

CSUSB
Opera Theatre Presents

Winterreise

December Songs

by Franz Schubert and Maury Yeston

Featuring the CSUSB Opera Theatre Ensemble

Stacey Fraser, Director

Alastair Edmonstone, Music Director, Jessica McCarty, Lighting Design, Cat Erickson, Wardrobe,
Martim Galvao, Technical Director, James Trotter, Projection Design, Jessica Paez, Stage Manager,
Nathan Parsons, Assistant Stage Manager, Angeles Medina Morales, Lobby Display Coordinator

Sound Design: Dustin Pham, Zoe Slack, Vincent Steger

CSUSB Opera Theatre Ensemble

Abigail Metzger soprano

Gabriel Drozco, tenor

Mikey Sosa, tenor

Luis Bautista, baritone and electric guitar

Nicholas Flores, baritone

Cesar Garcia, electric guitar

March 5 @ 7 PM

March 6 @ 7 PM

March 7 @ 2 PM

2026



Director's Note



The CSUSB Opera Theatre, now in its 19th season, is proud to present excerpts from Franz Schubert's *Winterreise* paired with Maury Yeston's *December Songs*, a modern retelling of Schubert's iconic song cycle.

The story of *Winterreise* centers around a single character, a man who has been forsaken by his beloved and wanders the wintry landscape of the Vienna woods, consumed by disappointment and bitterness. The poems, written by Wilhelm Müller, were discovered by Schubert in 1826. Schubert, in his own embittered existence, either due to professional ups and downs or his failing health, was enamored by Müller's poetry and set the first twelve songs of the collection in 1827. This is not to say the cycle is autobiographical, but the themes of longing, spirituality, and nature, ever present in 19th-century German Lieder, certainly seemed to speak volumes to Schubert at this particular time in his life.

Schubert's childhood friend, Joseph von Spaun, gave the following account of the first hearing of the first twelve songs, played by Schubert himself, before they were to be performed by the baritone Johann Michael Vogl, a frequent collaborator of the composer.

"... Schubert's mood became more gloomy, and he seemed upset. When I asked him what the matter was, he merely said, 'You will soon hear and understand. Come to Schober's and I will sing a cycle of awe-inspiring songs. I am anxious for your opinion of them, for they have affected me more than any of my earlier songs.' So, in a voice wrought with emotion, he sang the whole of *Winterreise* to us, accompanying himself on the piano. We were quite dumbfounded by the black mood of the songs, and Schober said he liked only one, 'Der Lindenbaum.' To which Schubert said, 'Wait. You will learn to appreciate them.' He was right. Soon we were enthusiastic over the profound effect of these melancholy songs, which Vogl performed in a masterly way."

He later completed the entire cycle of 24 songs just a year before his death in 1828. Tonight, we present 10 of the songs from the original collection of 12, told through the seven different voices (two of which are represented on electric guitar) of our CSUSB Opera Theatre ensemble.

We have paired these excerpts with Maury Yeston's updated take on the Schubert original work. Yeston, known as one of Broadway's great composers, whose works include the Tony award-winning shows *Nine* and *Grand Hotel*, tells Müller's story through the eyes of a woman, who, like the male wanderer of the Schubert cycle, has been disappointed in love and wanders the landscape of a cold and snowy Central Park in New York City. In contrast to Schubert's cycle, she seems to find peace in the end, as can be heard in both the uplifting motives and tempi. This is a stark contrast to the Schubert original, which is also demonstrated through Yeston's choice of using major keys, thus giving us hope that the "Wanderer" might be reborn.

We hope you enjoy our immersive adaptation of this Gothic tale told through the music of two composers, centuries apart, but whose themes continue to resonate throughout time.

Stacey Fraser, Director

Program

Winterreise..... Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Wilhelm Müller (1784-1897)

Gute Nacht

Die Wetterfahne (in English)

Gefrone Tränen

Erstarrung

Der Lindenbaum

Wasserflut

Auf dem Flusse (in English)

Rückblick

Frühlingstraum

Einsamkeit

December Songs..... Maury Yeston (b. 1945)

December Snow

Where are you now?

Please let's not even say hello

When your love is new

Bookseller in the Rain

I had a dream about you

By the River

What a Relief

Cast Bios



Luis Bautista is excited to perform his second Opera here at CSUSB alongside with the rest of this wonderful cast! Although his major is primarily focused in Music Technology, he is not entirely unfamiliar with the stage; his most recent stage roles include: Roger in *RENT*, Antipholus of Syracuse in *Comedy of Errors*, and Mirical Maker in *Wooing The Dragon*. He is an aspiring voice actor, with a few characters credited to his name. Last but not least, he is in two bands: He sings and plays guitar for Beady Jay & plays bass for Los Kombi. As he continues to improve his vocals, he hopes to one day play Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



Nicholas Flores is honored and thrilled to be a part of this beautiful story. Nicholas is a second-year student majoring in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Musical Theatre. This is Nicholas' second year working with opera theatre, performing in the *AIDS Quilt Songbook*. Past work aside from Opera theatre includes *Alice by Heart* (Alfred/White Rabbit), *Legally Blonde* (Grandmaster Chad/Dewey), and many others. Nicholas would like to thank his friends and family for every ounce of support he has received, Dr. Fraser and Dr. E for entrusting him with this beautiful work and His mom for being his biggest supporter.

Cesar Garcia is a guitarist in the Bachelor of Arts program here at CSUSB. He is delighted to share the stage with his singer friends and Dr. E on this cool project.



Abigail Louise Metzger (Soprano) is a BM in Music Education student at CSUSB, with an emphasis in voice. During her two semesters as a performing member of CSUSB Opera Theatre, Abby has grown under the fine direction and voice training of Dr. Stacey Fraser. Abby earned her A.A. in Music at Chaffey College, where she was privileged to study under Dr. David Rentz. As a highschooler dual enrolled at Glendale College, Abby was blessed with a fine voice teacher and mentor in Professor Charles Ion. Fine teachers have helped prepare Abby as a vocalist, musician, and performer; they've set a standard for her as an aspiring educator.



Gabriel Orozco is a classical tenor currently training under Dr. Stacey Fraser at CSUSB. He has performed in many opera theatre performances over his time here at CSUSB, some of which include the U.S premier of "*The Next Whiskey Bar*", the *AIDS Quilt Songbook* and more. He has performed at the Walt Disney Concert Hall with the CSUSB Chamber Singers group. Outside of CSUSB, he has performed with the Underground Musical Theatre group in a performance of *Seasons of Love*. He is excited to perform alongside a talented cast of individuals and to perform alongside the wonderful pianist Dr. Alastair Edmonstone.



Mikey Sosa is a voice major in the Bachelor of Arts degree program in the Department of Music. He is excited to be making his debut as a cast member with the CSUSB Opera Theatre.

Tech Bios

Angeles Medina Morales is a Bachelor of Fine Arts student in the CSUSB Department of Art and Design. She is excited to be back with the CSUSB Opera Theatre Ensemble as the Lobby Display Coordinator.

Jessica Paez is a Sound/Technology student in the Bachelor Arts in Music degree program at CSUSB. She is delighted to be working as Stage Manager on this staged adaptation of Schubert's *Winterreise* and Maury Yeston's *December Songs*.

Nathan Parsons has been a theatre student here at CSUSB for two years. Although his focus is on the acting side of theatre, he was happy to help with the tech side of this semester's Opera production as an assistant stage manager. As assistant stage manager, Nathan has been invaluable with his help in setting up the performance area, as well as assisting in the projections and lights for our show. Nathan is very happy to be able to help a side of this theatre that he once performed in himself.

Dustin Pham is excited to be working on sound design for this innovative project. He is a Sound/Technology student studying with Dr. Martim Galvao in the Bachelor Arts in Music degree program at CSUSB.

Vincent Steger is a Sound/Technology student studying with Dr. Martim Galvao in the Bachelor Arts in Music degree program at CSUSB. He is excited to be involved in the sound design of this ground-breaking production.

Zoe Slack is thrilled and honored to be part of CSUSB's Opera Theatre tech team. As a third-year undergraduate student studying music technology, she uses her audio/visual experience to provide the program with integrated sounds and atmospheric effects. During her studies, she furthers her technical experience working with local music venues. Zoe utilizes her digital-audio workspace training and certification to craft soundscapes with intention, collaborating with fellow students and the performing arts department to deliver an immersive audio experience. She plans to further her knowledge in the entertainment industry, combining her passion for live music and sound with technical audio/visual expertise.

For song texts and additional notes, please scan the QR code.



Acknowledgements

Department of Music
Department of Theatre Arts
Professor Matthew Poole, Chair
Professor Kristi Papailler, Production Manager
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CSUSB Opera Theatre



THE CSUSB OPERA THEATRE is an auditioned ensemble that stages a major opera production on campus every year. The innovative, modern, and zany adaptations of both standard operatic repertoire and new operatic works that have been produced by the CSUSB Opera Theatre have led to sold-out performances, as well as rave reviews across the Inland Empire community. Past productions include Offenbach's *Monsieur Choufleuri*, Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel*, Mozart's *Impresario* and *Così fan Tutte*, Maria de Buenos Aires by Astor Piazzolla, *Monkey See Monkey Do*, *Tango*, Concert Suite from *Frida*, *La Curandera* by Robert Xavier Rodriguez and their acclaimed Quentin Tarantino-inspired production of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. CSUSB Opera Theatre produced the first abridged university production of Philip Glass' *Einstein on the Beach* featuring an all-Hispanic cast. Recent productions include a film adaptation of Missy Mazzoli's *Song from the Uproar*, an original staging of John Adams' *I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky* and *Book of Longing* by Leonard Cohen and Philip Glass. This past April 2025, the CSUSB Opera Theatre presented a world premiere staging of the *AIDS Quilt Songbook*.

Collaborators of the CSUSB Opera Theatre have included dancer/choreographer Faith Jensen-Ismay of the critically acclaimed San Diego-based dance company Mojalet Dance Collective, Brightwork newmusic, GRAMMY-winning pianist Nadia Shpachenko, the lotusflower new music project, Southern California-based conductors John Mario, Anthony Parnter and Kosta Popovich, Emmy-winning designer Jacqueline Saint-Anne as well as several CSUSB faculty and alumni. The CSUSB Opera Theatre is a proud seven-time recipient of the City of San Bernardino Fine Arts Commission grant and the National Endowment for the Arts.

