

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 3rd 2024



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Brava, Chicana Latina Foundation, & Quinteto Latino Present
¡Chicanísima!
Opera Tribute Celebrating the Life of Olga Talamante

Commissioned & Performed by Quinteto Latino
Compose by Carla Lucero

Thursday, May 16th
8:00pm Doors
\$25-\$100 Tickets
All Ages, Wheelchair Accessible

Brava Theater Center
2781 24th Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

Commissioned and performed by **Quinteto Latino**, composer **Carla Lucero's** opera chronicles the life and work of legendary Chicana leader and LGBTQ+ activist, **Olga Talamante**. The opera explores her journey from working the garlic fields as a child in Gilroy, California, to her decades of activism in the US, Mexico, and in Argentina, where she became a political prisoner. Ultimately, Olga frees herself from the psychological hold of her captors and releases her heart from 40 years of suppressing the memories of violence perpetrated against her. She finally finds peace, and in the process of healing, the love of her life, Vola. Soprano **Aléxa Anderson**, tenor **Eric Levintow**, and mezzo-soprano **Jessica Gonzalez-Rodriguez** make up the cast for the premiere of this important work.

The ¡Chicanísima! Opera is part of Chicana Latina Foundation's Voices of Resistance series.

There will be a **panel discussion** after the Opera followed by a **reception in the lobby** with light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the musicians, singers, Carla, and Olga.

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INFO / TICKETS:

<https://www.brava.org/all-events/chicanisima>

¡Chicanísima! Artists:

Aléxa Anderson - soprano

Eric Levintow - tenor

Jessica Gonzalez-Rodriguez - mezzo-soprano

Quinteto Latino

Armando Castellano - french horn, hand drum

Diane Grubbe - flute, ocarina

Kyle Bruckmann - oboe

Leslie Tagorda - clarinet

Jamael Smith - bassoon

Carla Lucero - Composer, Librettist and Director

Press Quotes:

“Passionate and beautiful...” LA Opera on Composer Carla Lucero

“Groundbreaking....” Napa Valley Register on Composer Carla Lucero

About Chicana Latina Foundation:

Chicana Latina Foundation is a non-profit organization which promotes professional and leadership development in Latinas attending college in the Greater Bay Area. CLF is committed to inclusivity and assuring that CLF recipients represent the diversity of the community including those who identify as Chicana, Latina, Indigena, Afro-Latina, LGBTQ, among others. With 40 years of service, CLF has provided scholarships to hundreds of Latina college students and prepared them as the future generations of social justice leaders.

About Presenter: BRAVA! FOR WOMEN IN THE ARTS

Brava! for Women in the Arts celebrates over 30 years as a professional arts organization, and 20 years of owning and operating Brava Theater Center.

Brava’s recent producing history includes award-winning new work by Rhodessa Jones & Cultural Odyssey, Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe & Black Artists

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Contemporary Cultural Experience, Marga Gomez, and Vanessa Sanchez, as well as world premieres by Cherríe Moraga, Marisela Orta, and Lisa Marie Rollins; the Bay Area premieres of Solitude by Evelina Fernandez & Latino Theatre Company, the Off-Broadway hit *Mighty Real: A Fabulous Sylvester Musical*, the monthly podcast series *Indómitas*, as well as the annual events *Baile en la Calle: The Mural Dances* and the *San Francisco Son Jarocho Festival*. Brava's current artistic programming includes traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures, and professional dance productions—making Brava one of the most eclectic and multifaceted arts venues in the Bay Area.

Brava Theater Center provides affordable space for artistic development and presentation. Comprised of a main stage with world-class lighting and sound, a second stage that doubles as a rehearsal studio, a street level cabaret space for arts and community, and a contemporary lobby/gallery showcasing visual art, Brava has become synonymous with thought-provoking shows that spotlight artists from around the Bay Area and beyond.