

G I L D E D

Opera in three parts
(2024)

Full Score

Music by: Tucker Fuller
Libretto by: Megan Levad Beisner

DURATION:

100'

ROLES:

ENTREPRENEUR tenor

ARTIST tenor

CHORUS 1 soprano

CHORUS 2 mezzo-soprano

CHORUS 3 baritone

SOME DANCERS

INSTRUMENTATION:

FLUTE/PICCOLO

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

CLARINET in B-flat

BASSOON

HORN in F

PERCUSSION

PIANO

STRING QUARTET

BASS (extension required)

SCORE IN C

SYNOPSIS:

A charming, successful venture capitalist--the type who transforms cities through development, disruption, and gentrification--finds himself bored in his moneyed bubble. When he meets a cabaret singer who prioritizes passion, pleasure, and freedom, he falls hard for him. *Gilded: An Opera* interrogates the eras-old conflict between systemic economic forces, and the impact of those forces on our most personal and intimate relationships.

Inspired by relocating the wandering Lieder of the Romantic era to a contemporary urban setting, *Gilded*, a romance for two tenors, marks the first operatic collaboration between Tucker Fuller and Megan Levad Beisner. Its sexy, politically-current story is told by a soprano-alto-baritone trio, a chamber orchestra, and tenors in each of the romantic leads: rapacious investor, and irrepressible artist.

PLOT SUMMARY:

PART 1

Upon leaving his own decadent penthouse masquerade party, a handsome, weary entrepreneur happens upon a dive bar featuring magnetic performers, one of whom is a gender-fluid torch singer. The entrepreneur falls head-over-heels for this irreverent artist, who seems to be into him, too. Or is the artist just another spoiled sugar baby?

PART 2

The entrepreneur starts haunting the city's best cruising spots, hoping to come across the artist again--or at least forget about them for a little while. When he finally spots the artist they are with friends, who are holding forth on how romance has been hoxed by online matching and rising rent prices. The entrepreneur and the artist follow up with a playful, teasing debate, trading quotes on love from pop songs. The two leave together and spend a lost weekend in the entrepreneur's penthouse.

As it becomes clear that this isn't going to be just a one-night thing, the artist's friends arrive at the penthouse to cater a cocktail-hour meeting about one of the entrepreneur's projects, Plan Z, a real-estate development company that is buying the block the cabaret is on. While wary of the impersonal ways of business, the artist is hopeful that this news could mean some stability for the cabaret. The street-level rendering set up for the meeting, however, suggests otherwise.

PART 3

A week later, the entrepreneur mopes and seethes at home in his glass box in the sky, while the artist, hanging on at the cabaret--its exterior covered with a Coming Soon! Plan Z banner--is missing him, too. A conversation among the artist's friends reveals that the lovers reached an impasse while arguing over the artist's future: wild commercial success, or community-based activist? The artist's friends encourage him to go straight to the source, to talk to the entrepreneur and find out what's going to happen to their creative community (and their sometimes-home, given a city full of no-fault evictions).

The artist arrives at the penthouse, shocked by the entrepreneur's pathetic appearance, but emboldened to have it out and set things right. However, when the artist reveals their disappointment, the entrepreneur reveals his worst fears, and with them his darkest side: he has made a pattern of wooing artists and leaving them when they are no longer creative projects for him, projects that make him feel more important than any newly-acquired company. An intense argument leads to the entrepreneur falling from his own balcony. In shock, the artist joins their friends, who have followed him, as they make themselves comfortable in the penthouse--and the artist ultimately takes the entrepreneur's opening place at center stage.

GILDED

an opera

PART1/SCENE 1 Penthouse, After a Masquerade Party

In a Spectacular Downtown Penthouse Such As San Francisco's 181 Fremont

Libretto by
MEGAN LEVAD BEISNER

The curtain rises on a well-appointed penthouse apartment with glass walls looking out over a partially-twinkling city. (yes, there are empty buildings in the skyline). DANCERS and CHORUS members in various versions of cheap masquerade ball work attire are cleaning up--picking up glasses, trays, napkins, etc.

The ENTREPRENEUR is seated at center stage with his back to us, dressed as some type of satyr (obviously). Old-fashioned spotlighting would not be wrong here--nor would a revolving chair. As he sings his opening note, he slowly turns around, seducing the audience like a jaded cabaret performer.

Music by
TUCKER FULLER

♩ = ca. 126

Score for *Gilded*, Part 1/Scene 1, Penthouse, After a Masquerade Party. The score is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of ca. 126. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The score includes parts for Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon, Horn in F, Snare Drum, Percussion, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score is divided into two systems, each containing five staves. The first system includes Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon, and Horn in F. The second system includes Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score features a variety of musical notations, including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings (ff, pp). The score is written for a full orchestra and includes a libretto by Megan Levad Beisner.

Score for *Gilded*, Part 1/Scene 1, Penthouse, After a Masquerade Party. The score is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of ca. 126. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The score includes parts for Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon, Horn in F, Snare Drum, Percussion, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score is divided into two systems, each containing five staves. The first system includes Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon, and Horn in F. The second system includes Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score features a variety of musical notations, including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings (ff, pp). The score is written for a full orchestra and includes a libretto by Megan Levad Beisner.

8

Picc. *ffz*

Ob. *ffz*

Cl. *ffz*

Bsn. *ffz*

Hn. *ffz*
(S.D.)

Perc. *ffz*

Pno. *ffz*

ENT. *p* wel - come, *ff* wel-come, wel-come, wel-come guest *mp* Wel-come, wel - come, *3* wel-come guest

CH. 1 *ppp* *ff* Wel-come guest!

CH. 2 *ppp* *ff* Wel-come guest!

CH. 3 *ppp* *ff* Wel-come guest!

1

Vln. 1 *ppp* *ff*

Vln. 2 *ppp* *ff*

Vla. *ffz*

Vc. *pizz.* *ppp* *arco* *ffz*

Db. *ffz*

17

Fl. *sfz*

Ob. *sfz*

Cl. *sfz*

Bsn. *sfz*

Hn. *sfz*

Perc. *sfz*

Pno. *sfz*

ENT. *ff* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*
 I am hon-ored at your pres-ence I am hon-ored at your pres-ence I am hon-ored, I am hon-ored at your pres -

CH. 1 *ppp* *ff* *sfz* *sfz*
 Wel-come guest! Wel-come! Wel-come!

CH. 2 *ppp* *ff* *sfz* *sfz*
 Wel-come guest! Wel-come! Wel-come!

CH. 3 *ppp* *ff* *sfz* *sfz*
 Wel-come guest! Wel-come! Wel-come!

Vln. 1 *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *ff* *ppp*

Vln. 2 *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *ff* *ppp* *ff* *ppp*

Vla. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Vc. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Db. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

22

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Perc. *ff*

Pno. *fp*

ENT. *mp*
ence! I am burn-ing

CH. 1 *ff* *pp*
Wel- come guest! Wel - come, Wel- come, Wel - come!

CH. 2 *ff* *pp*
Wel- come guest! Wel - come, Wel- come, Wel - come!

CH. 3 *pp*
Wel- come guest! Wel - come, Wel- come, Wel - come!

Vln. 1 *ff* *pp* *p sempre*

Vln. 2 *ff* *p sempre*

Vla. *ff* *p sempre*

Vc. *ff* *pizz.* *f* *pizz.*

Db. *ff* *f*

30

Score for measures 30-34, featuring a vocal solo and orchestral accompaniment.

ENT. (Soprano):

through a moun - - - tain I am smelt - - - - ing all I

Instrumental Parts:

- Hn.** (Horn): Rests in measures 30-33; 3/4 rest in measure 34.
- Perc.** (Percussion): Rests in measures 30-33; 3/4 rest in measure 34.
- Pno.** (Piano): Rests in measures 30-33; 3/4 rest in measure 34.
- CH. 3** (Cello): Rests in measures 30-33; 3/4 rest in measure 34.
- Vln. 1** (Violin 1): Quarter notes G4, A4, B4 in measures 30-32; quarter notes C5, B4, A4 in measure 33; quarter notes G4, F#4, E4 in measure 34.
- Vln. 2** (Violin 2): Quarter notes G4, A4, B4 in measures 30-32; quarter notes C5, B4, A4 in measure 33; quarter notes G4, F#4, E4 in measure 34.
- Vla.** (Viola): Quarter notes G4, A4, B4 in measures 30-32; quarter notes C5, B4, A4 in measure 33; quarter notes G4, F#4, E4 in measure 34.
- Vc.** (Violoncello): Rests in measures 30-33; 3/4 rest in measure 34.
- Db.** (Double Bass): Rests in measures 30-33; 3/4 rest in measure 34.

Measure 34 is marked with a 3/4 time signature change.

35

Fl. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Ob. *mf* *f* *f*

Cl. *mf* *f* *fp* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *p* *f* *fp* *mf* *f*

Hn. *fp*

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{4}{4}$

Pno. *f*

ENT. $\frac{8}{8}$ see I call my-self a cap-tain's cap-tain I call my-self

CH. 1 *f* He calls him-self

CH. 2 *f* He calls him-self

CH. 3 *f* He calls him-self

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f* *fp* *fp*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mf* *fp* *fp*

Vc. *arco* *p* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Db. *arco* *mf* *f* *f*

[illegible]