

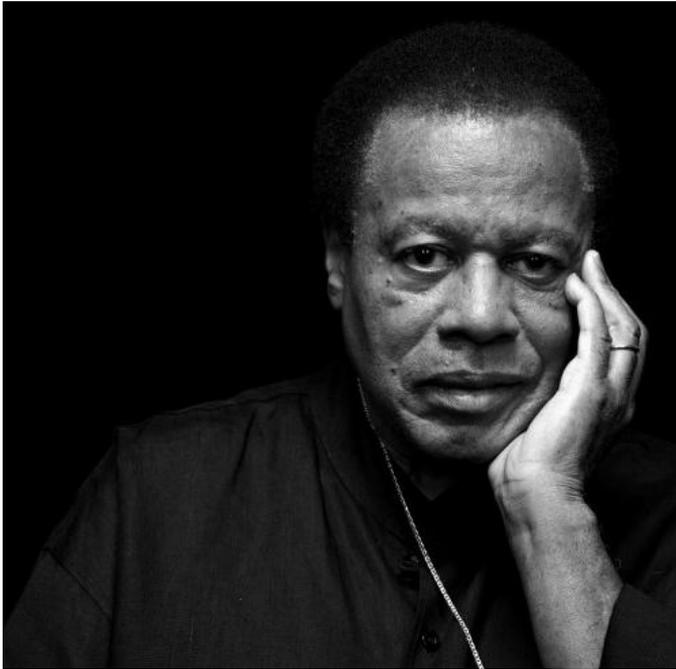


IPHIGENIA

A CONTEMPORARY OPERA

WAYNE SHORTER COMPOSER
ESPERANZA SPALDING LIBRETTO

WAYNE SHORTER



CONSIDERED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES AS

“GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE JAZZ’S GREATEST LIVING COMPOSER”, WAYNE SHORTER HAS LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSIC FOR THE LAST HALF-CENTURY. HE FIRST ROSE TO PROMINENCE IN THE LATE 1950’S AS THE PRIMARY COMPOSER FOR ART BLAKEY’S JAZZ MESSENGERS. HE NEXT JOINED THE MILES DAVIS QUINTET BECOMING WHAT THAT BANDLEADER REFERRED TO AS THE ENSEMBLE’S “INTELLECTUAL MUSICAL CATALYST” BEFORE CO-FOUNDING THE PIONEERING GROUP WEATHER REPORT. SINCE 2001, HE HAS LED HIS OWN HIGHLY ACCLAIMED QUARTET.

“MR. SHORTER’S MASTERY IS IN KNOCKING DOWN THE WALL BETWEEN JAZZ AND CLASSICAL.”

- NEW YORK TIMES

HIS WORKS HAVE BEEN PERFORMED BY THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY, DETROIT SYMPHONY, LYON SYMPHONY, NATIONAL POLISH RADIO SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA, ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, PRAGUE PHILHARMONIC AND ROYAL CONCERTGEBOUW ORCHESTRA. ACCLAIMED ARTISTS AND ENSEMBLES AS RENÉE FLEMING AND THE IMANI WINDS HAVE ALSO PERFORMED HIS WORKS. HE HAS RECEIVED COMMISSIONS FROM THE NATIONAL, ST. LOUIS, AND NASHVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS, THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC AND THE LA JOLLA MUSIC SOCIETY. IN ALL, MR. SHORTER HAS REALIZED OVER 200 COMPOSITIONS AND DOZENS OF THESE WORKS HAVE BECOME MODERN STANDARDS.



IPHIGENIA IS A MODERN STAGE ADAPTATION OF THE POWERFUL ANCIENT STORY BY EURIPIDES THAT COMBINES MUSIC, OPERATIC AND NON-OPERATIC SINGING, DANCE, AND VISUALS REINVENTED FOR A CONTEMPORARY IMPROVISATIONAL CONTEXT BY A COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN WIDELY REGARDED AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST IMPROVISER. THE EVENING LENGTH WORK IS BEING DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE AT UCLA. THE WORK IS PERFORMED BY THE WAYNE SHORTER QUARTET WITH A CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, DANCERS AND A VOCAL CAST INCLUDING THE LIBRETTIST, ESPERANZA SPALDING, IN A STAGING INFORMED BY CINEMATIC SOURCES AND IDEAS DIRECTED AND DESIGNED BY MICHAEL COUNTS.

THE SCORE IS STEEPED WITH MR. SHORTER'S EXPERIENCE OF CREATING IMPROVISATIONAL STRUCTURES WITH MULTIPLE ORCHESTRAS OVER THE PAST DECADE AND BEYOND. THE LIBRETTO WILL ALSO USE IMPROVISATORY TECHNIQUES, "PUNCTUATING" INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE IPHIGENIA'S CORE SENSE OF AUTONOMY AND ILLUSTRATE THE EXAMPLE OF TAKING A CREATIVE APPROACH TO LIFE BY USING THE POWER OF SPONTANEOUS ENGAGEMENT.



“IPHIGENIA WILL BE AN UNFOLDING OF THE ROLES OF WOMEN AND MEN THAT HAVE IMPACTED GREAT TRANSITIONAL LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS AND EVENTS IN HISTORY, YET HAVE BEEN PUT ON THE BACK SHELF OF THE HUMAN MIND. I WANTED TO GO WAY BACK, BEYOND JOAN OF ARC, MARIE CURIE, OR MARY MAGDALENE. EURIPIDES’ IPHIGENIA CAN BE A METAPHOR FOR WOMEN DOING THINGS THAT DO NOT CULMINATE IN TRAGEDY AND WE CAN PORTRAY THROUGH MUSIC AND MOVEMENT WHAT SUCH AN ELEVATED LIFE CONDITION CAN BE. THE ELEVATION OF IPHIGENIA’S LIFE CONDITION CAN MEET CHALLENGES BECAUSE SHE’S ORDINARY. THE ORDINARY PERSON CREATES A MYTH ABOUT WHAT THEY WISH A GOOD STORY TO BE AND IT’S A REFLECTION OF THEIR GREATER SELF. IPHIGENIA IS THE WOMAN WHO BROKE THROUGH LAYERS OF NON-FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOR TO REVEAL HER NOBLE MISSION OF DEFINING HUMAN DIGNITY.”

-WAYNE SHORTER



ESPERANZA SPALDING

BASSIST/COMPOSER/VOCALIST ESPERANZA SPALDING COMBINES INFLUENCES AND MOVES BETWEEN MUSICAL WORLDS, PERFORMING AND COLLABORATING WITH THE LIKES OF BRUNO MARS, MILTON NASCIMENTO, JACK DEJOHNETTE, GUINGA, GEORGE DUKE, JANELLE MONÁE, HERBIE HANCOCK, PRINCE, STEVIE WONDER, AND WAYNE SHORTER.

SPALDING COLLABORATED WITH GIL GOLDSTEIN FOR HER 2011 CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY, BREAKING MUSICAL LINES OF JAZZ IMPROVISATION TO CLASSICAL MUSIC. THIS GARNERED HER BEST NEW ARTIST AT THE 53RD GRAMMY AWARDS, AN UNPRECEDENTED ACHIEVEMENT BY A JAZZ MUSICIAN. THE SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED RADIO MUSIC SOCIETY BROUGHT POP MUSIC TOGETHER WITH A MOSAIC ARRAY OF JAZZ LEGENDS AND MUSICIANS. BOTH ALBUMS HAVE LED INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CHARTS AND GAINED MULTIPLE AWARDS AND GRAMMYS.

SPALDING CONTINUES TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF HER ARTISTRY. RECENT PROJECTS INCLUDE COMPOSING “WILD ROSE” FOR DIANNE REEVES’ ALBUM BEAUTIFUL LIFE AND ARRANGING “BOYS IN THE TREES” FOR CARLY SIMON’S UPCOMING ALBUM. SHE HAS TAUGHT AT BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND GIVEN NUMEROUS MASTER CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT NORTH AMERICA, MEXICO, AND EUROPE.

IN HER ONGOING COMMITMENT TO INNOVATE AND MAKE THE UNPRECEDENTED HER NORM, SPALDING BRINGS WITH HER AN EVER-EXPANDING COLLAGE OF ART AND MUSIC ALONG WITH DEVOTED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.



ESPERANZA SPALDING



“OUR IPHIGENIA HAS AT ITS CORE A SENSE OF AUTONOMY – IN THIS ADVENTURE OF LIFE, YOU HAVE FREEDOM OF CHOICE. ALL CARDS ARE ON THE TABLE AND IPHIGENIA GETS TO CHOOSE, FREE OF EVERYTHING. THROUGH HER EXAMPLE, WE CAN LEARN HOW TO TAKE A CREATIVE APPROACH TO EVERYTHING, USING THE POWER OF SPONTANEOUS ENGAGEMENT. THE OVERARCHING SENTIMENT IS ONE OF HUMANISTIC LOVE, OF WANTING TO RE-AWAKEN THE DREAMS OF YOUTH FREE OF THE PRESSURES OF ADULTHOOD.”

-ESPERANZA SPALDING

“ESPERANZA’S WRITING AND INNER EYE IS LIKE A LIGHTHOUSE THAT TAKES A BROAD SWEEP OVER OCEAN AND LAND.”

-WAYNE SHORTER

MICHAEL COUNTS

MICHAEL COUNTS IS A THEATRICAL DESIGNER AND STAGE DIRECTOR, VISUAL ARTIST, AND MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT ENTREPRENEUR WHO HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON CREATING LARGE-SCALE IMMERSIVE INSTALLATIONS, THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS AND INNOVATIVE MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCES, OFTEN IN UNCONVENTIONAL SPACES, FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS. HE HAS BEEN CALLED A “MAD GENIUS” BY THE NEW YORK TIMES AND “ONE OF THE MOST FERTILE IMAGINATIONS WORKING IN NEW YORK CITY, TODAY” BY TIME OUT NEW YORK MAGAZINE. TWO OF HIS RECENT PRODUCTIONS (MOSES IN EGYPT WITH NEW YORK CITY OPERA AND PHILHARMONIC 360 WITH THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC) WERE LISTED ON THE NEW YORK TIMES TOP 10 LISTS FOR 2011 AND 2013. IN 2011 MICHAEL DESIGNED AND DIRECTED THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION MONODRAMAS, WITH THE NEW YORK CITY OPERA, WHICH FEATURED WORKS BY JOHN ZORN, ARNOLD SCHOENBERG, AND MORTON FELDMAN. HIS VISUAL ARTWORK HAS BEEN FEATURED IN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS WITH RARE GALLERY, STEP ONE GALLERY, ART BASEL, THE HUNTERDON MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AND AT JOHN McWHINNIE AT GLENN HOROWITZ.



“MICHAEL’S KIND OF ALL-ENCOMPASSING VISION DISCOVERS WHAT IS THERE THAT AT FIRST SEEMS NOT BE THERE IN A STAGE SETTING. HIS WAY OF LOOKING AT PERFORMANCE HAS NO BEGINNING AND NO END, AND HIS THOUGHTS DO NOT HAVE A FRAME THAT KEEPS HIM FROM SEEING ANY LESS THAN HIS OTHER COLLABORATORS.”

-WAYNE SHORTER

CLARK RUNDSELL & THE WAYNE SHORTER QUARTET



CONDUCTOR CLARK RUNDSELL IS DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA'S AWARD WINNING NEW MUSIC GROUP, ENSEMBLE 10/10. UNDER RUNDSELL'S LEADERSHIP, ENSEMBLE 10/10 RECENTLY WON 2 RPS AWARDS FOR 'MOST OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE' AND 'MOST OUTSTANDING CONCERT SERIES'. IN ADDITION TO HIS FREQUENT APPEARANCES WITH THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, RUNDSELL GUEST CONDUCTS WIDELY, AND HAS APPEARED WITH MANY LEADING ORCHESTRAS INCLUDING THE BBC PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA, BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, BRITTEN SINFONIA AND THE ASKO SCHOENBERG ENSEMBLE. RECENT HIGHLIGHTS FOR RUNDSELL INCLUDE THE PREMIERE PERFORMANCES OF JAMES MACMILLAN'S OPERA *CLEMENCY* AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN; AND PERFORMANCES AT MUZIEKGEBOUW, AMSTERDAM, THE BARBICAN CENTRE, THE BBC PROMS, AND THE LUXEMBOURG PHILHARMONIC.



"A BAND OF SPELLBINDING INTUITION, WITH AN ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT TO THE SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY, IT HAS HAD AN INCALCULABLE INFLUENCE ON THE PRACTICE OF JAZZ IN THE 21ST CENTURY."

- THE NEW YORK TIMES

"THE MOST SKILLFUL, MUTUALLY ATTUNED AND FEARLESSLY ADVENTUROUS JAZZ GROUP ON THE PLANET."

- THE GUARDIAN

"IF SOME JAZZ BANDS FEEL LIKE ASSEMBLY LINES — THE SUM OF RIDE CYMBAL + WALKING BASS + POLITE PIANO CLICHÉS — THIS ONE IS A DIS-ASSEMBLY UN-SYSTEM, APPROACHING SHORTER'S EXTENSIVE REPERTOIRE AS BLUEPRINTS TO SPONTANEOUSLY REMODEL. IT'S WRECKING BALL AND BRICKLAYER ALIKE."

- NPR Music



“THE KIND OF COLLABORATION WE
HAVE IS DEVOID OF RESTRICTIVE LIMITS.

IT'S BASED ON THE WILLINGNESS TO WORK
TOGETHER AND LISTEN AND TRY NEW
THINGS FREE OF ARROGANCE. THE DOOR TO
A COLLABORATIVE PROCESS HAS BEEN
SWUNG OPEN. THE SPIRIT OF THE
ASTRONAUT IS PART OF US ALL.”

-WAYNE SHORTER

DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CENTER FOR THE ART OF PERFORMANCE AT UCLA (CAP UCLA)

DESIGN BY THERESA@THERESAPEREZ.COM