

THE OPERAS

An Incident in Sutton Square

Music by Martin Hennessy, Libretto by Stephen Kitsakos

World Premiere. Danny, a young man afflicted with arithmomania, a type of obsessive compulsive disorder, grieving the recent loss of his beloved dog, re-lives a terrifying encounter with a dog walker in a swanky Manhattan neighborhood. Scored for tenor, piano, Bb clarinet and double bass.

The Woman in Penthouse A

Music by Martin Hennessy, Libretto by Stephen Kitsakos

World Premiere. In a European capital, Mrs. Bakshlevi, an international socialite and power broker of Iranian descent, is being interviewed by an unseen journalist. The line between truth and fiction is blurred as she boasts of her skills in manipulating the truth, while simultaneously renouncing those who would put her in prison for fraud. Scored for soprano, Bb clarinet, double bass and digital santoor.

The Other Room

Music by Marisa Michelson, Libretto by Mark Campbell

Premiere - New York City, 2014, in the "Inner Voices" series. A moving, often humorous musical, work celebrating the power of friendship and birth of their activism during the early years of the AIDS crisis. In 1990, in a Manhattan apartment, Lena is in the living room of her friend Steve, painting at an easel to distract her from assisting in his suicide. Steve is seriously ill and occupying the "other room." Scored for piano, cello and digital electronics.

THE WRITERS

MARK CAMPBELL is one of today's leading opera librettists. A champion of contemporary opera, Campbell has written 28 librettos, the most popular of which is *Silent Night* with music by Kevin Puts, which won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize. His opera *Stonewall*, with music by Iain Bell, opened the NYC Opera season in June, 2019. His catalogue includes the operas: *The Revolution of Steve Jobs*, music by Mason Bates; *Later the Same Evening*, music by John Musto; *The Shining*, music by Paul Moravec; *The Manchurian Candidate*, music by Kevin Puts; *Dinner at Eight*, music by William Bolcomb; and *As One*, co-written with Kimberly Reed, music by Laura Kaminsky which is the most performed chamber opera in America today.



SINGLE OCCUPANCIES

Three Contemporary
Opera Theatre
Monologues

Directed by Murphy Davis

Jan 4 & 5, 2020



The evening features a libretto and presentation by **Mark Campbell**, perhaps the most prolific and well-known librettist of new American opera.

SINGLE OCCUPANCIES

THE WRITERS (cont'd)

STEPHEN KITSAKOS has written libretti for composer Sheila Silver's operas *The Wooden Sword* (Sackler Prize), *The White Rooster* (Smithsonian) and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, adapted from the book by Khaled Hosseini, commissioned by Seattle Opera for their 2020-2021 season. A contributing writer of *The Sondheim Review*, and contributing author of ABC-CLIO publication's *Music in American Life*, from 2000-2013 he was on the Theatre Arts Faculty at SUNY New Paltz teaching performance and theatre studies. Based in Key West, he works as a librettist, director and dramaturge.

MARTIN HENNESSY is a prolific composer of art song and chamber opera. Recent credits: Sorel Foundation Commission SongFest 2019 in LA; *The Young King* (libretto: Tom Rowan) Maryland Opera Studio; and *A Letter to East 11th Street* (libretto: Mark Campbell), winner of the Dominic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize of the Crane Opera Ensemble. Martin held a two year conducting/coaching fellowship at Juilliard's American Opera Center and served on the faculties of the Bel Canto Seminar and Bennington College.

MARISA MICHELSON is a composer/singer and multi-award winning writer of interdisciplinary music-theatre and choral work. She is the founder of Constellation Chor, an immersion in voice, movement and spirit. A McDowell and Ucross fellow, she has been a 2018 NEA grants recipient, 2017 Creative Engagement Award, winner of a Jonathan Larson award, and many others. She maintains a private voice studio in NYC and has taught at The American Theatre Wing, The Performing Arts Project, Montclair State University, Milliken University, the University of the Puget Sound and the Signature Theater.

THE PERFORMERS

DANIEL CURRAN, tenor, is a graduate of The Juilliard School. He just completed the World Premiere of Ted Rosenthal's *Dear Erich* with NYC Opera. Recent engagements include solo performances in Bernstein's *Mass* at Lincoln Center, Georgia Shreve's *Alice in Wonderland - Images of Dali* at Carnegie Hall, and Ernesto in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* at Zomeropera in Belgium. At Lincoln Center he appeared in the Emmy-nominated *Carousel* and with the City Center Encores in *The Most Happy Fella*.

VIRA SLYWOTZKY, soprano, has performed principal roles with Seattle Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Boston Midsummer Opera, Chelsea Opera and the Center for Contemporary Opera. Repertoire includes opera, operetta, musical theater, cabaret and theater. The recipient of a 2007 Richard F. Gold Career Grant, Slywotzky has twice been a New England Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. and in 2009 represented the U.S. at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Slywotzky runs *Vira & Friends*, a mobile concert series.

MOLLY RANSON'S Broadway credits include *Fish in the Dark*, *Jerusalem*, and *August: Osage County*, which she also performed in London and Australia. Off-Broadway credits include *Bad Jews* (Lortel nomination), *Carrie* (Drama Desk, Lortel, Drama League nominations), *Linda* and *The Burnt Part Boys*. She also appeared in Louis C.K.'s "Horace and Pete" and in the feature film, *Love on the Run*.