

## HECTOR ARMIENTA

### BIOGRAPHY

#### COMPOSER

Hector Armienta, a nationally recognized Mexican American composer, focuses on creating work that explores the Mexican and Mexican-American cultural experience. His awards and commissions include those from Meet the Composer, the NEA, Arts International, Opera Pacific, the Pacific Symphony, two San Francisco Arts Commissions, Oakland East Bay Symphony, and Western Stage Theater. His work for orchestra and theater has received support from three NEA grants in artistic excellence, including a new work for orchestra entitled, *Postcards from Mexico*. It will be premiered by the Oakland Youth Orchestra and provide opportunities for young aspiring musicians from Oakland public schools to perform with a professional youth orchestra.

Currently, he is developing his most ambitious project, a music theater trilogy, **AGUAS ANCESTRALES/ ANCIENT WATERS**. *Llorona/The Weeping Woman* – A Musical Drama ( part I of the trilogy) received its world premiere in October 2008 at Western Stage Theater and had a reading at NYC's prestigious York Theater in 2010. It returns to New York in 2011 for its off off Broadway premiere at Teatro Latea. The 2008 production received support from an NEA grant to artistic excellence grant. *River of Women/Rio De Mujeres* – a Bilingual Chamber Opera, has had three productions so far.

Mr Armienta is also the founder and artistic director of Opera Cultura, whose mission it is to explore music theater and opera through a cross cultural lens. It is through this organization that Mr. Armienta develops some of his music theater projects and creates opportunities for young people from economically disadvantaged communities to experience in the arts.