

## Whose opera?

Or perhaps more appropriately, what's opera? Can the subject matter be commonplace, the music something besides classical? And what separates it from a dramatized song, or more confusingly, musical theater? Can it be over even if the fat lady doesn't sing?

Whose Opera?, the class, convened at the beginning of this Spring term. We made up a peculiar blend of singers, composers and writers, each one of us with distinct skills and tastes. We spent the first few weeks of term testing combinations of composers, writers and singers, much in the manner that a mad scientist might test combinations of chemicals, lasers and robots. We instituted a one-week turnaround cycle for those first weeks, where between one class and the next a piece would be written, composed and made performable by these teams. Every week represented an exciting blank slate, with a new vision and a fresh, intriguing set of faces. Eventually, some of these projects began to emerge as winners and were later expanded upon, while others fell by the wayside. These are the pieces that came forward as some of the strongest, holding our interest through the early mornings and late nights. If they lack polish here or there, it is because they are still brand spanking new, and because we collectively may have bitten off a tad bit too much, despite our incessant, enthusiastic chewing. Nonetheless, we hope they will entertain.

Jesse Bartlett-Webber gets full credit for the posters and the cartoon on the front of this program. Special thanks to Mike Del Prete, who joined our team of musical misfits midway through, and of course to Yoshiko Sato, who has been reading our ambiguous scores with brilliant artistry since the beginning. Thanks also to Bruce Williamson, who worked with us for a time, and to Kitty, whose idea it was to have this class and who has variously been teacher, director, musician, producer and critic at the times when these roles needed filling.

*Whose Opera?* is Jesse Bartlett-Webber, Danny Brylow, Joshua Goldstein, Lara Hoffman, Sarah King, Lyzy Lusterman, Kaley McMahon, Becca Moulton, Rae Noyes, Eli Phillips, Annie Schwartz, Matthew Souther, Doug Von Korff & Morgan Whitaker

programs by Matthew Souther

## Whose opera?



Wednesday, May 23, 2007 • 9:00 PM  
Greenwall Music Workshop

A night of TEN original Mini-Operas in true Bennington style...

## **Spyz**

libretto by Danny Brylow, music by Doug Von Korff  
Yoshiko Sato, piano; Mike Del Prete, bass; Jesse Bartlett-Webber, drums

**American Spy** (baritone)  
**Double Agent** (soprano)  
**Her Henchmen** (tenors)

Matthew Souther  
Becca Moulton  
Danny Brylow, Eli Phillips

SCENE ONE  
SCENE TWO  
SCENE THREE  
SCENE FOUR  
SCENE FIVE

*An Undisclosed Location*  
*The Quarry*  
*The Headquarters of the Double Agent*  
*The Nightclub*  
*An Alley*

## **Zhamele**

text from a poem by Nikolai Nekrasov, translated to Yiddish by A. Litvin, music by Lyzy Lusterman  
Eli Phillips & Kitty Brazelton, voice; Mike Del Prete, bass

## **Dear Michelle**

I.  
text by Annie Schwartz, music by Lara Hoffman

II.  
text by Louise Gluck, music by Annie Schwartz

Annie Schwartz, voice; Lara Hoffman, piano & voice

## **Messing Up**

words and music by Jesse Bartlett-Webber  
Joshua Goldstein, voice; Yoshiko Sato, piano

## **Losing Faith**

libretto by Sarah King & Rae Noyes; music by Sarah King  
Yoshiko Sato, piano, Mike Del Prete, bass; Jesse Bartlett-Webber, drums

**Peter**  
**Constance**

Morgan Whitaker  
Sarah King

## **Husband & Wife**

libretto by Morgan Whitaker, music by Danny Brylow  
Yoshiko Sato, piano; Mike Del Prete, bass, Doug Von Korff, clarinet

**Husband** (tenor)  
**Wife** (soprano)

Eli Phillips  
Annie Schwartz

## **Sortez de mon lit**

libretto by Josh Goldstein; music by Lara Hoffman  
Lara Hoffman, piano

**Madeleine**  
**Pierre**  
**Hugo**

Becca Moulton  
Josh Goldstein  
Doug Von Korff

## **INTERMISSION**

## **Enfection**

libretto by Morgan Whitaker, music by Jesse Bartlett-Webber  
Yoshiko Sato, piano

**Preacher**  
**Missy Lou**  
**Dianne**

Morgan Whitaker  
Lara Hoffman  
Becca Moulton

## **Roses**

libretto by Eli Phillips, music by Lara Hoffman  
Lara Hoffman, piano

**Madam**  
**Servant**  
**Gardener**

Sarah King  
Joshua Goldstein  
Jesse Bartlett-Webber

## **The Carnival Lights**

libretto by Kaley McMahon, music by Matthew Souther  
The first scene aria, "The Carnival Lights", is by Annie Schwartz, text by Morgan Whitaker  
Yoshiko Sato, piano; Mike Del Prete, bass; Doug Von Korff, clarinet; Matthew Souther & Eli Phillips, trumpets

**The Clown** (baritone)  
**The Child** (soprano)  
**The Fortune Teller** (mezzo-soprano)

Danny Brylow  
Annie Schwartz  
Rae Noyes

SCENE ONE  
SCENE TWO  
SCENE THREE

*Outside at the Carnival*  
*In the Fortune Teller's Tent*  
*Outside at the Carnival*

**You're free to applaud at the end of songs, scenes, good jokes and statements you agree with, but we're going to save our bows for the end.**