

Help vault this premiere to the world stage

Join composer Lloyd Burritt and librettist Don Mowatt in the creation of an artistic endeavour that fuses music, medicine and the humanities: a project that demonstrates the role of music in society.

THE DREAM HEALER

An Opera in Two Acts

Music by Lloyd Burritt

Original Adaptation and Libretto

Christopher Allan

Revised Libretto and Additional Material

Don Mowatt

Based on the book *PILGRIM* by Timothy Findley

World Premiere March 2,4,6,8, 2008

presented by

UBC Opera Ensemble

UBC School of Music

Theatre UBC and

The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

on the occasion of the

University of British Columbia's Centenary

The support of The Friends of *The Dream Healer* underlies this engagement. They are the enthusiasts who recognize the importance of the arts and the long tradition of patrons supporting artistic endeavours. Their contributions will also ensure the possibility of going beyond the local stage to international audiences in years to come.

Please join The Friends of THE DREAM HEALER and make a contribution today

A story of depth and meaning

The opera is based on Timothy Findley's *PILGRIM*. Focused on Carl Jung at the Burghölzli Clinic in Zürich, it is a story about disintegration of the psyche. Early in the opera, Pilgrim's friend, Lady Sibyl, asks Jung about disintegration as a symptom of schizophrenia and whether reintegration of the fragments is possible. Replies Jung, "Sometimes we have to accept that things break into pieces." "And then...?" she asks. "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.

This is not just a work of biography, but also of social issues relating to total health – a concept that Jung so amazingly pioneered by broadening our understanding of healing to include not only science but also the humanities and the arts. This fundamental element is personified in this project by the unique contribution of medicine and music and the engagement of community organizations.

A production of breadth and imagination

Joining with the students of the UBC Opera Ensemble will be internationally known mezzo-soprano Judith Forst and baritone John Avey all under the baton of Maestro David Agler. Stage direction will be provided by Nancy Hermiston, Head of the UBC Voice and Opera Division.

The Department of Psychiatry and the UBC Institute of Mental Health will organize a three-part lecture series during the performance week. The first lecture will be given by Dr. Wulf Rössler the current director of the Burghölzli Clinic in Zürich. He will speak on the topic of suicide. Other leading clinician/scholars will give lectures related to depression/mania and the stigma of living with mental illness.

Bridging to the community are two important community-based organizations and service providers, the Mood Disorders Association of BC and the BC Schizophrenia Society. These two groups support THE DREAM HEALER as a means to increase public awareness of mental health issues and the services available to individuals suffering from mental illness.

Become a Friend of THE DREAM HEALER

The opera will stimulate discussions of psychiatry and mental health. The collaboration of unusual partners will promote a cross-fertilization of ideas, a deepening of understanding, and solidarity across diverse segments of society. The engagement of acclaimed professional artists will motivate the student performers to a higher standard of achievement. This is a new Canadian work addressing challenging and relevant issues.

Please act now

Contact Maryn Ellis at maryn.ellis@ubc.ca

www.thedreamhealer.com

All donations will be processed by the UBC Development Office. Charitable tax receipts will be issued. Friends of THE DREAM HEALER will be recognized in the program for the premiere performances.

V. Aberdeen Photo



Composer Lloyd Burritt is a graduate of UBC in music composition and a student of Jean Coulthard. He is an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre and has composed in a wide variety of musical idioms, producing electronic music and numerous choral works as well as major orchestral works. His works have been performed by eminent orchestras in North America and Europe and by major ensembles in Canada, the USA, Great Britain, and Sweden. Vancouver born, Burritt enjoyed a lengthy career teaching secondary-school music and theatre in North Vancouver where he became recognized for his ability to create artistic projects that engaged and created community.

V. Aberdeen Photo



Librettist Don Mowatt was born in Montreal and is a graduate of both the University of Victoria and UBC. For thirty four years Don 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.



Nancy Hermiston will direct the premiere. A Canadian-born lyric coloratura, in 1995 Nancy joined the UBC School of Music as Head of the Voice and Opera Divisions, where she established the UBC Opera Ensemble. Recent directing credits include *Die Zauberflöte* and *Manon* at UBC, Rossini's *La Cenerentola* for Opera Saskatchewan, Verdi's *La Traviata* and J. Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* for Vancouver Opera as well as *La Bohème* and *Così fan tutte* for Usti nad Labem in the Czech Republic.

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Mezzo-soprano Judith Forst, OC, has been engaged to perform the role of Lady Sybil. Vancouver-born and resident, she is a UBC graduate. Judith continues to appear in significant roles with opera companies in major North American and European cities (New York, Chicago, Prague and Milan) and to make recordings for the CBC label. She not only has brilliant technique, with a voice of wide range and gorgeous, even tone, but also a rare dramatic sense that makes her a commanding figure in opera.



Baritone John Avey will perform the role of Carl Jung. John has become known for his powerful rich baritone and his commanding presence on-stage. He debuted at The Met as Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and has sung roles for the New York City Opera, the Arizona Opera, and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. He has also sung with the Canadian Opera Company and most of Canada's opera companies including the Vancouver Opera.



Tenor Roelof Oostwoud will sing the role of Pilgrim. Roelof began his career with the Canadian Opera Company and followed it with engagements in San Francisco, Boston and at the Tanglewood Festival. He has appeared with Covent Garden, La Scala, and Deutsche Staatsoper and has sung under conductors Maazel, Bonyngé, Ashkenazy, Thielemann, Conlon, and Santi. Since 2003 Roelof has taught voice at the UBC School of Music, dividing his time between Vancouver and Europe.



Conductor David Agler is also a Vancouver resident with an international career. Currently Artistic Director of the Wexford Opera Festival in Ireland, David has previously served as Music Director of the Vancouver Opera, Principal Conductor of the Australian Opera, Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Opera, Principal Guest Conductor of the Oper der Stadt Köln, Conductor and Administrator of the Spoleto Festival, and Artistic Director of the Opera Festival of New Jersey.

