JOSEF TAL

JOSEF

OPERA IN TWO ACTS (1993)

LIBRETTO: ISRAEL ELIRAZ

SCORE

VOLUME II

IMI 6970

COMMISSIONED BY THE NEW ISRAELI OPERA, TEL AVIV

הנמצאת퍅 האופרה הישראלית החורשת, תל אביב

ISRAEL MUSIC INSTITUTE יキャンペーン ישראלית
PRONUNCIATION KEY

A = as in Albinoni
AY = EI as in Lorelei
CH = as in China
E = as in Enesco
H = CH as in Bach
I = as in Ibert
K = as in King
KH = guttural K
S = as in Sibelius
SH = SCH as in Schubert
TZ = TS as in Tsar
U = OO as in Oodels
V = as in Vivaldi
Y = J as in Johann
Z = as in Zoo
VOLUME II

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ACT II

SCENE XV. LENA'S ROOM

(Lena, Josef)

(Stage is dark. From the darkness, in a distance, emerges as in a dream, a beautiful ship in all its colors with banners and lights. Slowly lights on Lena's room. On the floor are two packed suitcases and two handbags. It is a room from which someone is about to travel afar. Another open suitcase is on the bed, about to be packed. Lena, dressed but barefoot, puts last items into the open suitcase. She is continuously moving in a circle. Josef enters, breathing heavily.)
(Lena laughs. Josef does not join her laughter. Lena stops packing and looks at Josef who is looking at her.)

(Picc. Fl. I Fl. II Cl. in Eb Cl. I Cl. II Hn III Hn II Hn IV Lena Josef)

Ha-ha-ha-ha Ha-ha-ha-ha Ma yesh Ya-ki-

(He wants to hug her, she avoids him)
(Josef goes to the bar and fixes a drink.
Lena continues packing. He brings her the drink.)

(She drinks. Josef empties the glass in one gulp.)
(He puts his finger on her lips)

(Lena sits and stretches one foot out. He puts a shoe on it.)
(She drinks. Stretches out the other foot and he puts the other shoe on it.)
(Josef leans over to kiss her on her lips. She stops him and puts a finger on his lips.)
(He takes out a letter from his breast pocket)

Josef gives her the letter
(Lena touches his unshaved cheeks, kisses him lightly on the lips, gives him a parcel)
(Josef kisses the letter, they laugh. Their laughter stops abruptly. Lena looks at him most tenderly.)
(His laugh is strange) (Lights out. Darkness.)
SCENE XVI. BACKYARD and at the side KITCHEN

(Father, mother, doctor, officer, Frieda, Rubi,
two male nurses from the psychiatric hospital)

(Late night. Father, mother, doctor and officer sit and play cards at a small table in the backyard.
On the side, with little light, Rubi and Frieda sit at a table in the kitchen. Frieda cuts cloth and sews. Rubi reads the large account books of the shop.
Father, smoking a pipe, looks very weary. At one moment he cannot hold himself any longer and bursts into a deep sobbing which he is unable to stop.
The three look at him stunned. Doctor slaps father. Sobbing stops. Mother hugs him. Light increases on backyard.)
(He takes from his bag a straitjacket, spreads it in front of them on the table - it's a striped straitjacket. Mother snatches straitjacket. Father grabs mother and struggles with her. He hugs her for a moment.)
(Two male nurses now seen standing beyond the fence)
(Father gives mother the straitjacket tenderly. Mother holds straitjacket close to her heart.
The doctor signals the nurses to leave. Doctor tries to change the depressing mood.)
...
(Doctor pulls his hat firmly on his forehead. He strikes father's shoulder in a friendly manner and exits to the rear of the stage, where he will take his hat off.)
(mother hands him a handkerchief)

123

125

(father about to go out) (father exits)

(mother refuses)

D.B.

Vcl.

Officer

Vcl.

D.B.

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(Officer staggers and exits. On his way he picks up a piece of pie.
Lights off backyard.)

(silence)

127

B.Cl.
T.-Sax.
Bn I
Bn II

Mother

Father

(from outside)

i - ma - le at ba-`a?

Vel.
D.B.

129

(Mother doesn't move. Lights out. Darkness.)

B.Cl.
T.-Sax.
Bn I
Bn II

Mother

a - ni ba -`u

Vel.
D.B.
SCENE XVIa - RIOTS IN THE STREET
(orchestra)

Picc.

Cl. in Eb

Hn II

Hn IV

Tpt I

Tpt II

Tuba

Perc. I

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vel.

D.B.

spicc.

gloss.
(Lights on kitchen. Frieda continues to sew the cloth. Rubi looks at account books.)
a-ha kvar lo ma she-ha-
(Light decreases but is not entirely off during the next scene)
SCENE XVIII. ROOM and later KITCHEN

(Mother, Josef, Frieda, Rubi)

(Mother undresses Josef completely. She will dress him, slowly, putting on the striped straitjacket.)
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(A lengthy and loud telephone ring)

(Josef covers his ears with his hands)
(Ringing stops only now. Josef dressed in the striped straitjacket, kneels. Mother sings softly.)
(Lights off room and increase on kitchen.
Rubi continues looking at the account books with growing anger.)
E.H.

Tpt I

Tpt II

Tpt III

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV

Hp

Josef

E.H.

Timp.

Perc. IV

Hp

Josef

E.H.

Timp.

Perc. IV

Hp

Josef

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SCENE XIX. CLOSED ROOM

(Josef, choir, Frieda, doctor)

(Illusive light, nightmare. Rat-like figures (choir) run around. Josef staggers between them. He is feverish, in a trance.)
(They disappear. Weak light on the almost empty room. Table, chair, bed. Barred window.

Josef sits. Frieda beside him, wipes his sweaty face with a wet cloth.

Doctor enters, takes his pulse, checks his eyes, etc.)
(Doctor goes away from Josef, lights a cigarette, to Frieda)

.......

(squashes cigarette)
(Frieda continues to wipe his face)

Ob.

Cl. in E,.

S.-Sax.

Bn.

Hn I

Hn III

Perc. II

Perc. III

Frieda

et mol ba-hay-la shav ru et ha-lon ha-ra'su-vah shel he-hu-mut

Josef

a-hi ma-hi ha-akhs-bar ve-hu mit-ra-

Vcl.

et mol ba-hay-la shav ru et ha-lon ha-ra'su-vah shel he-hu-mut

 Josef

lu lo Ru-bi hum ha-yu ma-lim he-hu-mut ha-'esh

Vcl.

(fshouting)

lu mit-ra-be hu mit-ra-be

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(Frieda exits. Male nurses from the psychiatric hospital disappear. Light changes and Josef is in delirium. Choir returns.)
Bongos
preferable with hands
(\"\" and \"\" ad lib.)
(Iron door slams. Lights out. Darkness.)
SCENE XX. THE CLOSED ROOM

(Josef, mother, Frieda, male nurse from the psychiatric hospital, two assassins)

(Josef sits on a chair. Nurse concludes shaving his face and head. He empties half a pail of water over Josef, throws a towel at him and exits. Iron door slams. Josef dries himself slowly. From the outside, in the distance, we hear the song "Shh, now we want to look into the soul". Suddenly Josef imagines he hears someone in the room. A small child IS NOT in the room but Josef, simply, addresses him.)
(Josef twists the towel into a royal turban and fixes it on child’s head)
(The two assassins have already entered, one from the right the other from the left. They approach Josef. Lights dim. The two fold their arms around his head and break his neck. They seat Josef on the chair and exit. Iron door slams.

Lights on iron door, Frieda comes through it. She clad in black, wearing a black hat.)
SCENE XXI. CITY SQUARE

(Town people - choir, Josef, officer, doctor
and others)

...A loud gunshot is heard. More shots follow. Bright day light. A boy rushes into the square with a bunch of newspapers under his arm. Shouts: "Murder! The Archduke has been murdered!... Murder on the bridge... Murder... Murder... in Sarajevo..." From all sides of the stage citizens rush in and buy newspapers. They disappear on various levels of the stage, open the newspapers and read. Among them - the officer, doctor, Rubi and other characters we are familiar with. Father looks more derelict than ever. Choir voices are heard from various directions.)
(All singers running of the stage in all directions, screaming and yelling)
(Slowly the readers begin marching like soldiers, led by officer)
(The choir marching out stage)

Among the soldiers Rubi and Max are most noticeable. Slowly the soldier-choir exits. We hear the marching sounds from afar. (Meanwhile Josef enters, in an army uniform, with soldier's equipment, steel helmet, rifle etc. He joins the marching soldiers. We will hear the marching until the beginning of the scene XXII. Josef alone, marches towards the audience, begins smiling, then his face becomes spasmodic. As he marches scene XXII takes place.)
SCENE XXII. THE GATE

(Josef, gate keeper)
(Gate keeper with all his gear, not as he was in scene I, enters)

(Gate keeper)

(Bn I)

(Bn II)

(Perc. I)

(Perc. II)

(Perc. IV)

(Hp)

(Cel.)

(Josef)

(Vln I)

(Vln II)

(Vla)

(Vcl.

(D.B.)

Gate keeper

fa way

ve-ha-shu - mor

miz - da-
(Soldier shoulders his weapon and opens gate)
(Keeper exits as he pushes gate in front of him. Lights off)