

operamission

from the composer to the audience...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

The world première of the one-act opera *Margot Alone in the Light*, an adaptation of Ray Bradbury's short story 'All Summer in a Day' by composer Clint Borzoni and librettist Emily Conbere will take place at 8:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, April 2 and 3, 2010, at the Gershwin Hotel in New York.

'OPERA IN FLIGHT: new scenes & one-acts' is a co-presentation of **operamission** and **Neke Carson** at the **Gershwin Hotel**. The program will open with Edward Ficklin's one-act opera *Anniversary*, and will also feature a workshop performance of three scenes from *Paradises Lost*, an opera-in-progress by composer Stephen Andrew Taylor and librettist Marcia Johnson based on the science fiction novella from 2002 by Ursula K. Le Guin. The three dramas share a common theme of extraterrestrial travel. To connect the common thread between human reality on earth and the ambiguity of these extended worlds, clarinetist Cory Tiffin will perform Chicago composer George Flynn's 'Forms of Flight' for solo clarinet.

All composers and librettists will be in attendance for the performances to meet and discuss with the audience their respective creative processes.

Margot Alone in the Light was originally conceived during **Clint Borzoni** (pictured to the right) and Emily Conbere's participation as Resident Artists in **American Lyric Theater's** Composer Librettist Development Program. Further development in support of the completion of the opera was provided by **operamission**. Ray Bradbury's story is set in a classroom of schoolchildren on the planet Venus, where it rains constantly with the exception of one hour every seven years. None of the schoolchildren remember the sun, except for 'Margot,' who moved to Venus four years ago from Ohio. The role of 'Margot' will be portrayed by soprano Martha Guth and the role of 'Mrs. Clott,' the schoolteacher, will be sung by mezzo-soprano Alteouise de Vaughn. The opera is appropriate for audiences of all ages.



Paradises Lost is a co-commission of Tapestry New Opera Works in Toronto and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where **Stephen Andrew**

Taylor (pictured to the left) holds a position as Associate Professor. Ursula Le Guin tells the story of the starship Discovery: a 'generation ship' in the midst of a 200-year voyage of exploration and colonization to a planet known as New Earth, or Shindychew. 'Hsing' and 'Luis,' members of the fifth generation born during the voyage, expect to spend their entire lives in transit. But they must confront the followers of 'Bliss,' a new religion that has arisen *en route*. Bliss teaches that the voyagers' destiny is to travel in space - literally, in heaven - for eternity. Plots arise on both sides: those who want to land on the planet and those who want to travel through heaven forever, in Bliss, and conflict eventually overwhelms the ship. Mezzo-soprano Kimberly Sogioka and baritone Nathan Wentworth lead the cast in the roles of Hsing and Luis. Excerpts from an early version of *Paradises Lost* were first performed at the New York City Opera's festival 'VOX: Showcasing American Composers' in May of 2006.

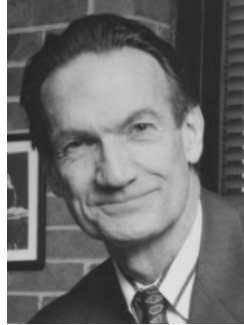




The single scene of **Edward Ficklin's** (pictured to the right) *Anniversary* begins in an urban reality, then dissipates into the surreal. 'Claire,' sung by soprano Elizabeth Brooks (left) upholds a vow to keep a date with 'Michael' (baritone Nathan Wentworth) while her imagination takes an unexpected and dark turn, exposing the passions of her inner world.



George Flynn (pictured below) created 'Forms of Flight' in 1991 for the former longtime Chicago Symphony Orchestral principal clarinetist Larry Combs on both natural forms as they



ascend and descend in flight. Mr. Flynn travels to New York from Chicago along with (pictured below right), as well as the concertmaster, violinist Aurélien Both are founding members of Chicago's critically-acclaimed new music ensemble **Anaphora**.

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Borzoni's *Margot Alone in the Light* will be staged by **Scott C. Emblar** (founding member and former producing director of **Vital Theatre Company**) and Ficklin's *Anniversary* will be interpreted by **Ensemble Youkali's** founding artist director and Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano **Emily Howard**, who will also sing the role of 'Aki' in *Paradises Lost*. The excerpts from *Paradises Lost* will be performed as a concert reading. **Jennifer Peterson**, founder and director of **operamission**, will conduct the operas.

Extensive biographies of composers and performers can be found at <http://operamission.org/performance/biographies>.

Newly-founded **operamission** has quickly established its artistic presence in the New York classical music scene by presenting opera both of today and of the past. Presentations to date have included two evenings in the ongoing series 'HANDEL at the Gershwin' featuring internationally-acclaimed operatic voices with original instruments in selections from George Frideric Handel's London operas, as well as special event 'Keith Jameson/Cabaret Songs' in January of 2010 with Metropolitan Opera tenor Keith Jameson and Jennifer Peterson at the piano. Ms. Peterson is active in both opera and early music and has appeared with over 50 opera companies in the U.S. and internationally, including New York City Opera, Opera Memphis, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The Gershwin Hotel is located at 7 East 27th Street in New York. General admission is \$20.

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