
THRILLING!!...it's more than an opera, it's real life drama...



presents

Socrates

a new original opera
in three acts & epilogue

Work in Progress

Original Music by Alejandro R. Feo
Original Libretto by Guillermo Feo Calcaño

Sample tracks on
Socrates The Opera -
www.omacmusic.com

For more information contact

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Characters

(order of vocal appearance to be revised)

XANTHIPPE (SOCRATE'S WIFE)

Lamprocles (Socrate's son)

SOCRATES (GREEK PHILOSOPHER)

Crito (Old friend of Socrates)

Apollodorus (Friend of Socrates)

Simmias (Friend of Socrates)

Cebes (Friend of Socrates)

Aristodemus (Friend of Socrates)

Callicles (Lietenant of Critias)

LYSANDER (SPARTAN GENERAL)

CRITIAS (CHIEF OF THE COUNCIL OF THE THIRTY)

ELEMENA (LYSANDER'S WIFE)

Chaerfon (Friend of Socrates)

ANYTUS (OLD FRIEND OF SOCRATES, NOW HIS PROSECUTOR)

Lysias (Lawyer, friend of Socrates)

Magistrate (M. of the court)

Meletus (Prosecutor)

Lycon (Prosecutor)

Jailer

SOPRANO

Tenor

BASS-BARITONE

Baritone

Tenor

Baritone

Baritone

Tenor

Baritone

TENOR

TENOR

MEZZO

Tenor

SPINTO TENOR

Tenor

Bass

Baritone

Tenor

Tenorio

Athenian citizens, Spartan soldiers, Corinthian dancers, guards, judges.
The action takes place in Athens, between the years 404 and 399 b.c

The Story

Act 1, Scene 1:

Xanthippe, Socrates' wife, is at home criticizing her husband's careless way of life, her son Lamprocles is listening. Socrates enters and she complains about the poverty in their home. Lamprocles says he wants to go fight the Spartans, Xanthippe disapproves and sends him to the market. She blames Socrates for refusing to charge for the lessons he gives to his young students, most from very rich families. She warns Socrates about his "bad habit" of doubting every idea in life and arguing against the common beliefs. Friends of Socrates arrive to break the news of the Athenian fleet's defeat by the Spartans. As Socrates and his friends leave, a FEARLESS CHORUS OF SPARTANS RESOUNDS IN THE DISTANCE. Xanthippe feels relief for Lamprocles now that the war is over. Lamprocles enters, announcing the arrival of the Spartan soldiers to the city.

Scene 2:

Athenian citizens, Socrates and his friends tear down a section of the city wall. YOUNG DANCERS AND FLUTE PLAYERS arrive on the scene as a gesture of humiliation by the Spartans, AGGRESSIVE MUSIC GROWS. Lysander, his wife Elemena, Critias and Callicles enter. Lysander (the Spartan general) warns Socrates about his rebellious attitude, telling him that democracy doesn't exist under Critias' government. He then informs Socrates that Critias wants him to be a juror in the trial against Leon of Salamis. Tense words are exchanged between Socrates and Critias, INTENSE MUSIC ENSUES. Elemena, surprised by a humorous phrase of Socrates, asks to visit his home. As the Spartans leave, the ATHENIANS RESUME THEIR SONG OF PROTEST.

Scene 3:

Some of the Athenians are holding a secret meeting to start a revolt. Anytus invites Socrates to join. Socrates declines the invitation saying his place is in Athens, not beyond its frontiers. Anytus gets angry and blames Socrates for the loss of his son, (a former student of Socrates, killed in a street fight in Athens). Socrates rejects this accusation and leaves. After this thrilling exchange ANYTUS SINGS THE SADDEST LAMENT, swearing "Socrates will have to pay for my dead son."

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Act II:

Xanthippe is home, praying to the goddess Hera for pity on her husband, SHE SINGS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ARIA "FROM HEAVEN". Elemena enters, she tells Xanthippe about Socrates' refusal to collaborate with Critias' government. She also tells her that she and Lysander both respect Socrates. Lysander enters with news of Anytus' revolt, he tells his wife they must depart for Sparta immediately. They offer Xanthippe and Socrates refuge in Sparta, but are politely refused. Socrates asks Xanthippe to stay with him while he prays to the gods. THEY SING A SUBLIME DUET WITH CHORAL BACKGROUND MUSIC .

Intermezzo:

DELICATE AND POWERFUL MUSIC WEAVES TOGETHER THE PRESENT FEELINGS OF PASSION, MEMORIES OF THE PAST AND THE INTENSE CHALLENGES OF SOCRATES' FUTURE .

A STIRRING CHORUS OF ATHENIANS is heard as Lamprocles announces the victory of Anytus' revolution and the death of Critias. Friends of Socrates enter, saying Anytus has announced a general amnesty. As all of the men leave, Xanthippe becomes nervous. Crito and Lysias come to tell Socrates that he has been officially accused of crimes against Athens: the repudiation of its gods and the corruption of its youth. Socrates' friends and family show concern about the upcoming trial. Alone, Singing an EMOTIVE-INTENSE ARIA, Socrates proudly avows "My ancient enemies will never taste the glory of my destruction."

Act III:

Throughout the act, various voices interject their thoughts into the trial. THE ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS BUILD UP AN ATMOSPHERE OF EXTREME FEAR AND FERVOR. Meletus, Lycon and Anytus take turns as the prosecutor. They ridicule Socrates for coming to court with neither his family nor legal counsel. They accuse him of denying the gods, of having a private god, and of corrupting the morals of the young men. Anytus ominously reminds the people of Socrates' disciples: "All of them traitors to Athens." Anytus demands the death penalty. Socrates denies the accusations and asserts that it's his right to be different. He knows the judges will have mercy on him if he stops talking on the streets of Athens, but he refuses. **HE IS SENTENCED TO DEATH**, THE ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS FILL THE ATMOSPHERE WITH "HORROR". The Chorus Portends "No man can be put to death until the Salamina (the sacred ship on a pilgrimage to Apollo) returns safely from Delos."

Epilogue:

Socrates is lying on a miserable bed in prison. Xanthippe and Lamprocles enter to tell Socrates that the Salamina reached port near midnight. They tell him that Crito has arranged for his escape, but when Crito arrives, Socrates answers that he shall obey the law and face execution. They beg him to run away. Crito and Lamprocles finally give up. The jailer tells Xanthippe that it's time to leave. She feels panic, and in an INCREDIBLE LOVE SCENE with Socrates, promises to remain in Athens with their children. After her last good-byes, she leaves with the jailer, PAINFUL/DRAMATIC MUSIC EXPLODES. The jailer returns and tells Socrates that the "hemlock" is ready. He asks Socrates to follow him out. Quietly, Socrates obeys. The cell remains empty while THE MUSIC BUILDS UP AN EXTREMELY DRAMATIC ATMOSPHERE. Socrates and the jailer return. The jailer suggests Socrates lie down. Alone — FOLLOWED BY VERY POWERFUL MUSIC, Socrates calmly walks towards the bed. "I have a great idea, Xanthippe... It's my right to obey my internal voice." He pauses to pronounce his last words before dying: "Man of Athens!...Man of Athens!...Man!..." THE ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS PERFORM A "STORM OF FEELINGS."

End of the opera

Socrates

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Aria for Soprano and Orchestra/Piano-Vocal score
'First original version, 1997'

-Sung **LIVE** in Spanish (Track 2- Socrates The Opera- www.omacmusic.com)

Xanthippe-Socrates' wife

"I Won't Go Away"

***I won't go away.
I will stay here, in your Athens.
It will be the only way to relieve my sorrow,
in our old house, with our children.***

***That way I'll keep something of yours,
imagining that with unending emotion
I'm waiting for you any given night;
suddenly I see you coming through our moonlit path,
cloudy with my tears of joy,
with your old cloak fluttering by the wind,
your bare feet,
and your rough frowning face.***

***I won't go away,
my old and beloved friend.
In our old house, with our children,
like our sole fortune,
it will be the only way to dream that you are still with me.***

by Guillermo Feo Calcaño

Alejandro R. Feo
Composer

Opera Bio



Composing



2006 'Spotlight on Awards'

Born in 1970 in Caracas Venezuela, Mr. Feo has been a New York City resident since 1990.

He started his formal musical studies at the age of 5.

For several years he sang with the children chorus of the Metropolitan Opera of Caracas - Venezuela, founded by his father Guillermo Feo Calcaño, (the librettist for 'Socrates').

He studied composition, piano and conducting; with accompanying singers.

During these early years he gained great experience by going to 'Opera America' international conferences with his father.

He created and began teaching his own original opera course at age 22.

- 1995-1996 Mr. Feo is in charge of the opera recordings for Tower Records in New York City.
- 1996 Mr. Feo gives his first lecture on Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* at the Westchester Community College in New York.
Finalist in the "FOLLOW THAT DREAM" International Songwriters Contest.
- 1997 Graduates in music composition from The Mannes College of Music in New York City.
- 1997-1998 Was the director of the Falls Church Music Conservatory in Virginia, in charge of all daily operations and creating new curriculums (composition, music theory, original opera courses).
- 1998-1999 Was chosen to create the 'background music' for the PLACIDO DOMINGO Restaurant and Tasca in New York City.
- 1998-1999 Negotiates with DECCA-LONDON the re-mastering of an unknown LUCIANO PAVAROTTI recording.
- 2003 Composed his original opera '**Socrates**' and gives a LIVE highlights/performance-lecture at the Westchester Community College in New York and is honored with the "IL CLUB ITALIANO SPECIAL AWARD".
- 2005 Was commissioned by his sponsor to compose a thirty minute symphony and a symphonic-choral work based on his original opera 'Socrates'.
- 2006 Composed-produced-performed music for the Off Broadway play (adaptation) 'Winter', based upon William Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" for which he is nominated for the 2006 'SPOTLIGHT ON AWARDS' for this soundtrack.
- 2008- PRESENT Operating private music practice in New York City: film scoring, composition, orchestration, piano, opera, voice coaching/role interpretation and music business.

Launching expanded Opera Courses to include Level 2 "Intermediate Opera Analysis" and Level 3 "Advanced Opera Analysis".

Received USA Honor Society Award in recognition for unique contributions enhancing human rights through music.

Writing and presenting the three part lecture series "Music/Opera Appreciation" at the 92Y(Tribeca), designed to enhance music knowledge and spirituality.

Pre-producing his original opera, *Socrates*, in preparation for its world premier with a major company.

Guillermo Feo Calcaño
Librettist

Opera Bio



Guillermo Feo Calcaño
(Father)

Mr. Feo Calcaño was born in Caracas-Venezuela in 1918-
Since a very early age he was involved in theater and opera.
In 1945 he graduated from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

- 1945 President of the 'Friends of Theater Society'
- 1951-1970 Critic of Dramatic Arts for several newspapers. El Nacional, El Mundo, La Esfera, La Republica.
- 1956-1957 Invited by the US GOVERNMENT as an observer of the theatrical activities of the Pittsburgh Playhouse and other theater institutions nationwide.
- 1974-1979 President of the Permanent Commission for Culture of the Municipal Council in Caracas-Venezuela.
- 1976 Co-Founder of 'Fundarte', a foundation that promotes culture and the arts.
- 1976-1979 Member of the Executive Committee of 'Fundarte'.
- 1976-1983 FOUNDER and PRESIDENT OF 'THE METROPOLITAN OPERA' of Caracas-Venezuela, A.C.
'OPERA AMERICA' MEMBERS.
- 1978-1983 FOUNDER and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of 'THE SCHOOL/CENTER OF OPERA' of Caracas-Venezuela. With the purpose of getting people of all ages involved in opera and to professionally build new "talents" in the field of opera.
- 1978 FOUNDER of 'THE MUNICIPAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA' of Caracas-Venezuela.

PUBLISHED WORKS

- 1958. 'El Teatro Norteamericano' (The North American Theater),
- 1963 'Democracia vs Dictadura' (Democracy vs Dictatorship),
- 1981 'Teatro Municipal' (Municipal Theater),
Monographies.
Prologues.

TRANSLATIONS INTO SPANISH (COMPLETED).

- 'Aceite' by Eugene O'Neill. Performed at The Fermin Toro Theater.
- 'La Inocente' by H.R.Lenormand. Performed at The Fermin Toro Theater.
- 'Historias de un Cuarto': Compilation of some works by Tennessee Williams. Produced and Directed by Mr. Feo Calcaño at the Fermin Toro Circular Theater.
- 'Pies Desnudos en Atenas' by Maxwell Anderson.
- 'Herederas el Viento' by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Lee.
- 'Enterrad a los Muertos' by Irvin Shaw.

RECENT ORIGINAL WORKS:

- 'SOCRATES'. (2009) Libretto in 3 acts and Epilogue.
- 'La Gran Sarah' (2009) (The Great Sarah). Monologue for an actress. About the life of Sarah Bernhardt.
- 'Alla Arriba en la Montaña' (2009) (Up there in the Mountain). Drama in 3 acts.