

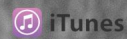
MIKAËLA ØESTE

KIRSTEN CHAMBERS

FREYDÍS AND GUDRID



A NEW MUSICAL DRAMA OF THE VINLAND SAGAS
FROM THE COMPOSER OF THE SUMMIT SYMPHONY





FREYDÍS AND GUDRID

Album Duration

133 minutes

Libretto

Jeffrey Leiser

Music

Jeffrey Leiser

Arrangements

Andrés Soto

Conductor

Keith Chambers

Mixer

Myles Rodenhouse

Producer

Set Theory Productions

Label

Albino Fawn Productions



SYNOPSIS

A group of merchants and vikings navigate dramatic events both within and without in this epic musical based on the Icelandic Vinland sagas. As secrets are exposed, two women (Freydís and Gudrid) have a reckoning.

A musical drama in two Acts totaling 16 scenes, for 10 voices and 16 players (scalable).

ORIGINS

My love of the Icelandic sagas dates back to 2003, when I first picked up the Penguin compilation. My brother and I had just returned from our first trip to Iceland, following the fresh wound of a loss. We found some respite on that volcanic island, but also in reflection of our northern ancestors. Having internalized the sagas for over ten years, I finally began work on an operatic adaptation in 2017. Only 8 months later, I had written and composed a complete draft, but the pendulum swung hard and I suffered an anxiety-induced breakdown. After shelving the project for almost two years, I received healing and hired Andrés Soto to help me arrange a final draft that made sense for live recording. The 2020 film-adaptation process took 9 months, and we recorded and filmed *Freydís and Gudrid* at a Brooklyn film stage in under a week. Finally, DP Sam Krueger captured backgrounds and final touches with singer/star Micaëla Oeste in August 2021. The extensive compositing stage took two years, and we just wrapped in late 2023. - Jeffrey





Micaëla Oeste as *Gudrid*

Micaëla Oeste regularly appears at many of the world's largest venues in both concert and opera. She is currently a soloist for André Rieu's worldwide stadium tour. She has performed for the Strauss Symphony of America, LA Opera, Washington National Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, and Chicago Opera Theater among many others.



Kirsten Chambers as *Freydís*

Kirsten Chambers has sung the title role of *Salome* at the Metropolitan Opera, Opera Hong Kong, and Florida Grand Opera. Her Carnegie Hall debut was Maria in Richard Strauss' *Friedenstag* with the American Symphony Orchestra. At the Metropolitan Opera, she has covered leading roles like Isolde in *Tristan und Isolde* and Marie in *Wozzeck*.

LIBRETTIST/COMPOSER, Jeffrey Leiser

Jeffrey Leiser is an American librettist, composer, and producer/director. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2019 with a selection from *Freydís and Gudrid*. He was a 2018 Composer-in-Residence at the Guild Hall of East Hampton and is a three-time Cultural Fellow (American Scandinavian Society/Foundation/Association).

His music was featured at the Whitney Museum of American Art, 'Dreamlands' exhibition. He won a gold medal, best score, at the Park City Film Music Festival. He has released 12 albums of original music/scores. His symphony *The Summit* was broadcast by Classic FM and Radio Nacional de España and received positive reviews from *Gramophone Magazine* and *I Care If You Listen*. Fun fact: he worked in the restoration department at *The Criterion Collection* for 6 years.



ORCHESTRATOR/ARRANGER, Andrés Soto

Andrés Soto is a Costa Rican composer with an active career both in the world of concert music and in the entertainment industry. He has written music for several feature films, documentaries, shorts and video games, while also maintaining a prolific output of orchestral works commissioned by many ensembles around the world. Projects this year include an album recorded at Capitol Records for Universal Music, an upcoming video game with an ecological message, and music for the prestigious Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach, CA. His interest in education has led him to give guest lectures and masterclasses at several universities and institutions in the US, Latin America, and Spain. His orchestral music is published by Symphonica Productions.



CONDUCTOR, Keith Chambers

Keith Chambers has conducted over 170 performances of nearly 60 different operas for companies including The Dallas Opera, Indianapolis Opera, New Amsterdam Opera, Amarillo Opera, Shreveport Opera, Florida State University, among others. He is the Founder & Artistic Director of New Amsterdam Opera and Music Director of the Moores Opera Center at the University of Houston.



TEAM

Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir

Freydís Eiríksdóttir

Karlsefni

Thorvard

Leif Erikson

Eric the Red

Haki

Hekja

Thjodhild

Snorri

Micaëla Oeste

Kirsten Chambers

Bray Wilkins

Daniel Klein

Samuel Druhora

Bryan Glenn Davis

Raymon Geis

Rocky Duval

Michelle Jennings

Flavius Druhora

Piano

Concertmaster

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

Flute, Alto Flute

Clarinet, Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

French Horn

Trumpet in C

Trombone, Harmonium

Percussion

Cultural Advisor - First Nations

Cultural Advisor - Old Norse

Recording Conductor

Score Arrangements

Piano Reduction Score

Score Recorded At

Karl Larson

Stephan Fillare

Adam von Housen

Alexia DelGiudice Bigari

James Mark Pedersen

Deborah Spohnheimer

Chrissy Fong

Ian Tyson

Tylor Thomas

Blair Hamrick

Clyde Daley

S. Aden Brooks

Edwin Gonzales

Craig L. Falcon

Friðrik Erlingsson

Keith Chambers

Andrés Soto

Mitchell McCarthy

Douglass Street Studios

LIBRETTO AND MUSIC BY JEFFREY LEISER

FREYDÍS AND GUDRÍD

136 MINUTE FULL OPERA

ACT I

I	HOW COLD THE HANDLE FEELS	19.06
II	THE FUTURE DARK	4.48
III	TO THE SEA-STEED!	9:15
IV	A HOPE DAWNS	9.06
V	AVERTING WOUND-SWEAT	8.27
VI	FLAME-FAREWELLED	7.00
VII	EMBRACE FATE	12.58

ACT II

I	GREENLAND THIS MAY	7.35
II	BOTHERING THE MIND-STONE	3.54
III	LADY NEAR THE FIRE	6.44
IV	NO EVADING DESTINY	10.56
V	THE FUTURE LIGHT	2.49
VI	ALPINGI	6.12
VII	GLAUMBER	7.08
VIII	FEEDING THE EAGLE	9.40
IX	THE DEW OF MERCY	9.46

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 136.00
LIBRETTO/MUSIC BY JEFFREY LEISER
ORCH./ARRANG. BY ANDRÉS SOTO
CONDUCTED BY KEITH CHAMBERS
PERFORMED BY SUMMIT SESSION ORCHESTRA
RECORDED AT DOUGLASS STREET STUDIOS
ALBINO FAWN PRODUCTIONS © 2024
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MIKAELA OESTE
KIRSTEN CHAMBERS
BRAY WILKINS
DANIEL KLEIN
SAMUEL DRUHOVA
BRYAN GLENN DAVIS
RAYMON GEIS
ROCKY DUVAL
MICHELLE JENNINGS
FLAVIUS DRUHOVA



OFFICIAL WEBSITE

<https://www.albinofawn.com/project/freydis-and-gudrid/>

SCREENPLAY/LIBRETTO

[http://www.albinofawn.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/
Freydis-and-Gudrid_Libretto_JeffreyLeiser.pdf](http://www.albinofawn.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Freydis-and-Gudrid_Libretto_JeffreyLeiser.pdf)