2013

The Silence: Overture and Two Scenes from an Opera in Two Acts

Eric Jurgens

University of Kentucky, musicandscoresbyeric@gmail.com

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Eric Jurgens, Student
Professor Joseph Baber, Major Professor
Dr. David Sogin, Director of Graduate Studies
THE SILENCE:
OVERTURE AND TWO SCENES FROM
AN OPERA IN TWO ACTS

THESIS

A Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Music in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Kentucky

By

Eric Jurgens

Lexington, Kentucky

Director: Joseph Baber, Professor of Composition

Lexington, Kentucky

2013

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ABSTRACT OF THESIS

THE SILENCE:
OVERTURE AND TWO SCENES FROM
AN OPERA IN TWO ACTS

The Silence is the story of William Rose, a man who, while searching the world for his missing wife and daughter, is kidnapped and held in a secret Iranian prison. After many years of torture, abuse and a slow descent into insanity, secrets about his family manifest as mysterious and magical occurrences, creating a dangerous tension between the prisoners and guards. Questions begin to arise: Who is actually in charge of this prison? Why haven’t the guards ever met the warden? Why is the prison haunted by mysterious voices? And what exactly would it take to crumble the walls of this corrupt institution?

Act II scene iii, The Hour of Angels – William sits alone in his cell, carving the images of his wife and daughter into the wall. As he begs his family to come back to him, the image of his wife slowly comes to life.

Intermezzo and Act II scene i, Danger in the Meadow – Flashback. The prison guards spy on Christina and Madelyn Rose as they play in a meadow not far from the secret prison. Christina sees them hiding and in a panic sends her daughter to a distant building to hide and look for help.

KEYWORDS: Music, Composition, Opera Theater, Musical Theater, Orchestra

Eric Jurgens

April 27, 2013
THE SILENCE:
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AN OPERA IN TWO ACTS

By

Eric Jurgens

Joseph Baber
Director of Thesis

Dr. David Sogin
Director of Graduate Studies

April 27, 2013
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following thesis, while an individual work, benefited from the insights and direction of many people. First, my Thesis Chair, Joseph Baber, who provided me with profound inspiration and much latitude to pursue my individual direction. In addition, I would like to thank the Director of the Opera Theater program, Dr. Everett McCorvey, who provided invaluable production experience that directly contributed towards the completion and high quality performance of this thesis. Next, I wish to thank the complete Thesis Committee: Dr. Michael Baker, Dr. Kevin Holm-Hudson, and Joseph Baber. Each individual provided insights that guided and challenged my thinking, substantially improving the finished product.

In addition to the technical and instrumental assistance above, I received equally important assistance from friends and colleagues. My friend and conductor, DMA candidate Lucia Marin, masterfully directed the orchestra with much appreciated enthusiasm. My soloists Arianna Afshari, Jacob Brian Waid, Alyssa-Marie Detterich, Philip Eschweiler, Matt Turner and Evan LeRoy Johnson all achieved great beauty in their performances and maintained high professional standards. Finally, I wish to thank my orchestra, comprised entirely of volunteers from the UK Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band, who graciously donated their time and performed this difficult music with tremendous quality and enthusiasm.
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your

in

the

heavens

of

angels.
home, in your arms a gain!

Now or let me go gain!

Total gain!
rit.
Clap my hand, I'll lead you through the gate, gate, gate, gate, gate!
Act II scene i: Danger in the Meadow
where are you hid - ing?
You've been now.
I can't see you. Even here!
I can't see you from here.
Come on and play my duet.
There you are!
Come and play with me.
want to have something like that, my child? I want to know what it is like to fall in love. You're so cute! Come and play with me.
let's play together. You will be like a sister and Dad will be A. But! Come and play with me, let's play.

be alive.

You - j

be ni-

ni
I know it well. Visit me! - honey or bee, Madeline. What would I ever do - without you? I know it well. Visit me! - honey or bee, Madeline. What would I ever do - without you? I know it well. Visit me! - honey or bee, Madeline. What would I ever do - without you?
V

Dad doesn’t even know

where we are, so we are going to save ourselves.

Now hush and listen.

Do you see that building off to the

child.

It can save the building... off to the

by.

and lis

-97-
distance? I'm going to say 296. Liss 296. 

run, and you're going to run faster than you ever have before. You will not stop, under any circumstances. Do you understand?
VITA

Eric Jurgens

Born in Houston, Texas on August 20th, 1985.

Monte Vista High School.......................................................High School Diploma

San Francisco Conservatory.............................................Bachelor of Music in Composition

University of Kentucky...................................................Master of Music in Composition

Composer for Rex Rey Films

Composer for Buhu Design and Production

Contract Film Composer