



THE WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL PRESENTS

ERODE THE GREATER

A Pageant Opera Opus 40, by John La Montaine

In the Washington Cathedral, Mount Saint Alban

December 31, 1969, January 1, 2, 3, 1970

ERODE THE GREATE

A Pageant Opera Opus 40, by John La Montaine

Musical Direction Paul Callaway

Stage Direction James D. Waring

Costumes Constance Mellen

Commissioned under the Advance Program, Richard Dirksen, Director

CAST

Narrator Ted Walch
Lightfoot, Messenger to Herod Frank Porretta
Herod the Great Sean Barker
Melchior, King of Araby Robert Trehy
Jaspar, King of Tarsus David Lloyd
Balthazar, King of Saba McHenry Boatwright
Mary Suzanne Meintzer Brock
A Young Angel Frank Porretta
Counsellors to Herod Marvin Finnley, Howard Hensel
Gabriel David Lloyd
Demon from Hell's Mouth Frank Porretta
Knights Dan Jaszi, David Parker,
Thomas Parker, Alan McDaniel
Courtiers and Shepherds Geoffrey Dirksen, Rick Hynson,
Kim Narcisso, Thomas Pratt,
John Wrigley
Attendants to Melchior Mark Dirksen, Charles Salmon
Attendants to Jaspar Brian Gore, Andrew May
Attendants to Balthazar Rodney English, Eric Grant
Joseph Richard Hynson
Jesus, as a young boy Nicholas Peake
A Child Angel Katherine Hynson
Piper Gregory O'Brien
Piccolo in Procession Carl Tucker
Dancers from the Washington School of the Ballet

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production and Management Thomas Morrison
Stage Managers Mary E. Holden, Barbara Thorpe
Associate Costume Designer Wren Cooper
Wardrobe Supervisor Louise Allen
Costume Assistants Joseph Bella, Ann Marimow,
Alberta Wheeler
Head Dresses, Make-up and Jewels Jane Stanhope, Tim Evans, Diane Stokes
Properties Virginia Magee
Lighting Technician Ted Parker
Set Construction Robert Stabler, Robert Quesenberry,
Chief of Ushers Bruce Bryan
Assistant Musical Director John Fenstermaker

ERODE THE GREATE

ACT I

Scene I: The Palace of Herod the Great

Scene II: The Countryside near Jerusalem

Scene III: The Palace of Herod the Great

ACT II

Scene I: The Countryside near Bethlehem, and the manger

Scene II: Night. Herod's Private Chambers

Scene III:

seen simultaneously

Herod's private chambers

The Manger and Surrounding Countryside

Hell's Mouth

NOTES

In 1961 on Christmas Eve, *Novellis, Novellis*, the first opera of a proposed trilogy on the Christmas theme, was presented in the Cathedral. With the establishment of the Advance Program in 1964, it became possible for the Cathedral to commission Mr. La Montaine to complete the two remaining works. *The Sheparden Playe* made its appearance in 1967 following a preview on nationwide television.

The cycle is now complete, crowned by *Erode the Greate*. As with the previous operas, the libretto was adapted by the composer from four medieval Corpus Christi plays: those from the towns of Coventry (text of Robert Croo, 1534), Chester (texts of George Bellin, 1592 and 1600, and Jas. Miller, 1607), Wakefield (edition of George England, 1836), and York (edition of Lucy Toulmin Smith, 1885). The words spoken by the narrator are from the King James Bible. At key moments, the chorus comments upon the universal significance of the action, using words from the Latin liturgy. The music played by the piper in Act I is a version of the ancient tune "The Piper o'Drummond" which may have been known in the north of England in the Middle Ages.

CHORUS

Lynne Anders	Howard Hensel
Robert Baker	Kaia Juusela
Judy Benson	Neil Langley
John Cochran	Robert Long
Philip Copenhaver	Jon McVity
Richard Cortright	Drew Minter
Myron Dutterer	Larry Rogers
Marvin Finnley	Alex Stuart
Ramona Forbes	David Towns
Kay Granger	John Uhrig
Jean Halladay	Robert Williamson
Randol Harriman	

ORCHESTRA

<i>Violin I</i>	<i>Oboe</i>
Concertmaster Miran Kojian	Donald Hefner
Irving Ginberg	John Marvin,
Eugene Dreyer	also English Horn
Cynthia Marlowe	<i>Clarinet</i>
<i>Violin II</i>	William Huntington
Maurice Myers	Robert Genovese,
Albert Pargament	also E flat Clarinet
Patricia Cochran	<i>Bassoon</i>
Jane Flowers	Donald Charnock
<i>Viola</i>	William Allgood,
Leon Feldman	also Contrabassoon
Donna Feldman	<i>Horn</i>
Margaret Motter	Orrin Olson
<i>Cello</i>	<i>Trumpets</i>
Robert Newkirk	Richard Smith
Irvin Klinkon	Robert Brimmer
<i>Bass</i>	Jack Johnson
John Ricketts	<i>Trombone</i>
<i>Harp</i>	John Marcellus
Sylvia Meyer	Orville Bremer
<i>Flute</i>	Merrill Earler
William Montgomery	<i>Percussion</i>
Carl Tucker,	Frank Toperzer
also Piccolo	Tommy Wardlow

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special "angels" for costumes beyond the budget—

Mr. and Mrs. James Douglas
Mrs. Constance Mellen
Mr. and Mrs. Burke Wilkinson

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