



ENCHANTED LABYRINTHS
a one-act opera in nine scenes

COMPOSER

AUGUSTA READ THOMAS

THOMAS PETER O'BRIEN

BEGETTER / LIBRETTIST

- The first opera based on James Joyce's crowning masterpiece, *Finnegans Wake* – a defining book of our time.
- ENCHANTED LABYRINTHS feeds off fragments published a decade before *Finnegans Wake* appeared in book form, all of which are in the public domain for all countries.
- The opera draws out and upon some of the 3,000 references to opera that Joyce fused into his flourishing texts.
- The substratum, the groundwork of the opera is the labyrinthine conversations that we have with ourselves, the enchanted stories that we tell ourselves.
- Two women and two men discuss the world: familial and operatic intrigue; cyclical and mutable nature and history; kaleidoscopic and linguistic radiance; amicable, sexualized banter; and rhythmic, ritualistic, and magical imaginings.
- Joyce said that his book “is the first look into the bowl of creation ... the reader participates in the birth or the end of the world when it happens. Everyone is anyone and every moment is any moment.”
- *Composer*: Augusta Read Thomas – University Professor of Composition, University of Chicago. She is championed and performed by Marin Alsop, Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Sir Andrew Davis, Lorin Maazel, Ken-David Masur, Oliver Knussen, Seiji Ozawa, and Esa-Pekka Salonen. Her first opera, *Ligeia*, was commissioned and premiered by Mstislav Rostropovich and won the Premio Internazionale Orpheus Award. 100+ recordings containing her music have been released. She has won multiple awards, prizes, and fellowships. Born in New York, she now lives in Chicago.
- *Begetter / Librettist*: Thomas Peter O'Brien – Independent writer and visual artist. He has written or edited 11 books and publishes widely on literature and art. His multi-year artwork LOTS OF FUN WITH FINNEGANS WAKE has been exhibited or published in Antwerp, Changzhou, Dublin, Hong Kong, Lagos, London, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia, Tbilisi, Toronto, and Tulsa. Born in New York, he now lives in Toronto.
- Complementing Joyce's love of language, the libretto integrates and invokes various languages.
- The opera celebrates various operas / composers: Bach, Bellini, Bizet, Catalani, Debussy, Donizetti, Dvořák, Fauré, Gay, Gluck, Handel, Ligeti, Meyerbeer, Mozart, Purcell, Puccini, Rossini, Saint-Saëns, Strauss, Verdi, Wagner ...
- Plurabelle Opera Inc. is a registered Canadian charity: 734003627RR0001. The first \$100,000 of support has been raised, tax receipted, and distributed, and donors are acknowledged and thanked in multiple ways.
- ENCHANTED LABYRINTHS was recorded (both audio and video) recently at The Logan Center in Chicago. Christopher L. Willis, our audio engineer, has won four Grammys for his classical music recordings.
- Approaches to commissioning opera companies is underway, including to Chicago Lyric Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Irish National Opera, Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi (Trieste), and the Canadian Opera Company.
- “Bliss out to Ms. Thomas's transfixing shimmer.” — *The New York Times*
- “Thomas, a prodigious talent, is the most accessible ambassador of the new modernism...” — *The New Yorker*
- “The breathtaking music of a thoughtful contemporary composer. Thomas's brainy brand of modernism reveals a lively, probing mind allied to a beating heart.” — *Gramophone Magazine*
- “Thomas' music ... fairly explodes with an extroverted boldness of utterance audiences ... It's music that doesn't sound like anybody else's — music that insists you pay attention.” — *Chicago Tribune*
- “Augusta Read Thomas's music mixes extraordinary clarity and elegance with a bold resonant vitality. Its inventiveness, its lyric turns seem almost magically sustained; and, unflinching, result in a beautiful immediacy.” — American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters
- “This virtuosic world of wonders you have created. Quite amazing, quite mind-boggling.” – Johannes Debus, Music Director, Canadian Opera Company, and guest conductor with The Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera, etc.
- “In an age of noise, her music offers something rare: clarity without simplicity, complexity without obscurity, and above all, a profound sense of purpose.” — *Echelon Magazine*
- Material available upon request: Bio Notes / Libretto / Draft Budget / Thematic Overview / Fundraising / Next Steps.
- In these tumultuous times, it is ever more important to keep music and art and culture and civilization ever more firmly in our attentions and our imaginations and our work and our deeds.