

Composer, conductor, and pianist André Previn left his native Germany in 1938 to live in Paris and to subsequently settle in Los Angeles in 1940. His early career of orchestrating film scores at MGM led quickly to conducting engagements of symphonic repertoire and on to an international career as Music Director of such orchestras as London, Los Angeles, Oslo and Pittsburgh. In the 1980s, he concentrated increasingly on compositions for the concert hall and opera. His own richly lyrical style underscores his love of the late Romantic and early 20th-century masterpieces of which his interpretations as conductor are internationally renowned.



Learn more about *Brief Encounter* at www.musicsalesclassical.com.
Photos from *Brief Encounter* courtesy of Houston Grand Opera.

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André Previn

Brief Encounter

(2007)



"MASTERFUL STROKES OF LUSH,
OLD-FASHIONED MOVIE MUSIC."

- Houston Press

Brief Encounter

An opera commissioned by the Houston Grand Opera (2007)



Music by André Previn

Libretto by John Caird

Based on play by Noël Coward

Premiere: May 1, 2009. Houston Grand Opera.

Orchestra: 3(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.2/4331/

timp.2perc/cel.hp/str; onstage piano trio (vn, vc, pf) in Act I, Scene 6

cast list

LAURA JESSON: *Mezzo-soprano*

ALEC HARVEY: *Baritone*

FRED JESSON: *Baritone*

MYRTLE BAGOT: *Contralto*

ALBERT GODBY: *Bass*

DOLLY MESSITER: *Soprano*

STANLEY: *Baritone*

BERYL: *Soprano*

DOCTOR GRAVES: *Baritone*

MARY NORTON: *Soprano*

Mrs. ROLANDSON: *Soprano*

Non-Singing Roles:

MAITRE D'HOTEL

WAITER at the ROYAL HOTEL

WAITER in the KARDOMAH CAFÉ

PORTERS at the STATION

synopsis

During the early years of World War II in England, Laura Jesson takes the train to a nearby town once a week for shopping and a movie. A chance encounter with Alec Harvey — who, like Laura, is married with two children — leads quickly to passion. They continue to meet surreptitiously until they must finally decide between love and honor. Based upon the play *Still Life* and the screenplay to the 1945 film *Brief Encounter*, both by Noël Coward.



"[A] faithful adaptation... with masterful strokes of lush, old-fashioned movie music."

- D. L. Groover, *Houston Press*

"Feel free to fall madly in love with Brief Encounter — but be prepared to shed some wistful tears in the process."

- Everett Evans, *Houston Chronicle*

"[Previn's] great talent as a composer is to catch your unawares... The opera will last."

- Mard Swed, *Los Angeles Times*