

UC SANTA BARBARA
Department of Music

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UCSB UNDERGRADUATE VOICE STUDENTS TO PERFORM CHILDREN'S OPERA "LUCINDA" FOR GUSD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Directed by UCSB Associate Professor Isabel Bayrakdarian, students from UCSB's Opera Outreach Program will perform Evan Mack's 2016 children's opera "Lucinda y las Flores de la Nochebuena"

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) November 22, 2019—UCSB Associate Professor Isabel Bayrakdarian will direct students from the UCSB's Opera Outreach Program in four performances of Evan Mack's 2016 children's opera *Lucinda y las Flores de la Nochebuena* for students from Hollister, La Patera, and Isla Vista Elementary schools, as well as an additional free community performance that will be open to the public. The 45-minute one-act opera is based on the Mexican folk tale of the same name that tells the story of how the poinsettia became a meaningful symbol of the holiday season. Students will attend the free performances from December 3-6 in Karl Geiringer Hall on the UC Santa Barbara campus, with the final free community performance taking place on Sunday, December 8th at 6 pm, in Karl Geiringer Hall.

For many of the young students attending these performances, this will be their first opera experience. Written in a combination of English and Spanish, this charming holiday opera conveys a universal message of courage, hope, and transformation that transcends religious and cultural lines, and will empower students to identify and celebrate their inner strengths.

"I remember seeing my first opera at the age of 17: something inside of me just lit up," said Dr. Bayrakdarian. "I always liked to sing, but never imagined myself on stage, until I saw a live opera performance, and felt I could relate to the characters on stage. Even though I had just started my Biomedical Engineering studies, I knew that music was going to be as essential to me as oxygen. I believe there are unique talents in all of us; sometimes all is needed is a little creative spark to activate destiny. I hope this opera production provides the artistic catalyst that will inspire school-age children to be the creative thinkers and trailblazing musicians of tomorrow."

This project is supported by the UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center (IHC) Collaborative Arts Teaching Program Award, which Dr. Bayrakdarian received in Fall 2018. The award is focused on community-engaged visual and performing art projects housed within UCSB courses, in this case, Dr. Bayrakdarian's Opera Outreach course, which is offered annually within the Department of Music.

DATES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 10 am (Hollister Elementary School at Karl Geiringer Hall)
Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 11 am (La Patera Elementary School at Karl Geiringer Hall)
Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 11 am (Isla Vista Elementary School at Karl Geiringer Hall)
Friday, December 6, 2019 at 10 am (Isla Vista Elementary School at Karl Geiringer Hall)
Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 6 pm (Community concert at Karl Geiringer Hall)

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“LUCINDA OPERA” 2-2-2

ADMISSION

Performances on December 3-6 are reserved for elementary school students, and are not open to the general public. Admission to the Sunday, December 8, 2019 performance is free, and the event is open to the public.

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING INFORMATION

Please visit music.ucsb.edu/about/maps.

About the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a multi-faceted department with a fully established research and professional graduate program with degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, musicology, music theory, and performance, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music has produced many hundreds of graduates who have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Alumni have gone on to teach on faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, or in outstanding secondary school positions. Many graduates of the program have published extensively and become widely renowned, prize-winning scholars, while others are award-winning and frequently performed composers writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 150 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department's rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website at music.ucsb.edu.

For additional information, photos, or to request an interview with an artist, please contact Adriane Hill at adrianehill@ucsb.edu or (805) 893-3230. To sign up for the Department of Music's newsletter, please [click here](#). Follow the Department of Music on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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