

Lee Hoiby was born in Wisconsin in 1926. He studied piano with Gunnar Johansen and Egon Petri but gave up his intentions to be a concert pianist when he received an invitation to study composition with Gian Carlo Menotti at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. Menotti led Hoiby to opera, presenting Hoiby's one-act *The Scarf* at the first Spoleto (Italy) Festival in 1957. The New York City Opera presented Hoiby's *A Month in the Country* in 1964, and his *Summer and Smoke* (based on the Tennessee Williams play) in 1972. Hoiby's songs, many set to distinguished texts by Emily Dickinson, Wallace Stevens, Elizabeth Bishop, and James Merrill, are widely performed, notably by soprano Leontyne Price. Mr. Hoiby has been a recipient of Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships, and the National Institute of Arts and Letters Award.



Photo by Marylene Mey

Learn more about *The Tempest* at www.musicsalesclassical.com.
Photos from the opera courtesy of SUNY Purchase.

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Lee Hoiby

The Tempest

A new opera in three acts (1985)



"A REAL OPERA,
MELODIOUS and
SENSITIVELY ORCHESTRATED."

- Opera News

The Tempest

An opera in three acts (2017)



Score by Lee Hoiby

Duration: 2 hours 10 minutes

Libretto by Mark Shulgasser

Premiere: June 1986, Des Moines Metro Opera

After the play by W. Shakespeare

Orchestra: 2222/4221/timp.perc/hp.pf/str

Revised Version Premiere: April 2008, Purchase Opera. Hugh Murphy, conductor

cast list

PROSPERO, rightful Duke of Milan
Bass Baritone

MIRANDA, his daughter
Soprano

ARIEL, an airy spirit of the island
Coloratura Soprano

FERDINAND, son to Alonso
Bass-baritone

CALIBAN, savage native & Prospero's slave
Tenor

TRINCULO, a jester
Dramatic Soprano

STEPHANO, a drunken butler
Bass

COURTIERS:

ALONSO, King of Naples
Bass-baritone

GONZALO, his honest old counselor
Bass-baritone

SEBASTIAN, his brother
Baritone

ANTONIO, the usurping Duke of Milan
and Prospero's brother
Baritone

WOMEN'S CHORUS

synopsis

Twelve years ago, Prospero, the Duke of Milan, and also a great magician, was exiled with his infant daughter Miranda to a deserted island by his treacherous brother, allied with the King of Naples. Now his enemies' ships have strayed near his shore, and with the aid of Ariel, the airy spirit who serves him, Prospero has the opportunity to revenge himself. But he finally chooses forgiveness, consecrated in the wedding of Miranda and Ferdinand, son of the King of Naples.

composer revision notes

Substantial revisions of *The Tempest* took place after the premiere in Des Moines in 1986 and the second production in Kansas City the following year. The published vocal score incorporating these changes was first produced in Dallas in 1996. For the Purchase production, Ariel's harpy aria, "You three men of sin," has been trimmed considerably. In both the post-premiere changes and the new Purchase revision, the second act, dominated by the minor characters, couriers and comics, is altered the most. The curtain is made less emphatic, and now the second intermission may be replaced by a pause. The villains who play a role in act two are reduced to a few good sulfurous whiffs, rather than grumbling all over the scene, and genial Gonzalo's garulousness has been abridged. In whole, the playing time has been reduced by about 15 percent.

PRAISE FOR HOIBY'S *THE TEMPEST*

"Granted, Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is already perfect without music... [But] the real star of the show is Hoiby's music, always beautifully and colorfully orchestrated around a constant flow of melody... with a fluid lyricism pulling into some magnificent sweeping set numbers. Hoiby is clearly hypnotized by the spell of Shakespeare's words [as] the opera builds to a chilling ceremonial grandeur in the final apotheosis."

- Wayne Lee Gay, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*