



**WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2019

**Washington Performing Arts presents free simulcast of the
world premiere of *Dreamers*, March 17 at Sidney Harman Hall**

***Featuring music by Jimmy López and a libretto by Nilo Cruz, Dreamers is a
Washington Performing Arts co-commission***

**Washington Performing Arts' Mars Urban Arts Initiative will present free
activities expanding on the themes raised in *Dreamers*, from concerts by local
artists to panel discussions, throughout the spring**

Washington, D.C. – Throughout the 2018/19 season, Washington Performing Arts is collaborating with arts, cultural heritage, education, and literary partners throughout D.C. to facilitate a multi-disciplinary dialogue around the important contributions and experiences of Latinx immigrants in the United States. Musical performances, visual art displays, panel discussions, education programs, and a book discussion series together showcase the wide range of journeys of identity and place experienced by our Latinx neighbors; see below for a full listing of events.

The focal point is the **March 17, 2019** premiere of Washington Performing Arts' co-commission *Dreamers*, a new work for orchestra, soprano, and chorus by composer Jimmy López and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz, simulcast from U.C. Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall at 6pm EST. *Dreamers* will be performed by **Philharmonia Orchestra** under the direction of **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, with soprano soloist **Ana María Martínez** and a nearly 80-voice choir comprising Bay Area contemporary vocal ensemble **Volti** and the **U.C. Berkeley Chamber Chorus**. The program also includes Stravinsky's complete score of *The Firebird*. The simulcast is free to the public; visit washingtonperformingarts.org to reserve seats.

Dreamers was commissioned by Washington Performing Arts, Cal Performances at U.C. Berkeley, and other partners before the move to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), the program that

shields nearly 700,000 young immigrants, often called “Dreamers,” from deportation. The intervening months have left these residents and their families in limbo while the administration, Congress, and the courts decide their fate. In developing the work, López, an immigrant from Peru, and Cruz, a refugee from Cuba, met with undocumented students from U.C. Berkeley in a series of private and emotional interview sessions. In the oratorio, the composer and librettist set out to convey the anxiety, fear, and uncertainty that characterize the daily lives of undocumented individuals and their families, as well as the hopes and aspirations of this young generation of immigrants.

FULL EVENT LISTING INFORMATION:

Tue, Mar 5, 7pm

Immigration Book Discussion Series with Lupita Reads
Luís Alberto Urrea, *The House of Broken Angels* (2018)
Venue: Politics & Prose Union Market

DREAMERS RESIDENCY WEEK | March 10-17, 2019

Sun, Mar 10, 3pm

Mars Urban Arts Initiative Latinx in D.C. Showcase
Jonathan Acosta Band
Venue: Gala Hispanic Theatre

Tues, Mar 12, 7pm

The State of U.S. Immigration Policy: Panel Discussion
Venue: NYU DC, 1307 L Street NW
Confirmed speakers include:

Kathryn M. Doan, Esq., Executive Director, CAIR Coalition
Mary Ann Gomez Orta, President & CEO, Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute
David Grosso, Councilmember at-Large, Council of the District of Columbia
Lori Kaplan, Former President & CEO, Latin American Youth Center
Nicholas A. Brown, Director of Special Productions & Initiatives, Washington Performing Arts
(Moderator)

with opening remarks by Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, U.S. House of Representatives

Sat, Mar 16, 5pm

Mars Urban Arts Initiative Latinx Showcase: Cissa Paz Band
Venue: The LINE DC

Sun, Mar 17, 6pm

DREAMERS Live Simulcast [Special Production]
Venue: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F Street NW

Tue, Apr 30, 7pm

Immigration Book Discussion Series with Lupita Reads
Francisco Cantú, *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border* (2018)

Venue: DC Public Library, Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library

Tue, May 7, 7pm

Immigration Book Discussion Series with Lupita Reads

Reyna Grande, *Across A Hundred Mountains* (2006)

Venue: Solid State Books

Dreamers was created with funding from a Hewlett 50 Arts Commission, commissioned by Cal Performances at the University of California, Berkeley, and co-commissioned by Washington Performing Arts and others. This simulcast and companion events are presented in Washington in partnership with GALA Hispanic Theatre and Carlos Rosario Public Charter School.

Dreamers companion events are made possible by Tom Gallagher, in honor of Turnaround Inc.; Events DC; Fred and Lucia Hill; and Gary and Silvia Yacoubian.

The Dreamers project is part of Washington Performing Arts' global programming initiative, The World in Our City: Latinx in D.C., which provides perspective on what it means to be a citizen of the world through a unique arts-based lens.

Washington Performing Arts' Mars Urban Arts Initiative is generously supported by Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.

*The **March 17 Dreamers simulcast performance** is made possible in part through the generous support of Tom Gallagher, in honor of Turnaround, Inc, Fred and Lucia Hill, and Gary and Silvia Yacoubian. Washington Performing Arts orchestral performances in the 2018/19 season are made possible in part through the generous support of Betsy and Robert Feinberg. Her Excellency Kirsti Kauppi, Ambassador of Finland, is the honorary patron of this engagement. One of 30+ World in Our City mainstage performances this season and part of Latinx in D.C., this performance is made possible in part through the generous support of Events DC.*

***Immigration book discussions** are co-presented by Washington Performing Arts' Mars Urban Arts Initiative, DC Public Library, Politics & Prose, Solid State Books, and Lupita Reads.*

***Jonathan Acosta's March 10 performance** is co-presented by Washington Performing Arts and GALA Hispanic Theatre.*

***The March 12 panel discussion** is co-presented by Washington Performing Arts, NYU Washington, DC, and the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI).*

ABOUT JIMMY LÓPEZ

"One of the most interesting composers anywhere today" (*Chicago Sun-Times*), with a distinct voice that is "adventurous and winning" (*Denver Post*) López has created works performed by such renowned ensembles as the Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Sydney Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, Radio France Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Fort Worth Symphony, and the National Symphony Orchestras of Peru, Chile, Ecuador, and Argentina. *Fiesta!*, one of his most famous works, has received close to 90 performances worldwide by the major orchestras of Gothenburg, Leipzig, The Hague, Seattle, Colorado, Siberia, and New Zealand, among many others, making it one of the most performed contemporary orchestral works. *Bel Canto*, a full-length opera commissioned by the Lyric Opera of Chicago as part of the Renée Fleming initiative and based on the bestselling novel of the same name, premiered on December 2015 to wide critical acclaim and was broadcast U.S. nationwide on PBS's *Great Performances*. David Afkham and the National Orchestra of Spain premiered his *Symphony No. 1: The Travails of Persiles and Sigismunda*, on September of 2016 in Madrid, and later took it on tour to Mexico. Mr. López is Composer-in-Residence at the

Houston Symphony until the 2019-2020 season, and recently completed *Dreamers*, a 45-minute oratorio for Ana María Martínez, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, which he wrote in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning Playwright Nilo Cruz. A native of Lima, he studied at the city's National Conservatory of Music with Enrique Iturriaga, prior to graduating from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki with a Master of Music degree. López completed his Ph.D. in Music at the University of California-Berkeley. He is published by Filarmonika Music Publishing.

ABOUT PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA, LONDON

Widely acknowledged as one of the UK's musical pioneers, the Philharmonia Orchestra, London, is recognized internationally for its quality of playing and for its innovative approach to audience development, residencies, music education, and the use of new technologies in reaching a global audience. The orchestra's award-winning RE-RITE and Universe of Sound installations have allowed people all over the world to step inside the orchestra through audio and video projections. Philharmonia celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2015; performs more than 160 concerts each year in the UK and abroad; and records music for films, video games, and commercial CD releases. The orchestra has enjoyed associations with some of the major artists of our time and the recent past, including Wilhelm Furtwängler, Richard Strauss, Arturo Toscanini, Herbert von Karajan, and Carlo Maria Giulini. Resident conductors have included Otto Klemperer, Lorin Maazel, Charles Mackerras, Riccardo Muti, Kurt Sanderling, and Giuseppe Sinopoli.

ABOUT WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS

One of the most established and honored performing arts institutions in America, Washington Performing Arts has more than a half-century history of serving artists, audiences, students, and civic life. The city is truly our stage: in venues ranging from concert halls and clubs to public parks, we present a tremendous range of artists and art forms, from the most distinguished symphony orchestras to both renowned and emerging artists in classical music, jazz, international genres, and more.

Washington Performing Arts deeply values its partnerships with local organizations and other arts institutions. Through events in myriad performance venues and neighborhoods, Washington Performing Arts engages international visiting artists in community programs and introduces local artists to wider audiences. We place a premium on establishing artists as a continuing presence in the lives of both young people and adults through residencies and educational programs.

Our achievements have been recognized with a National Medal of Arts and with two Mayor's Arts Awards from the D.C. Government. We have embarked upon our next half-century with the goals of expanding our commitment to excellence and rededicating ourselves to the motto of our founder, Patrick Hayes: "Everybody in, nobody out."

ABOUT THE MARS URBAN ARTS INITIATIVE

The Mars Urban Arts Initiative (MUAI) is a creative platform for Washington Performing Arts and the D.C. community to celebrate and empower local artists through performances, unique educational programs, and interdisciplinary grassroots collaborations that showcase the diversity and vitality of our city. Reflective of our founder Patrick Hayes' motto, "Everybody in, nobody out," the Mars Urban Arts Initiative amplifies the role of local artists throughout Washington Performing Arts' productions, educational opportunities, and special events. The Mars Urban Arts Initiative is anchored by residencies for leading artists and ensembles, curated performances across all eight wards, and artistic happenings that reflect what it means to call D.C. home. *The [Mars Urban Arts Initiative](#) is generously supported by Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated.*

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