



Héctor Armienta



Bless me, Ultima

A Mexican American Chamber Opera

by

Héctor Armienta

Based on Rudolfo Anaya's novel



“Pastoralism of Copland”

“Evocative”

“Grand”

“Wagnerian Textures”

San Francisco Classical Voice & Sante Fe New Mexican Review



Antonio Marez is a young boy when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a curandera, one who cures with herbs and magic. Under her wise wing, Tony will probe the family ties that bind and rend him, and he will discover himself in the magical secrets of the pagan past—a mythic legacy as palpable as the Catholicism of Latin America. And at each life turn there is Ultima, who delivered Tony into the world...and will nurture the birth of his soul.

The opera is based on one of the most beloved novels in the Mexican American literary canon. In fact, the novel is required reading in many high schools and universities.

If you are seeking to develop new audiences for opera from the Latino American community and bring to the stage a truly *“American story”*, you have found it in Armienta's **“Bless Me, Ultima”**.

The world premier performed to sold out houses and excited both Latino and non Latino audiences.

CHARACTERS

Ultima - Mezzo Soprano
Tony - Boy soprano or pants role
Tenorio - Verdi Baritone
Maria - Soprano
Gabriel - Tenor
Narciso - Baritone
Chorus (singing minor parts)

ORCHESTRATION : 1 Fl, 1 Ob, 2 Cl, 1 Bsn, 1 Fr. Hrn, Harp, 1 Perc., Str (3,3,2,2,)

For more information:
www.hectorarmienta.com or info@hectorarmienta.com

Photos: Top right (Photo by Anne Sconberg. Artists - Suzanna Guzman and Nicholas McKee)