

Robert X. Rodríguez received his earliest training in piano and harmony. Subsequent musical education included study in composition with Hunter Johnson, Halsey Stevens, Jacob Druckman, and Nadia Boulanger. He gained international recognition in 1971 when awarded the Prix de Composition Musicale Prince Pierre de Monaco by Prince Rainier and Princess Grace at the Palais Princier in Monte Carlo. Other honors include the Prix Lili Boulanger, a Guggenheim Fellowship, four National Endowment for the Arts grants, and the Goddard Lieberman Award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.



Photo by Gabriel Berde

To learn more about Robert Xavier Rodríguez's compositions, please visit [www.musicsalesclassical.com](http://www.musicsalesclassical.com).

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# Robert Xavier Rodríguez

## OPERAS

*Frida* (1991), *La Curandera* (2006),  
*Monkey See, Monkey Do* (1986), *Tango* (1985)



## Frida an opera in two acts (1991)

Book by HILARY BLECHER

Lyrics (English & Spanish) by MIGDALIA CRUZ

Duration: 2 hours

Cast: S, Mz, A, T, Bar, B; 3 Calaveras (death figures), character voices; [chorus]

Premiere: April 1991, American Music Theater Festival, Philadelphia, PA

Orchestra: cl(asx), tpt(flugel), tbn, perc, acn, gtr, pf, vn, va, vc, db

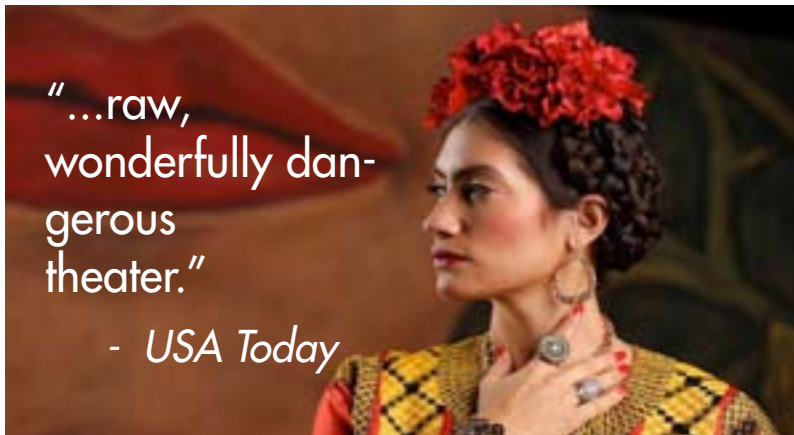


Photo: Caltalina Cuervo as Frida Kahlo, Michigan Opera Theatre

### synopsis

*Frida* is the story of renowned Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, wife of the country's great muralist Diego Rivera. Her tortured life unfolds in a flowing succession of scenes, acted and sung by three women and three men in a variety of guises -- masked or plain-faced and as two- or three-dimensional puppets; shadow puppets and projections are also involved. Diego's preoccupation with art and other women shrivel Frida's soul and her demands for love drain him; they need one another desperately. Divorce is imminent. Frida's health deteriorates; only painting permits emotional release, translating her agonies into a series of canvases. Her fate is to live alone, engulfed by pain, but her paintings live forever, reflecting hidden dreams and inspiring courage to transcend conventional boundaries.

## La Curandera a one-act chamber opera (2006)

Duration: 60 minutes

Cast: S, Mz, C, T, Bar, B

Premiere: May 2006, Opera Colorado Outreach Ensemble, Denver, CO

Orchestra: cl(asx), tpt, btbn, 2perc, pf, acn, vn, vc

Libretto (English & Spanish) by Mary Medrick

### note

An English. Mary Medrick's libretto is based on an original story inspired by Mozart's three-character opera *Bastien und Bastienne*. The new Mexican setting replaces the original sorcerer with a curandera, or practitioner of folk healing and magic, and adds three additional characters. Although the libretto is primarily in English, there are frequent Spanish words and phrases, including many popular proverbs and idiomatic expressions from both Mexico and Spain. The libretto also incorporates actual curandera incantations, rituals and procedures from Mexican folklore as well as from current practice in Mexico and in the United States.

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## Monkey See, Monkey Do

a one-act opera for children (1986)

Duration: 36 minutes

Cast: S2S, Mz, T, Bar, B

Premiere: February 1987, Dallas Opera, Dallas, TX

Orchestra: cl, tpt, perc, gtr, acn, pf, vn, vc

Libretto (English & Spanish) by Mary Duren and the composer

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## Tango theatre piece in one act (1985)

Duration: 30 minutes

Cast: Tenor

Premiere: January 1986, Voices of Change, Dallas, TX

Orchestra: cl(asx), tpt, btbn, 2perc, pf, acn, vn, vc

Libretto (English) by the composer from news clippings.