), the marimba (from South America), gongs from China and crotales (antique cymbals from Turkey).

Percussion Instruments:



Marimba



Bongos



Vibraphone



Tom Toms



Crotales

## Mexico

Mexico is the northernmost country in Latin America. It lies directly south of the United States. Jungles and rain forests cover much of the southern part of the country. The wildlife includes monkeys, parrots and macaws. Most of Mexico is made up of a high mesa or plateau. In the north the mesa is rough and dry, with deserts and rocky mountains. Rattlesnakes, prairie dogs, coyotes and mountain lions make their homes here.

Mexico is home to about 94 million people - more than any other Spanish-speaking country in the world. Most Mexicans are descendants of both Indian and Spanish people. Food in Mexico is very spicy. Mexicans enjoy eating corn, beans, tomatoes, and peppers. Vegetables, meat or cheese are often wrapped in thin, flat breads called tortillas.

Mexico's factories make chemicals, clothes, steel, cars and car parts. Some factories, built along Mexico's northern border, make goods for companies in the United States. Silver, sulfur, lead, zinc and gold mines are found throughout the country. Corn is Mexico's major crop. Mexican farmers also raise beans, coffee, cotton, vanilla, cotton, wheat, bananas and cacao, used to make chocolate.





## El Salvador

El Salvador is a beautiful tropical land of ruined temples and ancient cities, volcanoes, mountain lakes, and Pacific black sand beaches. The landscape is dominated by two east-west mountain ranges that divide the country into its three main regions: the northern mountains and plain, the central region and the southern coastal lowlands. El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America, but with over 650 people per square mile, it is more densely populated than any other mainland country in the Western Hemisphere.

Deer and wild pigs are found in the mountains, while iguanas, crocodiles, snakes and armadillos flourish in the coastal plains.

The original people of El Salvador were a network of Mayan Indian tribes who inhabited the region for thousands of years. Their descendants, the Pipil Indians, lived in the area when Spanish explorers arrived in the 16th century. Today, over 90% of the Salvadoran population is *meztizo*, of mixed Indian and Spanish descent. The population is sharply divided between rich and poor. Most of the country's wealth lies in the hands of just 2% of the population, while the majority of Salvadorans live in poverty.

The Salvadoran diet consists of soup, tortillas, rice corn and beans. The average family consumes less than two pounds of meat per month. This lack of protein often leads to serious nutritional problems, especially among people in rural areas.

Coffee is El Salvador's primary export crop. Sugar, shrimp, sesame, ornamental flowers and tropical fruit are also important exports. Manufacturing includes products such as medicines, soaps, synthetic textiles and aluminum and copper cables.



## Argentina

Argentina is a land of spectacular scenery, colorful gauchos (cowboys), tango dancers, polo players and soccer champions. Argentina also has a sophisticated culture centered in Buenos Aires. The name Argentina means "silver", and this fertile country has made many explorers dream of unlimited wealth. Mountain peaks, sandy beaches, and fertile plains are all part of Argentina's geography. Its terrain stretches from the subtropical north to the sub-Antarctic regions of the South.

The heart of Argentina is its people, more than 33 million of them. One of the great surprises of people to Argentina is that the people don't look especially "South American". The darker skin tones and coal black hair of the native Indian population are not typical of the crowds on the street. Instead, these people look European. About 85% of Argentines are of European descent. The remaining 15% are *mestizo* (a person of mixed blood), Indian and other nonwhite groups.

Beef is by far the most popular food in Argentina, and everyone is an expert at barbecuing. The average Argentinean consumes 190 pounds of beef every year. Many people consider Argentinean beef to be the best in the world. Dessert is often the much-loved dulce de leche, milk simmered with sugar until it is very thick.

Argentina's chief industry is the processing of meat and other food products. Other industries include textiles, leather goods, chemicals, metals, printing, lumber, fishing, automobiles and other consumer goods. Half of Argentina's land is used for agriculture. Crops include corn, wheat, grapes, apples, citrus fruits, sugar cane, tobacco, cotton and tea.





Street Vendor in El Salvador



Mountain Village in El Salvador

## Say it in Spanish!

**Buenos días** -- Hello, good morning

**Buenas tardes** -- Good evening

**Buenos noches** -- Good night.

**Hasta mañana** -- See you tomorrow.

**Hola** -- Hello.

**Adios** -- Goodbye.

**Cómo está usted?** -- How are you?

**Cállate!** -- Be quiet!

**Quitate de aquí!** -- Get lost!

**Por favor** -- Please.

**Con permiso** -- Excuse me.

**Cómo se llama?** -- What is your name?

**No hablo español** -- I don't speak Spanish.

**No sé** -- I don't know.

**Feliz Navidad** -- Merry Christmas.

**Próspero Año Nuevo** -- Happy New Year

## Shopping List

**Huevos** -- eggs

**Pan** -- bread

**Mantequilla** -- butter

**Carne** -- meat

**Pavo** -- turkey

**Elote** -- corn on the cob

**Queso** -- cheese

**Agua** -- water

**Azúcar** -- sugar

**Fiesta** -- festival

## Core Ensemble/Teacher Residency Evaluation

We will evaluate our performance tasks and ask the school to also evaluate the project by using the following form:

Key: 0= Outstanding E=Excellent G= Good W=Needs Work NA=Not Applicable

The Performance Task:

<b>Performance Task</b>	<b>Self</b>	<b>Teachers</b>
The content relevant to the task is a priority in your curriculum.		
The process skills relevant to the task are priorities in your curriculum.		
The task is engaging to the students.		
The "help" or structure, provided through explicit procedures, is appropriate to the "performance maturity" of the students.		
The task is organized to efficiently use the school time available.		
The task is graphically attractive, well-organized and developmentally appropriate for the learner.		
The list provides for both self-assessment and teacher's assessment.		
Content connections to content objectives are clearly presented.		
Process skills are clearly presented.		
Expectations for individual and/or group responsibilities are clear.		

**NEVER**

**NEVER**

**NEVER**

**GIVE UP**

**WINSTON CHURCHILL**

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