



*Six Autumns
on the Hudson*
a chamber opera in one act

World Premiere
9/29/23 - 10/1/23
904 S 9th St, Philadelphia

music by Steven Crino
libretto by Laurel Andersen

About the Opera

Susie M. Barstow and Edith Wilkinson Cook, two very different painters of the Hudson school – and fast friends – take a canoe trip to Pollopel (soon to be Bannerman) Island every Autumn from 1858 to 1902. What will they discover about themselves – and about each other – over long years for friendship, art, and paddling through rough water towards the reward of the elusive island?

Composer - Steven Crino

Librettist - Laurel Andersen

Edith Wilkinson Cook - Soprano

Susie M. Barstow - Soprano

Instrumentation - Violin, Cello and Piano

Language - English

Duration - 1 hour 15 minutes

World Premiere Performances:

Friday, September 29th, 2023 at 8:00pm

Saturday, September 30th, 2023 at 8:00pm

Sunday, October 1st, 2023 at 3:00pm

904 S 9th Street Philadelphia, PA (Mister John's Music)

Cast & Crew

Susie M. Barstow.....Elizabeth Gorrie, soprano
Edith Wilkinson Cook.....Casie Girvin, soprano
Piano.....Abigail LaVecchia
Violin.....Margaret Dziekonski
Cello.....Ajibola Rivers
Composer/Conductor.....Steven Crino
Librettist.....Laurel Andersen
Tech.....John Fransisco

Special Thanks

John Fransisco & Mister John's Music
Peabody Institute Career Development Grant

Who's Who



ELIZABETH GORRIE
"Susie M. Barstow"

ELIZABETH GORRIE (she/they) is a queer soprano hailing from Andover, MA. Elizabeth received a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) at University of Cincinnati under the tutelage of Amy Johnson. There, she played roles including Queen Elizabeth I in Donizetti's Maria Stuarda and La Chauve Souris in L'enfant et les sortilèges (Ravel). Elizabeth met and befriended Casie ("Edith") while studying at the Accademia Vocale Lorenzo Malfatti in 2015. In 2018, Elizabeth began studying with Lorraine Nubar at the Académie Internationale d'Été de Nice and later in NYC. That year, Elizabeth also participated in the Dramatic Voice Symposium. Most recently, Elizabeth has enjoyed immersing herself into the local Philadelphia community as a teaching artist at Mister John's Music. Elizabeth is thrilled to be playing the role of Susie alongside Casie in the premiere of Crino's new opera—her first opportunity to portray a queer character in her opera career thus far.



CASIE GIRVIN
"Edith Wilkinson Cook"

CASIE GIRVIN is a Philly-based singer, actor, acrobat, and deviser. Casie received her BM in Classical Vocal Performance from Temple University's Boyer College of Music, and trained in opera and Italian language at Istituto Boccherini in Lucca, Italy. Casie has also trained and workshopped at The Actors Gymnasium and Pig Iron School. She has sung with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Albany Symphony, and Albany Pro Musica. Casie loves bringing new work to life, and thrives on combining all of her passions together through performance, often resulting in singing upside down. Most recently, Casie performed with The Arden Theatre Co., Meg Saligman in association with Rough and Tumble Productions, and Watermelon Bathtub. Casie read the (then play) *SIX AUTUMNS ON THE HUDSON* in a zoom play reading at the height of the pandemic, called Steve and said "this play is screaming that it wants to be turned into an opera." Casie is thrilled to premiere the music this weekend, with long-time friend Elizabeth Gorrie, who she met years ago singing in Italy. This event feels very full-circle, and she can't wait to share it with you. @casiegirvin www.casiegirvin.com

Who's Who



ABIGAIL LaVECCHIA
Piano

ABIGAIL LaVECCHIA is a pianist based in Philadelphia. She is on the faculty of the classical voice and choir departments at the Boyer College of Music at Temple University. Abigail is music director at Morrisville, United Methodist Church, where she is organist and director of the chancel and bell choirs. She is a piano teacher at Friends Select School. Abigail holds a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Temple University where she was a student of Charles Abramovic and Lambert Orkis. She lives in South Philadelphia with her husband Patrick, daughter Socorro, and dog Wolfgang.



MARGARET DZIEKONSKI
Violin

Violinist MARGARET DZIEKONSKI has performed across Europe, the United States and Australia as both soloist and chamber musician. She has given concerti with American and British orchestras, and performed at London's Wigmore Hall, King's Place, St Martin in the Fields, St James' Piccadilly and St Peter's Eaton Square. An avid chamber musician, Dziekonski has given concerts alongside great international artists, including Valentin Erben, Hartmut Rohde and Gwyneth Wentink. Chamber music festivals include The Cully Classique Festival VIS-À-VIS (Switzerland), The Camilleri Festival (Malta) and The Crossroads Festival/Tour (Australia). Dziekonski completed her master's studies at the Royal Academy of Music, London, under Tomotada Soh, graduating with distinction. She also holds an undergraduate degree with honors from the same institution. Dziekonski's early formative studies were with Lee Snyder of the Settlement Music School, Philadelphia. Dziekonski plays a 2018 Christopher Germain violin, made possible through the generosity of The Maestro Foundation.

Who's Who



AJIBOLA RIVERS
Cello

AJIBOLA RIVERS is a Nigerian-Cherokee performing artist currently residing in Norristown, PA. He received his cello performance degree from the Boyer College of Music and Dance in 2016. Ajibola is also a self-taught composer and arranger. He began informally composing during his junior year of high school. He has a unique passion for teaching, viewing it as the final evolution of performing art, and he heavily incorporates learning into both performing and composition. He wishes to revive several “unfinished conversations” in classical music, including Leonard Bernstein’s Young People’s Concerts, and to facilitate a healthy dialogue between classical music and other genres. He is developing a teaching, writing, and playing philosophy that seeks to improve the relationships between classical music and the communities it serves.



STEVEN CRINO
Composer/Conductor

STEVEN CRINO is a composer that seeks to tell relevant stories through emotionally rich and intimate music. His music has been performed by ensembles and soloists, such as Peter Sheppard Skaerved, The Podcast Opera Company, The Silk Ruby Trio, The Boston New Music Initiative, and The Temple University Singers. Among other awards, Steven’s first opera, Tomb of Beauty, was awarded 3rd place in the 2020 American Prize (student category), and his second opera, Friends House, was awarded the Aural Compass Projects’ Emerging Composers Award. Steven received his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the Peabody Conservatory, where he also completed degrees in Composition (M.M.) and Theory Pedagogy (M.M.), studying with Michael Hersch, and Kevin Puts. He was a Graduate Assistant, and Graduate Teaching Fellow of Music Theory at Peabody, working under the tutelage of Omar Thomas, and Kip Wile. He is currently adjunct faculty at Temple University.

Who's Who



LAUREL ANDERSEN
Librettist

LAUREL ANDERSEN (they/them) is an NYC-based queer playwright and theatre artist who works frequently with heightened text and music. Laurel's work with young NYC theatre companies (including Poetic Theatre Productions; Team Theatre; Turn to Flesh Productions; Isle of Shoals; Match: Lit; Barefoot Shakespeare; Company of Fools; Infinite Variety Productions; the Tank; Everyday Inferno Theatre Company; Occupy Verona, etc) encompasses both reimaginings/repurposings of classical stories (often to center women and queer people), & the development of new work. In SIX AUTUMNS ON THE HUDSON's previous incarnation as a straight play, it was a Finalist for Hudson Valley Shakespeare's 2020 Bake Off Competition (2020) and the Full Circle Players New Work Festival (2021). Laurel's play TAM LIN received a workshop production with Barefoot Shakespeare in New York City last Autumn. More info and upcoming projects at: laurelandersen.com. Socials: @laurelmrc

Feedback

We want to hear from you! This chamber opera is in its infancy, and we are looking to make revisions, edits, and develop it further. Please take five minutes to fill out the linked feedback form. Your opinions are important to us!

[CLICK HERE FOR FEEDBACK FORM](#)

