

## Iannis Xenakis



Iannis Xenakis Photo © Ralph A. Fassey

### OPERAS

## Oresteia

1965-66, rev. 69, 87, 89

50 min

for baritone, mixed chorus and chamber ensemble

Text: Text by Aeschylus (Gr)

Solo Bar; mixed chorus (18 men and 18 women, or multiples thereof)  
doubling perc: wood simantras/metal simantras/whips/sirens/  
metal sheets/maracas; children's chorus  
1(=picc).1.0.Ebcl.dbcl.0.dbn-1.1(=picc.tpt).1.1-perc(2);2timp/  
2bongos/SD/very large BD/2wdbl/2lion's roar/2gongs(large and small)/  
2tamb (without jingles)/whip/4tom-t/2nylon brushes (long bristles)/  
2maracas/large thunder-sheet/glock-vlc(amplified if necessary)  
Orchestra (except percussionists) doubling perc:tgls/tombs (of  
varying pitch, without jingles)/sirens/glass chimes/whips/metal sheets/  
lion's roars/rattles

Audience plays metal simantras

<br>

<br>

Performances of Oresteia should include *Kassandra* (1987) for baritone, psalterium and solo percussion (15 minutes), and *La Déesse Athena* (1992) for baritone and twelve instruments (9 minutes). Both additional scores are available from Editions Salabert.

*"...sharp-edged, otherworldly. ..."Oresteia" works powerfully on its own terms.*

*The New York Times*

*"arresting...Xenakis never wrote a score...that didn't instantly grab the ear and deliver a satisfying musical experience. ...the elemental impact of the piece is undeniable.....wholly mesmerizing."*

*MusicalAmerica.com*

*"...remarkable music..."*

*The New York Sun*

9790060106033 (Full score)

**World stage premiere: 21 Aug 1987**

Gibellina, Sicily, Italy

Iannis Kokkos and Rene Loyon, director; Spiros Sakkas (*Cassandra*); Sylvia Gualda, perc; Ensemble Instrumental de Basse-Normandie; 280choris  
Conductor: Michel Tabachnik and Dominique Debart