RACHEL J. PETERS | Composer/Librettist
CURRICULUM VITAE

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OPERAS

COMPANIONSHIP (music/libretto; adapted from the short story by Arthur Phillips) Opera in nine scenes for seven principals, children's chorus, and chamber orchestra

- World Premiere Production with Orchestra, Virginia Arts Festival, Norfolk, VA 2020
- World Premiere Piano/Vocal Production, Fort Worth Opera, Fort Worth, TX, 2019
- Concert excerpts, Fort Worth Opera Frontiers Festival, Fort Worth, TX 2018
- Concert reading, John Duffy Composers Institute/Virginia Arts Festival Norfolk, VA 2015
- Concert excerpts with orchestra, John Duffy Composers Institute/Virginia Arts Norfolk, VA 2014
- Staged excerpts, Manhattan School of Music/American Opera Projects, New York, NY 2014

ROOTABAGA COUNTRY (music/libretto; adapted from the book *Rootabaga Stories* by Carl Sandburg) One-act opera for tenor, bass-baritone, children's ensemble, and chamber orchestra

- Production, Vivace Youth Chorus, San Jose, CA 2018
- World Premiere Production, Sarasota Opera, Sarasota, FL 2017

NO LADIES IN THE LADY'S BOOK (libretto with music by Lisa DeSpain) Short opera for four singers and chamber ensemble

- World Premiere Production, Utah Opera, various locations in Utah, 2019-20
- Additional productions at University of Alabama and Missouri State University, 2020
- Publication by E.C. Schirmer, 2020

THE WILD BEAST OF THE BUNGALOW (music with libretto by Royce Vavrek; Adapted from and further inspired by the short story *Mermaid in the Jar* by Sheila Heti) Operatic triptych for nine principals and chamber orchestra

- World Premiere Production, Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, OH 2020
- Semi-staged concert reading, Center for Contemporary Opera, New York, NY 2016
- Production (Part I only), Hartford Opera Theater, Hartford, CT 2013

STAGGERWING (libretto with music by Lisa DeSpain) Opera for five principals and jazz ensemble

- Upcoming: World Premiere Production, Opera Kansas, Wichita, KS 2021

EVERYTHING COMES TO A HEAD (music with libretto by Margi Preus and Jean Sramek) Short live action/animated video opera for four singers, piano, and violin

- World Premiere, Lyric Opera of the North/Decameron Opera Coalition 2020

STEVE (music/libretto; adapted from the play by Liz Bartucci) Short opera for soprano, tenor, and chamber ensemble

- Staged Production, New Opera West, Los Angeles, CA 2019
- Staged Performance, Fort Worth Opera Gala, Fort Worth, TX 2019
- World Premiere Production, Boston Opera Collaborative, Boston, MA 2018

MEN I'M NOT MARRIED TO (libretto with music by Lisa DeSpain; adapted from the story by Dorothy Parker) Short opera for three female singers and piano

- Upcoming: World Premiere Virtual Production, Cleveland Opera Theater/Baldwin Wallace Conservatory/On Site Opera, 2021

FRIDAY AFTER FRIDAY (libretto with music by Leanna Kirchoff) Opera for female singers and chamber ensemble

- Semi-staged Workshop, Bank Street Theatre, New York, NY 2019
- Concert excerpts, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, 2019

UNTITLED OPERA (libretto with music by Leanna Kirchoff) Opera for ten performers and chamber orchestra

- Upcoming: World Premiere Production, Opera Steamboat, Steamboat Springs, CO 2021

MOPERA (music with libretto by Danielle Durchslag) Micro-opera for a cappella mezzo-soprano

- Upcoming: World Premiere Production Postponed due to COVID-19

PIE, PITH, AND PALETTE (libretto with music by Marvin Carlton) Short opera for piano, baritone, tenor, and two female voices

- Winner, The Atlanta Opera 24-Hour Project, Atlanta, GA 2016

MONKEY DO (music/libretto) One-minute opera for piano, soprano, mezzo, and baritone

- Production, Rhymes With Opera, Brooklyn, NY and Baltimore, MD 2013

MUSICALS

OCTOPUS HEART (music/libretto) short musical for piano and eight singers

- Production, NYU Steinhardt School of Music 4@15, 2014

TOMATO RED (music/libretto) short musical for piano and eight singers

- Production, UC Irvine 4@15; New York, NY and Irvine, CA, 2013

WRITE LEFT (music with libretto by John Walch) short musical for piano and three singers

- Production, Playwrights Horizons Theatre School, 2012
- Staged Reading, New Georges Trunk Show, New York, NY, 2011
- Reading, New Dramatists, New York, NY 2010

ONLY CHILDREN (music with libretto by Michael R. Jackson) full-length musical for a large group of people and five instruments

- Production, Tisch School of the Arts Mainstage, New York, NY 2008
- Concert reading, Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood Summit, Boston, MA, 2008
- Semi-staged workshop, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, New York, NY 2007
- Reading, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY 2007
- Reading, Dixon Place's Warning: Not for Broadway! Festival, New York, NY 2005

TINY FEATS OF COWARDICE (music with libretto by Susan Bernfield) full-length musical for one woman and jazz trio

- Production, HERE Arts Center, New York, NY 2014
- Production, New York Fringe Festival, New York, NY 2008

APIS MELLIFERA (libretto with music by Doug Yetter) for three singers and piano

- Reading, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY 2003

F2M (music with libretto by Michelle Elliott) for three singers and piano

- Reading, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY 2004

PUBLIC DOMAIN (music/libretto)

- Staged reading, NOMTI Birth of a Musical Festival, Boston, MA, 2003

MUSIC FOR PLAYS

TANIA IN THE GETAWAY VAN by Susan Bernfield
- Production, Flea Theater, New York, NY 2017
- Reading, Female Protagonist series, New York, NY, 2016
- Staged reading, Huntington Theatre, Boston, MA, 2014

TRANSATLANTIC by John Walch
- Reading, Midtown Direct Rep, South Orange, NJ 2015
- Reading, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, 2015
- Readings, Arkansas New Play Festival, Little Rock and Fayetteville, AR, 2014 and 2017

STRETCH (a fantasia) by Susan Bernfield
- Production, The Living Theatre/New Georges, New York, NY 2008
- Published by Playscripts, Inc.

THE TALE OF THE GOOD WHISTLEBLOWER OF CHAILLOT'S CAUCASIAN MOTHER AND HER OTHER CHILDREN OF A LESSER MARRIAGE CHALK CIRCLE by Stan Richardson
- Production, Theatre Askew/The Brick Theater, Brooklyn, NY 2009

THE BACCHAE by Euripides
- Production, Asolo Repertory Theatre Conservatory, Sarasota, FL 2007
- Winner, Sarasota Curtain Call Award, 2007

UNREQUITED (Shakespeare scenes)
- Production, Public Theater Shakespeare Lab, New York, NY 2007

CONCERT MUSIC

IF YOU CAN PROVE THAT I SHOULD SET YOU FREE (mini-oratorio for soprano, mezzo-soprano, up to five narrators, and chamber orchestra; texts by Alice Duer Miller and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper)
- World Premiere: Albany Symphony's Dogs of Desire, Troy, NY 2019
- Selections performed at Mannes Sounds Festival, New York, NY 2020

ETHEL SMYTH PLAYS GOLF IN LIMBO (concert mini-monodrama for mezzo-soprano and piano)
- Semperoper Dresden, Dresden, Germany 2017
- World premiere, Albatross Duo, FETA Foundation Acoustica21 series, Miami, FL 2016, followed by many ongoing performances nationwide including Resonance Works Pittsburgh

FRONDS: THE WISDOM OF FANNY FERN (mini-song cycle for dramatic soprano, texts by Fanny Fern)
- Commissioned and premiered by The Walt Whitman Project, New York, NY 2013

AND THEN (SSA choral setting of Judy Chicago's "Merger Poem")
- Commissioned and premiered by BayPath College, Longmeadow, MA 2013

CANON I (dramatic cantata for soprano, piano, electric guitar, and photocopier)

- Blue Room Arts Collective, New York, NY 2011
- World Premiere: Two Sides Sounding, Tenri Cultural Institute, New York, NY, 2011

JACK'S VOCABULARY (song cycle, text by Jack Kelly)
- Make Music NY, Brooklyn, NY 2011
- World Premiere: SPASM, The Hartt School of Music, Hartford, CT 2011

I LIVE HERE (for eight singers and recorded interviews)
- World Premiere: Galapagos Art Space, Brooklyn, NY 2010

VARIOUS CABARET AND ART SONGS (music/lyrics)
- Concerts at Lincoln Center Performing Arts Library, Second Stage, 54 Below, National Opera Center, Ars Nova, Symphony Space, Sparks and Wiry Cries, and many others nationwide
- The AIDS Quilt Songbook@22, New York, NY, 2014 and 25th Anniversary Concert 2017
- Upcoming: *Pinocchio's Lament* for Zachary James's virtual album, released December 2020

MUSIC FOR DANCE

HOUR ASCENDING (choreography by Jeramy Zimmerman and Kaoru Ikeda)
- Production, NYU Tisch School of the Arts Graduate Dance Department, New York, NY 2004

DISCOGRAPHY

- Michael R. Jackson, *Good Clean Music/Dirty Laundry* (Music), 2018
- Shaina Taub, *What Otters Do* (Arrangements), Funky Butter Productions, 2011

EDUCATION AND HONORS

- M.F.A. in Musical Theatre Writing, New York University Tisch School of the Arts, 2005
- Double B.A. in Music and Theatre Arts, Brandeis University, summa cum laude, 1999
    - High Honors in Music, Highest Honors in Theatre Arts, Gertrude Carnovsky Arts Award
- Grants:
    - OPERA America Female Composers Discovery Grant to collaborator Leanna Kirchoff for *Friday After Friday*
    - OPERA America Female Composers Commissioning Grant to Opera Steamboat for 2022 opera in progress with composer Leanna Kirchoff
    - National Endowment of the Arts and OPERA America Female Composers Commissioning Grants to Sarasota Opera for *Rootabaga Country*
- Residencies:
    - Yaddo 2018
    - Brush Creek Arts 2018
    - Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts 2017
- Fellowships:
    - John Duffy Institute for New Opera Fellow, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2019
    - American Opera Projects Composers and the Voice Fellow, 2011-2012
    - New Dramatists Composer-Librettist Studio 2010
- Multiple ASCAPlus Awards; 2014 MAC John Wallowitch Award finalist; 2009 Anna Sosenko Assist Trust Award
- Speaker on panels at OPERA America Conference 2018 and Cleveland Opera Theater NOW Festival 2020; Instructor, "Words for Opera" Fort Worth Opera 2019 ; Panelist, 2020 FWO Frontiers
- Member of ASCAP and Dramatists Guild

- Top 25 Songs, Directory of Contemporary Musical Theatre 2012
- New Georges Affiliated Artist, 2008-Present