In creating the libretto, I juxtaposed different elements from the biblical history of Abraham. The story begins with God's covenant with Abraham in which he is given the promise of a new land and a son. The story picks up thirteen years later, after the birth of Isaac. A famine has stricken Canaan, and faced with the destruction of his people Abraham turns to God. Their covenant takes on a new meaning. Now Abraham has to make a choice between the well being of his community and the survival of his only son.

The Director would like to thank Peter Golub, Reinhardt Mayer, Gladden Schrock, Joe Bloom, Michael Finckel, Jonas Omberg, Ashley Smith, Seana Gamel, Vincent Carté, Luke Iwabuchi, Sue Jones, Michael Giannitti, Pete Seward, Dave Choi, Meg Storey, Liz Covey, the entire cast, the production staff, crew and musicians.

The Set Designer would like to thank Dave Groupé. Tony Carruthers, Jon Paine, Alan Del Vecchio, Matthew Mike Cole, Kendall Ayoub, Melissa Grant, Abe Ober, Morgan Gabler, Bööch, and Seana Gamel.

The Costume Designer would like to thank her assistants, Michelle, Greta, and a Special thanks to Terry Teitelbaum and Rosie Schaap.

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The Bennington College Music Division Faculty & Staff:
Frank Baker, Arthur Brooks, Joel Chadabe, William Dixon, Marianne Finckel, Michael Finckel, Jacob Glick, Peter Golub, Milford Graves, Sue Jones, Sue Ann Kahn, Jeffrey Levine, Barbara Martin, Randell Neal, Lionel Nowak, Susan Reiss, Gunnar Schonbeck, Elizabeth Wright, Gerald Zaffuts

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The Sacrifice of Isaac
An Opera Composed & Directed by
Matthew Mike Cole
May 5-7, 1994, 8 pm
Lester Martin Theater

Conductor: Peter Golub
Set Design: Peter Seward
Projections: David Choi
Costume Design: Meg Storey
Lighting Design: Michael Giannitti
Stage Manager: Jonas Omberg

Run Crew
House Manager: Hedda Sjögren
Light Board Operator: Tariq Allana
Follow Spot: Ramaa Mosley
Floor Crew: Rachel Whitman
Projectionist: Abe Ober
Video: Wendy Lawrence

Director's Note:
The "Sacrifice of Isaac" is a legend which is of fundamental importance to both the Judaic and Christian faiths.

It appears throughout passages in the Bible, Torah, and Midrash. The story takes on a number of different meanings throughout these texts ranging from a sacrifice to pacify the devil's doubt that any man on earth could be faithful to a metaphor for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

In the telling of these stories it is unclear whether or not Isaac was actually killed. In the standard version, Isaac is rescued from his father's sword, but in older accounts that aren't in the Bible, Isaac is sacrificed and resurrected, and in Jewish commentary, Isaac dies and is not saved. Kierkegaard uses the story to elaborate his idea of a leap of faith; and it was also a popular subject for medieval morality and mystery plays.

My purpose in setting this story is not to tell the definitive story (I believe that would be impossible). But to tell a story of a possible scenario in which Abraham is faced with having to sacrifice his only son.
Cast

Abraham: Jeff Linebeck
Sarah: Celia Twomey
Isaac: Jessica Peck
Michael: Edmund Mooney
God: Nikki Antoniades
Ian Jelinek
Amber McAfee
Nikki Antoniades
Greta Feeney
Ian Jelinek
Gwen MacDonald
Amber McAfee
Edmund Mooney
Matt Westcott
Diana Whitecage

Chorus:

Nikki Antoniades
Greta Feeney
Ian Jelinek
Gwen MacDonald
Amber McAfee
Edmund Mooney
Matt Westcott
Diana Whitecage

Orchestra

Violin: Seana Gamel
Viola: Guy Rauscher
Cello: Michael Finckel
Guitar: John McKanna
Flute: Sue Ann Kahn
Clarinet: Sally Dewes
Piano: Ting Hong
Percussion: David Brandt
Music Staff

Manuscripting
Vincent Carté
Manuscripting Editing
Michael Finckel
Seana Gamel
Manuscripting Assistants
Luke Iwabuchi
John McKanna
Paul Opel
Rehearsal Accompanists
Stephanie Bennett
Joseph Bloom
Marianne Finckel

Production Staff

Technical Director
Peter Seward
Costume Assistants
Deborah Barraza
Erica Stuckwisch
Master Electrician
Chad Dayton
Assistant Stage Manager
Ashley Smith
Photographer
Luke Iwabuchi
Poster Design
Phoenix Mayet
Program Design
Kerry Gilbertson

Crews

Set Construction & Paint
Melissa Grant
Abe Ober
The Intro
Stagecraft Class
Light Hang & Focus
Alexandra Dewez
Gypsy Lew
Adnan Iftakhar
Costume Construction
Michelle Dorvillier
Greta Feeney