

Phantasmagorilla? No! Phantasmagoria

A Children's Opera by Efraín Amaya

Libretto by Susana Amundaraín

Phantasmagoria: (noun) A series of strange or bizarre images seen as if in a dream.

America, 2006: a family (Mother, Father, son Bernard & daughter Nessie) is going to an opera entitled *The Ghosts of the Opera*. Bernard resists and complains and threatens to fall asleep. His older sister, Nessie, is excited about the performance and tries to ignore him. As the family enters the theater and finds their seats, they continue to argue. When the opera begins, Bernard, as promised, falls asleep. He begins to dream, his dream becoming an opera in which his family and familiar people become the singers. His dream is a series of short interconnected scenes related to the opera, its title and Bernard's subconscious concerns. As the audience applauds at the end of the opera, Bernard wakes up, convinced he actually saw the whole show. As the family exits the theater, they argue again as Bernard reassures everybody that he never fell asleep.

CHARACTERS:

Mother & Grandmother.....	Kimberly Steinhauer
Father.....	Sean Donaldson
Bernard (brother).....	Amadís Amaya
Nessie (sister).....	Annie Rago
Opera Singer & Mrs. Cirkem.....	Charlene Canty

The Point Chamber Orchestra

Music Director & Conductor Efraín Amaya

Dilshad Posnock, flute

Amy Galbraith, oboe

José Gómez, clarinet

Jason Posnock, violin

Barney Culver, cello

José Puentes, double bass

Katie Palumbo, piano

Sponsoring organizations: Gateway to the Arts & Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

Recording Engineer: Harold Walls. Digital editing by: Efraín Amaya.

Mastering: Riccardo Schulz, Pittsburgh Digital Recording & Editing Company.

Recorded at Alumni Concert Hall of School of Music, Carnegie Mellon University. February 2007.

Clepsydra: An Operatic Installation with 13 Performers

Music by: Efraín Amaya

Lyrics by: Susana Amundaraín and Carol Ciavonne

Clepsydra is a piece that was conceived as a celebration of the collaborative spirit in the arts. Through a dynamic interaction of music, painting, writing, video, and the theatrical space, the idea was to create a unique experience, a combination of the opera, the collage, and the multi-media installation. The collaboration *Clepsydra* is an exploration of time through the synchronization of sound and visual arts.

As we enter the new millennium, the thoughts and reflections about time became a strong point in the development of this work. A clepsydra was a water clock invented in ancient Egypt to measure the passage of time. Such clocks were particularly useful to priests, who needed to know the time during the night, so that rituals and sacrifices of the temple could be carried out at the correct hour.

Clepsydra was chosen as the title of this event as a symbol for the process of invention, creation, and dreaming of time. The author wanted to play with the possibility of multi-layered situations, and perceptions, with the idea of a circular motion of time.

The texts were created with a symbolic content in mind. They reflect the three different time-realities: The Dreams, The Eclipse, and The Ritual. In the music, all three realities co-exist in the same time frame: they overlap each other giving the sense of unity through diversity. For the performances, one of these time-realities will be played live, in an alternating sequence, and in synchronization with the pre-recorded music of the other two segments.

In the videos, images were chosen to represent the creation of time through the flow of water, and the repetitive motion of a dream space. All three realities interact with each other, and with the music. At moments they also echo the colors and textures of the paintings present in the installation, which set the atmosphere of a ritualistic space.

Performers:

Jeanne Wentworth, mezzo-soprano
Douglas Ahlstedt, tenor
Dilsha Billimoria, flute
Renate Sakins, oboe
David Welter, clarinet & bass clarinet
Tim Ward, bassoon
Scott Bohannon, French horn
Drew Fennell, trumpet
Gerardo Salazar, percussion
Susanne Park, violin
César Suárez, viola
Miguel Rojas, cello
Robert Skavronski, double bass
Efraín Amaya, conducting

Musical Producer: Efraín Amaya

Recording Engineer: Riccardo Schulz

Assistant Engineer: Robert Shelton

Recording Equipment & Mastering: Riccardo Schulz, Pittsburgh Digital Recording & Editing Company. Digital editing by: Efraín Amaya. Recorded at Alumni Concert Hall of School of Music, Carnegie Mellon University. October 1999.

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