2013

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

Eric Jurgens

University of Kentucky, musicandscoresbyeric@gmail.com

Recommended Citation


This Master's Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Music at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Dissertations--Music by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.
STUDENT AGREEMENT:

I represent that my thesis or dissertation and abstract are my original work. Proper attribution has been given to all outside sources. I understand that I am solely responsible for obtaining any needed copyright permissions. I have obtained and attached hereto needed written permission statements(s) from the owner(s) of each third-party copyrighted matter to be included in my work, allowing electronic distribution (if such use is not permitted by the fair use doctrine).

I hereby grant to The University of Kentucky and its agents the non-exclusive license to archive and make accessible my work in whole or in part in all forms of media, now or hereafter known. I agree that the document mentioned above may be made available immediately for worldwide access unless a preapproved embargo applies.

I retain all other ownership rights to the copyright of my work. I also retain the right to use in future works (such as articles or books) all or part of my work. I understand that I am free to register the copyright to my work.

REVIEW, APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE

The document mentioned above has been reviewed and accepted by the student’s advisor, on behalf of the advisory committee, and by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), on behalf of the program; we verify that this is the final, approved version of the student’s dissertation including all changes required by the advisory committee. The undersigned agree to abide by the statements above.

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

Copyright © Eric Jurgens 2013
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:
OVERTURE AND TWO SCENES FROM
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.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract............................................................................................................................ ii
Approvals.......................................................................................................................... iii
Acknowledgments.............................................................................................................. iv

Part One: Overture.............................................................................................................. 1
   Rehearsal A.................................................................................................................. 3
   B................................................................................................................................. 4
   C................................................................................................................................. 9
   D................................................................................................................................. 15
   E................................................................................................................................. 18
   F................................................................................................................................. 24
   G................................................................................................................................. 26
   H................................................................................................................................. 32

Part Two: Act II scene iii, The Hour of Angels................................................................. 33
   Rehearsal A.................................................................................................................. 35
   B................................................................................................................................. 37
   C................................................................................................................................. 41
   D................................................................................................................................. 43
   E................................................................................................................................. 47
   F................................................................................................................................. 54
   G................................................................................................................................. 57

Part Three: Intermezzo...................................................................................................... 60
   Rehearsal A.................................................................................................................. 66

Part Four: Act II scene i, Danger in the Meadow......................................................... 71
   Rehearsal B.................................................................................................................. 76
   C................................................................................................................................. 76
   D................................................................................................................................. 78
   E................................................................................................................................. 81
   F................................................................................................................................. 84
   G................................................................................................................................. 90
   H................................................................................................................................. 93
   I................................................................................................................................. 95
   J................................................................................................................................. 101
   K............................................................................................................................... 102
THE SILENCE

Overture

By Eric Jurgens
Act II scene iii: The Hour Of Angels
Clasp my hand, I’ll lead you through the
star, star-guided flight! Daring, I am.

Chop your hand in mine!

Your hand in mine!
F a tempo  
Climax!

Clap my hand. I'll lead you through the quiet, quiet.

F a tempo

I'll lead you through the quiet, quiet.

F a tempo

Clap my hand. I'll lead you through the quiet, quiet.

F a tempo

Clap my hand. I'll lead you through the quiet, quiet.

F a tempo

Clap my hand. I'll lead you through the quiet, quiet.

F a tempo

Clap my hand. I'll lead you through the quiet, quiet.

F a tempo

Clap my hand. I'll lead you through the quiet, quiet.
night

w

in

to

of

our

world

on
-60-
Boys, how joyous, how joyous

Moderato

There, A - close the shutter.
Can we go out there?

Don't make me hit you!

a 2 (pizz.)
a 2 (pizz.)

...
Act II scene i: Danger in the Meadow
Come and play with me.

There are! Can't see you from here!

Play with me.
Yes, now the rain, no fall of mist ever plans.
Mom, my, please tell me how you met your dad.
I want to know what it is to fall in love. Come and play with me.
My dear,

... way...
I fell in love.
My heart was
burned by his sweet words.

[Music notation]
Now hush and listen. Do you see that building off to the

Where we are, so we are.

Going to save ourselves.
distance? I'm going to say 296.

run, and you're going to run faster than you.

ever have before. You will not stop, under any circumstances, until you reach that building. 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