

DARKLING

A Chamber Opera in One Act

DARKLING is an experiential multimedia opera that reinvents the traditional operatic form. Its premiere production interwove spoken word, song, original music, cutting edge technology, and projected films and images. As an indie work, however, it lends itself to a broad variety of approaches, from minimal to maximal, from concert to fully-staged presentation.

Part memoir, part oral history, part meditation and part travelogue through the psyche, **DARKLING** has mesmerized and profoundly moved audiences in the U.S. and abroad.

Spanning the decades from the 1930's to the post-World War period, **DARKLING** gives voice to those who failed to survive—lovers separated by sudden catastrophe, the displaced seeking refuge, disembodied human voices responding to the terrors of disjunction and imminent death. It is a riveting theater experience that focuses on the emotional components of cataclysm, devastation and survival.

DARKLING speaks for those who did not survive. The narrative resists conventional linearity, consisting of fractured memories, anecdotes, and bits of memorabilia—faded photographs and yellowed letters found by the poet in a shoebox in her deceased father's closet. Faceless, and mainly nameless, the disembodied voices of **DARKLING** emerge, emblems of the Polish-Jewish world obliterated by the Holocaust.

This history is not viewed from a grand geo-political perspective but from the insightful, intimate outlook of a narrator whose family is overcome by extraordinary events. Resisting typical dramatic conventions, **DARKLING** immerses the audience in the driving interior forces of the mind. Audience, performers, and spoken voices occupy a common landscape, a community grappling with traumatic events and sudden dislocations.

DARKLING brings to the stage award-winning New York poet **Anna Rabinowitz's** nationally acclaimed book of the same name (now available in a German translation by Luxbooks) and features music by rising talent Stefan Weisman. It was commissioned and developed by American Opera Projects.