

John Adams

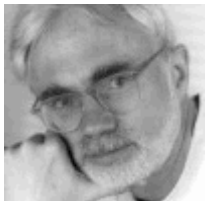


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OPERAS

The Death of Klinghoffer

1990

2 hr 20 min

Opera in two acts

Text: Libretto by Alice Goodman (E)

S,M,C,T,3Bar,B; chorus(min:24 singers); dancers
2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-2.2.2.0-
perc(1):KAT MIDI mallet controller/timp-2kbd samplers-harp-strings(8.8.6.6.4)

For complete technical requirements go to:
<http://www.earbox.com/tech-guide/eq/ja-klng-eq.htm>

"A work that fires the heart... Adams creates a revolutionary, continually shifting tapestry."
-- *Katrine Ames, Newsweek*

"Here is what [The Death of Klinghoffer] does do: Explore the roots of a conflict that has shaped our era, demonstrate the common humanity of all those involved in it, condemn violence and shine a light on the everyday heroism of ordinary people ... The music in "Klinghoffer" varies from lyrical to edgy, mechanistic to ecstatic."

-- *Sarah Bryan Miller, St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"The Death of Klinghoffer ripples, sways and flows, exerting a melancholy undertow ... the work deals openly with political and spiritual crises that are still very much a part of everyday life. ... what the opera has to say is worth hearing..."

-- *Steve Smith, The New York Times*

9790051968800 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 19 Mar 1991

Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels, Belgium

Peter Sellars, director/Mark Morris, choreographer; Théâtre de la Monnaie

Conductor: Kent Nagano

Doctor Atomic

2004-05

2 hr 53 min

opera in 2 acts

Text: libretto by Peter Sellars drawn from original sources

M, A, 2T, 2Bar, BBar, B; chorus;
3(II, III=picc).3(III=corA).3(II=Ebcl, III=bcl,dbcl).3(III=dbn)
-4.3(III=picc.tpt).3.1-harp-cel-timp-perc(4):I=thunder sheet/glsp/tgl/tuned
gong/crot/susp.cym/med tam-t/BD/2roto toms/chinese cym/SD/tuned
gongs;II=chimes/lg.tam-t/susp.chinese cym/crot/BD/tgl;III=tuned gongs/lo
gong/susp.cym/thunder sheet/med tam-tlg tam-t/hi susp.cym/xyl/crot/chimes/low
susp.cym/antique cym/hi tgl/med tam-t/sm tam-t/med gong/alarm bell/BD;IV=lg chinese
cym/susp.cym/tam-t/tuned gongs/BD/2 high tgls/bass chime-computer-controlled sound
system-strings

"Doctor Atomic is a magnificent accomplishment that easily takes its place alongside the other Adams-Sellars triumphs — Nixon in China, The Death of Klinghoffer and El Niño — and in important respects goes beyond them. It contains music of unearthly splendour and gorgeous lushness, and its rich expressivity will take many hearings to absorb."
Los Angeles Times

"Since Britten's death some 30 years ago, the American composer John Adams has emerged as the most powerful voice in the creation of opera... Doctor Atomic is a moving and compelling work of moral, as well as musical, grandeur... one is left with a sense of the terrible magnificence of atomic fission as well as its unimaginable destructiveness."
Daily Telegraph

World Premiere: 01 Oct 2005

San Francisco Opera House, San Francisco, CA, United States

Gerald Finley, bar / Kristine Jepson, mezz / Peter Sellars, dir; San Francisco Opera

Conductor: Donald Runnicles

A Flowering Tree

2006

1 hr 53 min

Opera in 2 acts

Text: Libretto adapted by John Adams and Peter Sellars from a South Indian folktale and poems translated by A.K.Ramanujan (E-S)

lyrS,T,B soloists, SATB chorus (min.40);

2.picc.treble recorder(=perc,opt.picc).alto recorder(=soprano recorder, perc,opt.fl)

*.2(II=corA).2.bcl.2(II=dbn)-4.2.3.0-timp.perc(4):l= glsp/wdbl/claves/pedal

BD/SD/2susp.cyms/2tuned bongos (or roto toms)/tom-t/shaker/3

tpl.blks/cowbell/bongo/maracas/BD/2 Japanese Bowl gong/Chinese

cym/2tgls/slapstick;II= chimes/tgl/tamb/wdbl/susp.cym/rainmaker

(med.)/BD/cast/bongo/SD; III=maracas/tamb/rainmaker (low)/high tgl/low tubular wind

chimes; IV=shaker/rainmaker (low)-harp-cel-strings(min. 12.10.8.6.5) *OPTIONAL:

recorder players play some very simple percussion (rain sticks, etc.), or they can play only recorder.

"The score is opulent, dreamlike, fiercely lyrical, at times shadowy and strange – unlike anything that the fifty-nine-year-old composer has written..."

The New Yorker

"...some of the most ravishingly beautiful passages of music that Adams has yet composed..."

[He] continues to develop and surprise — something of a late-flowering tree himself."

Daily Telegraph

"...a radiant sunburst of orchestral beauty. This score abounds in ravishing music, some of the most purely gorgeous music of recent years. ...Adams has grown into possibly our finest living composer. He never utilizes anything other than an utterly appropriate compositional element, a hallmark of this score's beauty and poise."

Audiophile Audition

"...this is Adams' most sensuous, spacious and evocative score, with delicate and colorful instrumentation evoking 'world music,' primitive rhythms echoing Stravinsky and mystical chanting for the chorus."

-- Janelle Gelfand, Cincinnati Enquirer

World Premiere: 14 Nov 2006

Halle E im MuseumsQuartier, Wien, Austria

Peter Sellars, dir / Jessica Rivera, sop / Russell Thomas, ten / Eric Owens, bar;

Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil Simón Bolívar; Schola Cantorum de Caracas

Conductor: John Adams

I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky

1995

1 hr 50 min

Songplay in two acts

Text: Libretto and lyrics by June Jordan (E)

3M,highT,T,2Bar

2reeds(I=cl,bcl,II=asax)-3kbd(I=pft/sampler,II=sampler,III=synth)-gtr(=elec.gtr)

-db(=elec.bass gtr)-

drum kit(=MIDI drums)

For complete technical requirements go to:

<http://www.earbox.com/tech-guide/eq/ja-c-s-eq.htm>

World Premiere: 03 May 1995

Zellerbach Playhouse, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Peter Sellars, director; Paul Drescher Ensemble

Conductor: Grant Gershon

El Niño

1999-2000

1 hr 45 min

A Nativity Oratorio

Text: Biblical texts, Gnostic Infancy Gospels, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Rosario

Castellanos (E-S)

S,M,Bar,3CT; chorus; 2(I,II=picc).2(I,II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)

-3.0.3.0-perc(3):l=glsp/lo tgl/gong/almglocken/guero/maracas;

II=crot/almglocken/gong/hi cowbell/3tgl/tpl.bl; III=gong/chimes/crot/claves/2tgl/2temple

bowls-harp-pft(=cel)-2kbd (I=pft,cel;II=sampler,cel)- 2steel string gtr-strings(minimum

14.0.6.6.4)

for complete technical requirements go to:

<http://www.earbox.com/tech-guide/eq/ja-elnino-eq.htm>

World Premiere: 15 Dec 2000

Châtelet, Paris, France

Dawn Upshaw/Lorraine Hunt-Lieberson/Willard White/Peter Sellars, director; Deutsches

Symphonie Orchester/London Voices

Conductor: Kent Nagano

Nixon in China

1987

2 hr 57 min

An opera in three acts

Text: Libretto by Alice Goodman (E,G)

colS,lyrS,3M,T,lyrBar,Bar,BBar; chorus; dancers

2(I,II=picc).2(II=corA).3(I=Ebccl;II,III=bcl).4sax(S,2A,Bar).0-

0.3.3.0-perc(1):BD/pedal BD/wdbl/susp.cym/SD/sandpaper blocks/

tamb/hi-hat/TD/sizzle cym/glsp/slapping sound/tgl/sleigh bells-

2elec pft-synth or sampler (Kurzweil K2000)-strings(minimum:6.6.4.4.2)

for complete technical requirements go to:

<http://www.earbox.com/tech-guide/eq/ja-nix-eq.htm>

9790051968701 **(Vocal Score)**

World Premiere: 22 Oct 1987

Wortham Theater Center, Houston, USA

Peter Sellars, dir / Mark Morris, choreographer; Houston Grand Opera

Conductor: John DeMain