

# The DREAM HEALER

An opera in two acts

Based on the book *PILGRIM* by Timothy Findley

Music Lloyd Burritt  
Original Adaptation and Libretto Christopher Allan  
Revised Libretto and Additional Material Don Mowatt

**COMPOSED:** 2007  
**PREMIÈRE:** UBC Opera Ensemble  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, Canada  
March 2, 4, 6, and 8, 2008.

**DURATION:** 2 hours (2 acts)  
**CHORUS:** chorus of at least 32, preferably more  
**PRINCIPALS:** baritone, tenor, lyric soprano, mezzo soprano,  
**OTHER SOLOS:** coloratura soprano, 2 mezzo sopranos, contralto,  
2 tenors, 2 lyric baritones, 2 bass-baritones

**INSTRUMENTS:** 2 (pic) 2(ca) 2 2 /2 2 3 0/2 perc /str(min 10 8 6 4 2 )

**LANGUAGE:** English

**AVAILABILITY:** Orchestral Score and Parts, Piano-Vocal Score

**CONTACT:** Lloyd Burritt [lloyd@thedreamhealer.com](mailto:lloyd@thedreamhealer.com)  
**WEB:** [www.thedreamhealer.com](http://www.thedreamhealer.com)

## SYNOPSIS:

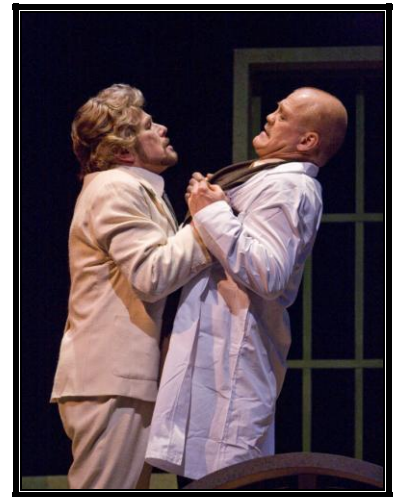
*The DREAM HEALER*, an opera in two acts, marks a further stage in the creative journey of composer Lloyd Burritt. The opera explores the lyricism of the voice on-stage and is coupled with intricate part-writing for a powerful chorus and orchestra

*The DREAM HEALER* is a story about disintegration of the psyche, a subject that preoccupied Dr. Carl Jung at the highly controversial Burghölzli Psychiatric Clinic, Zürich, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Strange and wonderful characters inhabit the Clinic. The world here is topsy-turvy.

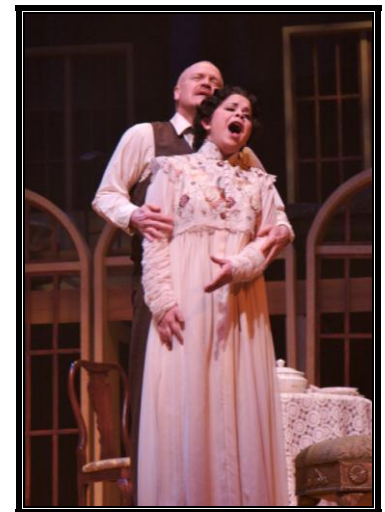
Jung dreams of a character, Pilgrim, who has lived many lives through the ages and wants to bring his existence to an end. This dream patient and his companion, Lady Sybil, override Jung's relationship with his wife and family, as well as with his patients and colleagues.

Asked whether recovery from schizophrenia is possible, Jung replies, "Sometimes we have to accept that things break into pieces." "And then ... ?" "And then" becomes a journey to integrate the real with the unreal, the supposed with the unimaginable, so that new understandings of the human condition are possible.

A fuller introduction and synopsis are in the Libretto and also available at [www.thedreamhealer.com](http://www.thedreamhealer.com)



Roelof Oostwoud as Pilgrim  
John Avey as Dr. Carl Jung



John Avey as Dr. Carl Jung  
Simone Osborne as Emma Jung

## CAST LIST:

|                    |                 |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>PRINCIPALS:</b> | Carl Jung       | Baritone           |
|                    | Pilgrim         | Tenor              |
|                    | Emma Jung       | Lyric Soprano      |
|                    | Lady Sybil      | Mezzo Soprano      |
| <b>SUPPORTING:</b> | Countess        | Coloratura Soprano |
|                    | Kessler         | Lyric Baritone     |
|                    | Dora            | Contralto          |
| <b>FROM THE</b>    | Dr. Furtwängler | Bass-Baritone      |
| <b>CHORUS:</b>     | Antonia Wolff   | Mezzo Soprano      |
|                    | Counting Man    | Tenor              |
|                    | Deaf Man        | Bass-Baritone      |
|                    | Childeating Man | Lyric Baritone     |
|                    | Old Woman       | Mezzo Soprano      |
|                    | Konstantine     | Tenor              |



Roelof Oostwoud as Pilgrim  
Judith Forst as Lady Sybil

Photo by Tim Matheson

## REVIEWS

The music has a delicate, impressionistic perfume to it – mysterious, with a hint of poison in the air ... and, emerging from the swirl like a shining dagger, an aria of spectacular beauty. ...does a wonderful job of capturing a subject dear to Timothy Findley's heart, the conflicted being.

**Max Wyman**, critic

The music and the libretto have an obvious visceral impact. The orchestration is brilliant and the solos enhance the dramatic effect. ...totally engrossing...

**Robert Sunter**, critic

Burritt's style is resolutely tonal and tuneful. ...the music speaks with its own eloquence....memorable for its vitality and scope...

**David Gordon Duke**, critic

I have been unable to be free of *The DREAM HEALER*; it has stayed with me...quite disturbingly at times. ...loved the horrible joy of it all on stage...moments of real terror...on the edge of my seat, time and again. The ending has haunted me; it is so powerful – musically and dramatically. What a lot to think about; the subject matter, the atmosphere, the strangeness and the beauty and the mystery and the terror....and oh! the music.

**Margaret Horsfield**, writer

...wonderful and essential fluidity...an engaging experience....a score that presented numerous challenges to every section.

**JH Stape**, critic

The score and libretto, in combination with the set and concept, makes for a gripping evening of opera. The story is completely absorbing.

**Bramwell Tovey**, conductor, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

The music is soulful...a wonderful job of composition.

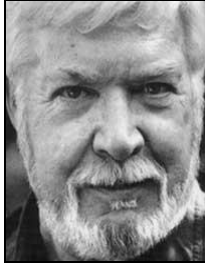
**Dr. Thomas B. Kirsch**, Jungian scholar, past president of the International Association for Analytical Psychology, San Francisco

# The DREAM HEALER

An opera in two acts

Based on the book *PILGRIM* by Timothy Findley

## CREATORS:



Timothy Findley  
Author

Timothy Findley is one of Canada's most compelling and best loved writers. He was a two-time winner of the Governor General's Award, recipient of many accolades for his fiction, non-fiction and drama, including the Chalmers Award and the Edgar Award. He was an Officer of the Order of Canada, and a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France. He died in France in 2002 at age 71.

*PILGRIM* was one of Findley's last acclaimed novels, a national best-seller and was short-listed for the Giller Prize. It is a fiercely original and powerful story. Published in 1999 originally in English, *PILGRIM* has been translated into French, German, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese and Bulgarian.



Lloyd Burritt  
Composer

Lloyd Burritt received his M.Mus from the University of British Columbia while studying with Jean Coulthard and Cortland Hultberg. On fellowship with the Royal College of Music (London) he studied with Gordon Jacob and Herbert Howells and at the Berkshire Music Center (Tanglewood, USA) with Leonard Bernstein and Eric Leinsdorf. Burritt has composed in a wide variety of styles on commission for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (*Assassinations, Fanfare, Electric Tongue*); the CBC Radio Orchestra (*Icon, Spectrum*); the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Ottawa (*Overdose*) and the Royal Canadian College of Organists (*Memo to RCCO*) among many others. In 1986 he was commissioned to write *Song for Marshall McLuhan* for the National Youth Choir and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra to open the Canada Pavilion at Expo 86. *The DREAM HEALER* is considered Burritt's masterwork.



Christopher Allan  
Librettist

Christopher Allan was born and educated in Vancouver. He worked in London's West End for 26 years, first as a singer/dancer then as a stage manager working with many eminent directors including Laurence Olivier, Trevor Nunn, Peter Hall, Noel Coward and Harold Prince. He returned to Vancouver in 1986, and has worked in stage management for all the city's major theatre companies including the Vancouver Opera. A member of British and Canadian Actors' Equity and the Songwriters Guild of Great Britain, Allan has written two musicals and is currently completing another play about a house, and its residents, over the entire 20th Century.



Don Mowatt  
Librettist

Don Mowatt was born in Montreal and is a graduate of both the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia. For thirty-four years Mowatt was a documentary, drama and music producer for CBC Radio, winning over fifteen international awards including two Peabody medals in New York. For nine years he was on the Faculty of Creative Writing and Theatre at the University of BC. He has also written plays and stage works for a number of professional companies and for the CBC and is currently co-artistic director of Western Gold Theatre, founded in 1994 by veteran actress Joy Coghill. *The DREAM HEALER* is his third opera libretto.





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2.



3.



4.



5.

1. Judith Forst as Lady Sybil. 2. Judith Forst as Pilgrim, Roelof Oostwoud as John Avey as Jung.  
3. As in #2 and members of the UBC Opera Ensemble. 4. Suzanne Rigden as the Countess.  
5. Simone Osborne as Emma Jung and members of the UBC Opera Ensemble. All photos by Tim Matheson.