

Douglas J. Cuomo
Savage Winter

a music-theatre piece in one act
text (Eng) adapted by Douglas J. Cuomo from the
original poems by Wilhelm Müller

for tenor (amplified) and 3 on-stage musicians:
trumpet (amplified, with improvisatory sections), piano (keyboards),
electric guitar (with improvisatory sections), and electronics

Duration: ca. 75'

Developed by American Opera Projects

World Premiere: Pittsburgh Opera, February 17, 2018

DRAMA:

Darkness. Suddenly a pin-head spot on a face in agony.

The light widens to reveal an anonymous protagonist (they) crawling on hands and knees, holding a bottle of Jack Daniels. We see them in a cheap, run-down Motel room. Detritus everywhere. Pizza boxes, empty bottles and beer cans. Possibly some drug paraphernalia. Breaking Bad meets Samuel Beckett.

As they start to sing, we realize that this is someone at the end of their rope. Someone who must confront their demons and face up to everything they have done, and have lost, in life. Searching for forgiveness, enlightenment and atonement. Holed up in the middle of nowhere. They look out of the window. We see a desert landscape. They look out a second time. We see a snowy, wintry landscape. Although grounded in reality, we realize we are also in an existential space.

The seventy five minute performance is tonally like a solo operatic "Long Days Journey Into Night", "King Lear" or Beckett's "Not I." A person in the aftermath of lost love. A journey to a Dante-esque underworld. And possibly back, to redemption...

MUSIC:

21st century art-song, acid jazz, punk energy, raw and emotional. Often hard-edged, at times lyrical. A tour de force for the tenor. The trumpet is the second solo voice in the score, interacting dramatically and musically with the singer. A wide range of techniques and colors in the score — electronic grooves and ambiances, contemporary classical piano, death metal guitar, improvisation and instrumental effects.





DOUGLAS J. CUOMO:

Douglas J. Cuomo has composed music for concert and theatrical stages, dance, television, and film. His works include the opera *Doubt*, with libretto by John Patrick Shanley, Minnesota Opera; the chamber opera *Savage Winter*, Pittsburgh Opera, The American Opera Project and BAM Next Wave Festival; the opera/oratorio *Arjuna's Dilemma*, BAM Next Wave Festival; *Seven Limbs*, an evening length piece for Nels Cline and the Aizuri Quartet; *Black Diamond Express Train to Hell*, a double concerto for cello and sampler, American Composers Orchestra and The Orchestra of the Swan; *Objects In Mirror*, Orchestra of the Swan; *The Fate of His Ashes* for Seraphic Fire; *Only Breath* for Maya Beiser; and works for Chanticleer, Christine Brewer, The Young People's Chorus of NYC and others.

Work for television and film includes: themes for "Sex and The City," "NOW" with Bill Moyers and "Wide Angle," music for "Homicide: Life On The Street" and over twenty film scores. Upcoming premieres include *La Cita*, a song cycle for Isabel Leonard and The Romero Guitar Quartet; a concerto for the saxophonist Joe Lovano; and a new work with librettist John Patrick Shanley.

Douglas J Cuomo's music is published exclusively worldwide by Schott Music.

www.douglasjcuomo.com

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