



# STREET STAGE

SATURDAY, MAY 1 | 11:30 AM & 12:30 PM  
Rowes Wharf @ The Rose Kennedy Greenway

*World Premiere Performance*

## POETRY IN MUSIC: MY NAME IS ALONDRA

*Commissioned by Boston Lyric Opera, in partnership with the City of Boston.*

Omar Najmi | Music

Alondra Bobadilla | Text

Zaray Rodriguez | Mezzo-soprano

Brendon Shapiro | Piano

David Angus | Music Director

Program:

“tell me about yourself”

“9/25/2020 8:09pm”

“6/11/2020 10pm”

“<3”

*With leading commissioning support from  
The Merrill Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.*

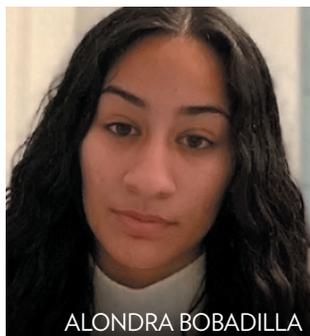
**BOSTON**LYRIC**OPERA**



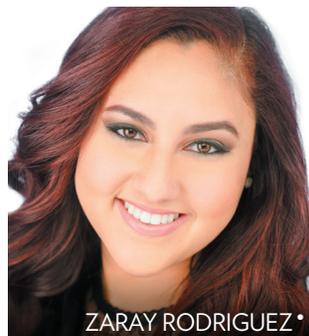
City of Boston  
Arts and Culture



OMAR NAJMI\*



ALONDRA BOBADILLA



ZARAY RODRIGUEZ\*



BRENDON SHAPIRO‡

\*BLO Jane & Steven Akin Emerging Artist | †BLO Jane & Steven Akin Emerging Artist Alumnus

See next page for artists' bios ►

For more information & future performances,  
please visit [blo.org/streetstage](http://blo.org/streetstage).



BLO's programs are funded, in part, by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

## POETRY IN MUSIC: MY NAME IS ALONDRA | ARTISTS

Boston Lyric Opera's new initiative, Poetry in Music, brings together the work of prominent poets and opera composers with roots in Boston to create new musical works and artistic experiences, presented in collaboration with the City of Boston. To learn more, visit [blo.org/poetry-in-music](https://blo.org/poetry-in-music).

### Omar Najmi | Composer

Omar Najmi is an alumnus of Boston Lyric Opera's Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist program, where he served for three seasons as a tenor, and is returning as BLO's first Emerging Artist composer this season. Omar made his compositional debut in 2019 with the world-premiere workshop performance of his opera, *En la ardiente oscuridad*, which was made possible by the generous support of The Boston Foundation and is scheduled to be produced at the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice in 2021. Omar is currently working on his newest opera, *This is not that dawn*, about the 1947 Partition of India. As a performer, Omar's particular passion for new music has led him to several collaborations with living composers. He looks forward to creating the title role in the world premiere of Joseph Summer's *Hamlet* with Bulgaria's Ruse Opera in 2021. Omar continues to perform regularly with BLO where he has recently appeared as Nick in *The Handmaid's Tale*, Flavio in *Norma*, Beppe in *Pagliacci*, and Vanya Kudrjas in *Kátya Kabanová*. Omar made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2018 as the tenor soloist in Mark Hayes' *Gloria* and returned as a featured soloist in Talents of the World Inc.'s Caruso Tribute Concert and as the tenor soloist in Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* with Mid America Productions. For more information, visit [omarnajmi.com](https://omarnajmi.com).

### Alondra Bobadilla | City of Boston Youth Poet Laureate

Born and raised in Boston for most of her life, Alondra Bobadilla found and nurtured her love for writing since she learned her first letters. Besides writing, she has participated in multiple performance art forms since she was a little girl, finding ways to express herself beyond poetry alone. She's curious, lively and loves to learn. In her free time she spends it with friends and loved ones, always trying to put first the people that matter most. She is a student at Fenway High School, and was named Boston's first-ever Youth Poet Laureate in January 2020. For more information, visit her website [alondrabobadilla.com](https://alondrabobadilla.com).

### Zaray Rodriguez | Mezzo-soprano

Zaray Rodriguez is a 2020-21 Jane and Steven Akin Emerging Artist with Boston Lyric Opera. During the 2018-2019 season, Zaray made her role debut as Dinah in Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* at Aspen Music Festival, and as Marcellina in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Dima's Mother and Lupe Marin in Robert Xavier Rodríguez's *Frida* with Florida Grand Opera. In the summer of 2019 she took on the vocally demanding role as Asakir in Mohammed Fairouz's *Sumeida's Song* as a Studio Artist with Opera Maine, and was a featured recitalist at Portland Museum of Art Artist series. An accomplished concert performer as well, Zaray has performed as mezzo-soprano soloist in Sibelius' *Belshazzar's Feast* with Boston University Symphony; in the Carlos de Andrade concert series at the Henry Mancini Institute; Handel's *Messiah* with Masterworks Chorus of the Palm Beaches; and Bach's *Magnificat*, BWV 243 at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

### Brendon Shapiro | Piano

Pianist, vocal coach, and conductor Brendon Shapiro is quickly garnering a reputation from coast to coast as a champion of new music and opera of the 20th and 21st centuries. He is a recent alumnus of LA Opera's Young Artist Program where he performed with such artists as Renée Fleming and Susan Graham, and played a key role in the musical preparation for the world premiere of Matthew Aucoin's *Eurydice*, along with productions of *La Traviata*, *El gato montés*, *La Clemenza di Tito*, *The Light in the Piazza*, and *Satyagraha*. He was an Emerging Artist with Boston Lyric Opera where he has served as pianist and coach for *Pagliacci* and *The Rape of Lucretia*. He was a part of the creative team that recently brought the legendary "Drive-In" *Tosca* to life at the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, and looks forward to music directing the first fully-staged production of Omar Najmi's *En la ardiente oscuridad* there next summer.

BLO would like to thank Kara Elliot-Ortega and Thomas Johnston for making this World Premiere possible.

This free performance was made possible by the generosity of people like you. Please consider making a gift to support the vibrancy of the performing arts in Boston and beyond at [BLO.org/give](https://BLO.org/give).