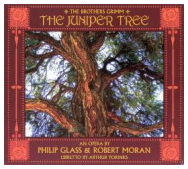
Philip Glass & Robert Moran - The Juniper Tree (2009)



1. Prologue (Glass) 17:02 2. Act One: Scene One (Moran) 12:39 3. Scene Two (Moran) 13:04 4. Scene Three (Glass) 3:34 5. Bird Song (Glass) 2:08 6. Epilogue (Moran) 3:18 7.Act Two: Scene One (Glass) 7:48 8. Interlude (Moran) 2:19 9. Scene Two (Moran) 7:13 10. Final Scene - Trio (Moran) 4:26 Janet Brown – Soprano Lynn Torgove – Soprano Jayne West - Soprano Valerie Walters - Mezzo-Soprano William Cotten - Tenor Thomas Derrah - Tenor David Stoneman - Baritone The Juniper Tree Opera Orchestra Richard Pittman - Conductor Arthur Yorinks Librettist Commissioned by the American Repertory Theater, Cambridge, MA.

This opera may be unique in that Glass and fellow composer Robert Moran collaborated in virtually equal degree on its composition. A glass scene is followed by a Moran scene, with transitions composed by each. The result is fascinating hybrid, each composer holding to his own identity while melding with the other.

SYNOPSIS

The famous Grimm fairy tale tells of a Wicked Stepmother who murders her stepson and serves him up in a stew to his unsuspecting father. The boy's sister buries her brother's bones under a Juniper Tree, and the child's spirit returns as a singing bird who wreaks vengeance on the evil Stepmother before being restored to life in the bosom of his family. Despite its somewhat savage themes (infanticide and cannibalism!), The Juniper Tree is a warm-hearted, if eerie work that leaves a distinctly poetic, happy impression. And it is one of the most tuneful operas in the Glass repertory. --- musicsalesclassical.com

THE JUNIPER TREE was given its world premiere (and 32 performances) via the American Repertory Theater, 1985-86; it has been performed by Houston Grand Opera, by the American Music Theater Festival in Philadelphia, by Minnesota Opera, and Tulsa Opera; a production in Germany had great public success. --- robertmorancomposer.com

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