

HEMINGWAY
Chamber opera

Librettist: Maritza Núñez

Composer: Timo-Juhani Kyllönen

Duration: approx. 1'30''

This chamber opera for six singers covers Hemingway's persona as an author in the last moments of his life. Hemingway was allegedly the "masculine archetype" whose character was largely defined by chauvinism and a certain harshness, among other things. The complicated relationship he had with both his mother and his father, who later committed suicide, negatively affected his personal family dynamics. His son Gregory (Gigi) was a homosexual and sometimes liked to dress in women's clothing, which bothered Hemingway and thus made their father-son relationship especially strained.

The convoluted relations Hemingway had weren't constrained to his family though, as he had trouble getting along with his author colleagues and also had a very negative view on different institutions. This stance made Hemingway rebel against said institutions that had him go through cruel psychiatric electroshock treatments, which he firmly contested.

In the end, suicide seemed to be an inevitable deed for Hemingway, even though he had judged his father for the very same decision. The intricate relations and situations described above are some of the aspects on which the opera will build upon.

Hemingway takes a trip within himself in a dreamlike state, in which reality gets distorted and his true self becomes exposed as an author and human being. Consequently, the main themes of the opera are the conflict between life and death, power, war, sexuality and the ever deepening of the creative and self destructive identity. Tragedy, grotesqueness, poetry and humor construct a multilayered world.

CHARACTERS

HEMINGWAY, baritone

NURSE, tenor

MARLENE Dietrich, mezzo-soprano

GIGI, Gregory, Hemingway's son, bass

MOTHER of Ernest, soprano

FATHER of Ernest, tenor

ENSEMBLE:

Flute, Clarinet in A, Bassoon, 2 percussion (among others: timpani, marimba and other percussion instruments) piano, 2 Violins, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. If the orchestra wishes, they can add more strings.