**The Nightingale**

A Full-Length Youth Opera in One Act

This youth opera for families is adapted from Hans Christian Anderson’s 1844, fairy tale. *The Nightingale* opera speaks about the power of song and nature. It’s also a lesson in friendship, understanding, and forgiveness. In a digital world that demands our time and attention, this opera reminds us that we should take time to connect to the beauty of the nature world.

**Creative Team:**

Music by John Young, Libretto by Alan Olejniczak, Dramaturgy by George Hemcher

**Synopsis:**

In a mythical time and place, Children gather in the garden near the Emperor’s palace. This is where they “wonder, laugh, and play”. The Kitchen Girl and The Fisherman enter and regal each other of hearing the wonderful song of the Nightingale. The Emperor overhears them and demands the Nightingale be brought before him to sing. The Court and the children set out into the forest and find other creatures: a mooing cow and a chorus of frogs. They all eventually encounter the Nightingale, who agrees to follow them all back to palace to sing for the Emperor. The Nightingale sings and the Emperor is so delighted he is moved to tears. He insists that the bird must stay in the palace and never leave. The bird is captured and now held prisoner. The poor Nightingale, longs for the forest and is now too upset to sing. The Courtiers mock the unfortunate bird, but they are quickly distracted when the Emperor is presented with the Mechanical Nightinbird. This golden bird is bejeweled and sings whenever you wish. While the Emperor and his court are distracted with the new toy, the children rescue the real Nightingale, who returns to the forest. Time has passed and the member of the court has become bored of the Mechanical Nightinbird, lamenting it only play one song. The Emperor is distraught and misses the real Nightingale. The Chamberlain attempts to cheer the Emperor by playing the song from the Mechanical Nightinbird, only to find its broken and cannot be mended. The Emperor and the Court agree they mistreated the Nightingale and they are sorry for their unkindness. To their surprise the Nightingale returns to the Palace to forgive them all. Everyone is thankful and rejoices. They all agree the Nightingale belongs in the forest and they must visit her to her wonderful songs. “There we’ll wait for nature’s call. The Nightingale songs are best of all. The Emperor reminds the audience that nature is a gift. “Take time for yourself and enjoy the living world! Go out and explore. Open your imagination and discover nature’s beauty.”

**Duration:** 75 minutes

**Style of Music:** Neo-Romantic

**Language**: English

**Casting:**

Roles for Adults (2): NIGHTINGALE (Soprano), EMPEROR (Baritone)

Roles for Young Singers (10): KITCHEN GIRL, FISHERMAN, CHAMBERLAIN, VICEROY, CHANCELLOR, COURTIER ONE, COURTIER TWO, COURTIER THREE, MECHANICAL NIGHTINBIRD, WATCHMAKER, Children’s Chorus *mixed with ten individual lines.*

**Instrumentation for Twelve:** Two violins, viola, cello, double bass, piano, Bb clarinet, flute/piccolo, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, and percussion.

**Current Development:**  Libretto completed with full vocal and instrumentation to be completed around December, 2020