

Asia Society and The Santa Fe Opera
Present

‘Dr. Sun Yat-sen’

Music by Huang Ruo
Libretto by Candace Mui-ngam Chong



The full opera, 'Dr. Sun Yat-sen,' will have its
American premiere at The Santa Fe Opera on July 26, 2014.
www.SantaFeOpera.org

Monday, December 2, 2013
6:30 PM

Asia Society
725 Park Avenue at 70th Street
New York City



Asia
Society®

Synopsis

Dr. Sun Yat-sen

MUSICAL PROLOGUE (a wedding dress is wrapped, boxed, and taken on a journey by dancers)

ACT I

Charlie's House, Shanghai

Charlie Soong, a Chinese revolutionary, is hosting a gala in his home, ostensibly to raise money to build a church, but actually to gather funds for his colleague and leader of the Chinese Revolutionary Alliance, Sun Yat-sen. His wife, Ni Gui-zhen, takes him aside and expresses her worry about Charlie's illegal activities. Moments later, Sun Yat-sen arrives. From the second he enters the room, Sun becomes the focus of attention. His wife Lu Mu-zhen follows him at a much slower pace. She is a traditional countrywoman with bound feet. Charlie and guests feel sorry for Sun Yat-sen. Just as the guests begin to rally around the cause, a messenger arrives and hands Charlie a note: a reward has been placed on Sun's head.

ACT II

Scene 1: Japan (Umeya's Residence)

Fleeing to Japan where he is in exile, Sun Yat-sen takes up residence with his friend Umeya and continues his revolutionary activities with his new aide, Charlie Soong's daughter Ching-ling. She is attracted to his revolutionary ideals, he to her vivacity. They fall in love.

Scene 2: Japan, Sun and Ching-ling's wedding (Umeya's Residence)

At their wedding, Charlie enters, furious. Not only has Charlie not given his consent to the marriage but Sun still remains married to a woman in China. To everyone's surprise, Charlie brings in Sun's first wife, Lu Mu-zhen, in the hope that she can ruin the wedding. With a touching aria, Mu-zhen instead sings about her misfortune and sacrifice. She, to everyone's surprise, finally gives Sun her signed divorce paper, setting him free to marry Ching-ling. Outraged, Charlie walks out of the wedding, renouncing both Ching-ling and Sun, and his association with the Chinese Revolutionary Alliance.

ACT III

Scene 1: China

Back in China, Sun tries to overthrow the last emperor of the Qing Dynasty with the help of Yuan Shi-kai. Under Sun's leadership the regime of the Qing Dynasty is overthrown and he is named provisional president of the new republic. The new government's hold is weak and Yuan Shi-kai, an ambitious general in the revolution, betrays Sun and becomes president, a step in achieving his final goal of naming himself the new emperor of a new dynasty.

Sun Yat-sen, accompanied by his newlywed wife Ching-ling, is giving speeches in various locations in China, gathering supports to overthrow Yuan Shi-kai's rule. One night, Sun's house is under attacks by Yuan's assassins. During their escape, Ching-ling miscarries their baby. In the midst of all this tragedy, a messenger appears to tell Sun that Charlie is on his deathbed and wanting to see both him and Ching-Ling.

Scene 2: Charlie's House, Shanghai

Charlie is ill and dying. Ching-ling arrives at his home alone, and assures her father that she is truly in love with Sun Yat-sen. Charlie, ashamed, confesses that he had all but given up his revolutionary dreams, but Sun's indomitable determination and idealism has renewed his confidence. In an act of reconciliation he gives Ching-ling the wedding dress that he had made for her as a child, but refused to give her when she married Sun. His final speech, a blessing to Sun and Ching-ling and a meditation on the true meaning of what it is to be a revolutionary, is overlaid with a speech of Sun's. The two men share this spiritual reunion, revolutionaries to the end.

The opera ends as a large statue of Sun Yat-Sen is revealed. A crowd honors the timeless man. The timeless wedding dress re-appears and is carried out by the dancers.

Performers

Singers:

Fang-Tao Jiang, soprano (Soong Ching-ling and Lu Mu-zhen)

Laurence Broderick, tenor (Dr. Sun Yat-Sen)

Benjamin Bloomfield, bass-baritone (Charlie Soong)

Toby Newman, mezzo-soprano (Ni Gui-Zhen)

Musicians:

Zhou Yi, pipa and gu qin

Shelley Monroe Huang, bassoon

Stephen Buck, piano

Panelists Bios

HUANG RUO, Composer

The American premiere of his opera *Dr. Sun Yat-sen* marks Huang Ruo's first collaboration with The Santa Fe Opera. His compositions span a wide range of genres from orchestra, chamber music, opera, theater and modern dance to multi-media, experimental improvisation, folk rock and film. Mr Ruo draws equal inspiration from Chinese folk music, Western avant-garde, rock and jazz. His works have been performed by the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Hong Kong Symphony, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, among many others. *Dr. Sun Yat-sen* received its world premiere by Opera Hong Kong in October 2011 and excerpts from the opera have been heard in the United States as part of the New York City Opera's Vox workshop and at Le Poisson Rouge. Mr. Ruo entered the Shanghai Conservatory at age 12 and moved to the United States to continue his education, earning a Bachelor of Music Degree at Oberlin Conservatory, and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts Degrees in composition from the Juilliard School.

SEÁN CURRAN, Choreographer

Choreographer Sean Curran made his Santa Fe Opera debut with *Daphne* (2007) and returned for *The Tales of Hoffmann* (2010), *The Last Savage* (2011) and the world premiere of *Oscar* (2013). An original member of the Off-Broadway percussion extravaganza *Stomp*, he was a leading dancer with the Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Dance Company and a solo performer appearing across the United States. He founded the Sean Curran Dance in 1997. The company has toured throughout this country and Europe and brought its work to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan as part of the U.S. Department of State's DanceMotion USA. Mr. Curran has choreographed works for the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Shakespeare in the Park, Lincoln Center Theater, Playwrights Horizons, and a host of other leading companies. He has directed *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Daughter of the Regiment* for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and *Salome* for San Diego Opera.

CAROLYN KUAN, Conductor

Conductor Carolyn Kuan, an exciting and innovative conductor, makes her Santa Fe Opera debut with *Dr. Sun Yat-sen*. The newly appointed music director of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, her recent engagements have included performances with the San Francisco, Detroit and Bournemouth symphony orchestras, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the New York City Ballet. A noted interpreter of Asian and contemporary works, she has led the San Francisco Symphony's Chinese New Year Concerts since 2007 and conducted the Seattle Symphony's "Celebrate Asia" program in sold out performances for three consecutive years. Since 2003, Ms. Kuan has worked closely with the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. The recipient of numerous awards, Ms. Kuan holds the distinction of being the first female recipient of the Herbert von Karajan Conducting Fellowship.

ALLEN MOYER, Scenic Designer

Scenic designer Allen Moyer returns to The Santa Fe Opera for the American premiere of *Dr. Sun Yat-sen*. His previous credits with the Company include *Così fan tutte* (2003 and 2007), *Agrippina* (2004), *Daphne* (2007), *Falstaff* (2008), *The Tales of Hoffmann* (2010), and *The Last Savage* (2011). His work has been seen at leading opera companies in this country and abroad. Among his most notable productions are *Orfeo ed Euridice* in a production directed by Mark Morris at the Metropolitan Opera and the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* at the Minnesota Opera. Mr. Moyer's numerous Broadway credits include *Grey Gardens* which earned Tony/DramaDesk/Outer Critic's Circle nominations and the 2006 Hewes Award from the American Theater Wing. He was a recipient of a 2006 Obie Award for sustained excellence.

JAMES ROBINSON, Director

James Robinson is regarded as one of American's most inventive stage directors. He has won acclaim for productions that range from standard repertory, world premieres and seldom performed works. He has staged productions for major opera companies in this country including New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera and Opera Theater of Saint Louis where he serves as Artistic Director. Abroad he has served at the Welsh National Opera and Canadian Opera. Two recent world premieres were Terence Blanchard's *Champion* in St Louis and Tobias Picker's *Dolores Claiborne* in San Francisco. With The Santa Fe Opera he directed Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* in 2003 and the revival in 2007.

JAMES SCHUETTE, Costume Designer

The versatile costume designer James Schuette has worked in theater, film, video and opera. His work has been seen in more than a dozen of the nation's leading theaters as well as at prominent opera companies. He has been designer for Chicago's Goodman Theater and Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Yale Repertory, American Repertory Company, and Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. among others. Opera companies include Boston Lyric Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Houston Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. He was assistant costume designer for 21 episodes on Saturday Night Live. Recently he collaborated with director James Robinson in the world premieres of Terrance Blanchard's *Champion* and Dolores Claiborne. He returns to Santa Fe after an absence of several years.

KEN SMITH, Moderator

Journalist and author Ken Smith has traveled widely, covering music on five continents for a wide range of publications including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Travel & Leisure*, *The Strad* and *Time Out New York*. A winner of the ASCAP/Deems Taylor Award for excellence in music writing, he currently divides his time between New York, where he writes for *Gramophone* magazine, and Hong Kong, where he serves as the Asian performing arts critic for the *Financial Times*. A featured columnist for China's *Opera* magazine, he also reviews Western opera in China for the London-based magazines *Opera* and *Opera Now*. He had an active role in the music research for Stewart Wallace and Amy Tan's opera *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, an odyssey he chronicled in his 2008 book *Fate! Luck! Chance!* He is a cultural advisor to David Henry Hwang's bilingual Broadway comedy *Chinglish* and the Bruce Lee musical *Kung Fu*, opening this February at New York's Signature Theatre.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN
Opera in Three Acts
Music by Huang Ruo
Libretto by Candace Mui-ngam Chong

第一部分

选段 1

第一幕

【上海，宋嘉澍的大宅。】【熱鬧的籌款晚會，

宋嘉澍夫婦穿插在人群當中】

【倪桂珍將丈夫拉到一旁】

宋嘉澍夫人

心驚、膽顫，

我冷汗直冒……

建教堂是謊言，籌款為支持革命！

宋嘉澍

小聲點，有人聽到便大禍臨頭！

宋嘉澍夫人

大禍一早已臨頭，自你結識那個孫文開始！

你把財產都奉上，又在工廠印反動單張，

如今更借口建教堂，為他的救國會籌募經費！

宋嘉澍

夫人錯了！救國會不是他的，

救國會是——我們的！

PART I

Excerpt 1

Act I Shanghai, Charlie Soong's Home

(Charlie Soong and his wife are hosting a large fundraising ball where they mingle with guests.)

(Mrs. Soong pulls her husband aside.)

Mrs. Soong

Trembling with fear, shaking with fright, cold sweat covers my skin... "To build a great church" is a lie; the funds collected are for the Revolution!

Charlie Soong

Be quiet. We'll get in trouble if anyone hears us!

Mrs. Soong

We've been in trouble since the day you met Sun Wen*! You support him with your wealth; you use our factories to print anti-government propaganda. Now you even use the church as cover to raise money for his Revive China Society!

Charlie Soong

My wife, you are wrong! The Society does not belong to him. It belongs to us!

[*Sun Yat-sen was also known as Sun Wen.]

选段 2

孫文快步進，宋嘉澍迎上】

宋嘉澍

你終於來了，路上遇到困難了嗎？

孫逸仙

千難、萬難。

身在家國卻寸步難行。

到處是明查暗搜，一路上風聲鶴唳，

看來清廷老羞成怒，

國家就要變成樊籠！

可是樊籠關不住反對的聲音，

困難阻不了向前走的人，

抗租、抗稅、搶米的風潮來臨

議論、催促、政改的索求迫切，

人民蘇醒了，因為他們終於感到饑餓了！

宋嘉澍

太好了，證明時候到了！

孫文

時候一早到了！只等著一聲號召，

四萬萬人就會連成一股力量，

扭轉四百年來的厄運。

Excerpt 2

(Sun Yat-sen dashes in, Charlie walks to him.)

Charlie Soong

You're finally here!

Did you have any trouble getting here?

Sun Yat-sen

It was a rough trip, with difficulties and delays.

I'm in my own country, yet it's hard to travel.

Soldiers are patrolling and searching
everywhere;

everyone is afraid.

The Qing court is furious.

They're turning our country into a prison!

But this cage cannot silence opposing
voices,

It cannot deter the people who resist rent,
resist taxes, and engage in waves of revolt.

Now there are debates, with people urging
change.

The people are awake because they now feel the
hunger!

Charlie Soong

Wonderful, it proves that the time is ripe.

Sun Yat-sen

The time has long been ripe.

We are just waiting for the signal.

Then 400 million people will come
together to change the bitter fate of the last four
centuries.

第二部分

選段 1

第二幕第二場

【一九一五】 【日本橫濱】 【梅屋莊
吉家】

【孫夫人蹣跚上】

盧慕貞

舉步維艱，小腳追不了時代，
頭昏轉向，不適應新的世界。
先生，多年不見，你可好？

孫逸仙

不好，
多少年過家門不入，如今又漂泊他方！
重見故人，心中有愧。

盧慕貞

你應當有愧，
子女出生你不在眼前，
父母生病你遠在天邊，
三十年婚姻，三十年孤單。
你心中只有國與國民，
沒有家，也沒有我！
悲傷啊！我也悲傷！
可是啊，
想到先生常因慕貞走慢，
可是啊，
想到先生對我敬愛有加，
先生啊！
感恩你從不嫌棄，

PART II Excerpt 1

Act II Scene 2 1915

Umeya Shōkichi's Home, Yokohama

(Lu enters slowly.)

Lu Muzhen

Walking arduously,
These bound feet cannot keep up with the
times.
Plagued by dizziness, I cannot adapt to this
new era.
Husband, we haven't met for years. How
are you?

Sun Yat-sen

I'm not well.
I can no longer return home; I can only live
in exile!
Seeing you again makes me feel ashamed.

Lu Muzhen

You should be ashamed.
Where were you when our children were
born?
Where were you when your parents were
ill?
Thirty years of marriage;
Thirty years of loneliness.
You only think about your country, not your
family.
You only think of millions of people, but
not of me.
Sadness! Sadness fills me!
But ...
I do remember how you waited for me
when I walked slowly.
And ...
I do remember how you treated me with
respect.
My dear husband,
I am thankful you never left me all these
years.

是時候還你自由，
讓她陪你追逐更大夢想……

盧慕貞

離婚協議書上有我
手印，千山萬水送
來，

不枉夫妻一場。
逸仙的家還是我的
家……

香山腳下，
我永遠的家。

宋嘉澍

啊！不要……

孫逸仙

慕貞啊！

香山腳下，
妳永遠的家。

【盧慕貞將文件交予孫逸仙】

【盧慕貞慢慢下場】

盧慕貞

但願來生嫁個平常百姓，
清早起床就在身邊，
晚上點燈，閒話家常……

查理，事到如今，你還是為他們送上
祝福！

It is time for me to grant you your freedom.
With her by your side,
I wish you'll pursue even grander dreams...

Lu Muzhen

This is the signed
divorce agreement.
I wanted to deliver it
in person Out of
respect for our
previous union.
Yat-sen's family is
still my family ...
Xiangshan will always
be my home ...

Charlie Soong

Oh! No...

Sun Yat-sen

Oh, Muzhen!

Xiangshan will always
be your home ...

*(Muzhen hands the document to Sun. She
then walks out slowly.)*

Lu Muzhen

In my next life I wish to marry an ordinary
man,
One I'll find sleeping next to me
When I wake up every morning.
One who'll return to me every evening
To chat with me by candlelight.

Charlie, there's nothing more I can do.
Please give them your blessing!

第三部分

选段 1

第三幕第一場

【一九一五至一九一八】 【中國各地】

合唱

大地上一片死寂，
空氣裏瀰漫著悲慟，
禍變相踵，荒煙百里，
到處是軍閥掃蕩的蒼涼。
骨瘦嶙峋的人民啊！度日如年。
不能再等！不能再忍了！
砸碎的帝國枷鎖決不拿起，
擁過的國民自由不容失去！
四面八方就要叫喊，
這吼叫勢必地動山搖！

PART III

Excerpt 1

Act III Scene 1 1915–1918 Various places in China

Chorus

A deathly silence shrouds the land;
Sadness fills the air.
One defeat follows another.
Warlords and their armies invade every
corner.
Devastation is everywhere.
The scourge of famine besets the country.
We can no longer wait!
We can no longer tolerate!
We will no longer suffer under the
shackles of Imperialism.
We will not lose our freedom again!
The cries of our people will shake the
mountains!

选段 2

第三幕第一場

【一九一五至一九一八】 【中國各地】

學生們

好了！

孫先生回來了！

雲南宣佈起義！

貴州宣佈起義！

馬隊起義失敗，

但是廣西起義了！

袁世凱被迫撤銷帝制！

廣東起義！

浙江起義！

孫中山發表《第二次討袁宣言》。

好了！

陝西起義！

四川起義！

湖南起義！

袁世凱死！

可是革命尚未成功！

張勳擁溥儀復辟，國會再次被解散！

護法軍政府成立，孫中山當選大元帥，

南北戰爭，正式開始——

Excerpt 2

Act III Scene 1 1915–1918

Various places in China

Students

Yes!

Dr. Sun is back!

Yunnan has declared an uprising!

Guizhou has declared an uprising!

The cavalry mutiny failed,

But Guangxi has declared an uprising!

Yuan Shikai is forced to abdicate as
Emperor!

Guangdong has declared an uprising!

Zhejiang has declared an uprising!

Dr. Sun publishes the second
“Declaration against Yuan Shikai.”

Yes!

Shaanxi has declared an uprising!

Sichuan has declared an uprising!

Hunan has declared an uprising!

Yuan Shikai is dead!

But the Revolution has not succeeded!

Zhang Xun proposes Puyi to revive the
Qing Dynasty.

The Parliament is again dissolved!

A Military Government has been
established

With Dr. Sun at its helm.

The war between north and south has now
begun!

选段 3

第三幕第二場 一九一八
【上海】【宋嘉澍家中】

【幕啟，宋嘉澍夫人在等待宋慶齡的到臨。她憂心忡忡地往露臺外看。不一會，宋慶齡至，宋嘉澍夫人急步迎上】

宋嘉澍夫人

上帝啊！

女兒終於平安返家！

看見保鏢荷槍實彈，

慶齡啊，你身在危險？

有性命之虞嗎？

宋慶齡

媽媽不要憂心！

世道紛亂，

黨人安排保鏢，

讓逸仙安心工作。

宋嘉澍夫人

總統府遇襲，

不敢告訴你父親。

他日日探問，

夜夜思念你歸來。

宋慶齡

慶齡從小任性，

難得父親病中仍惦記！

宋嘉澍夫人

慶齡啊，他嘴上說生氣，

其實心裏一早放下。

但願國家早日太平，

Excerpt 3

Act III Scene 2 1918
Charlie Soong's House, Shanghai

(Curtain up, Mrs. Soong is expecting the arrival of Chingling. She stands in the balcony and looks worried. Chingling arrives. Mrs. Soong quickly approaches her.)

Mrs. Soong

Lord in Heaven!

Finally, my daughter is safely home!

I can tell that the bodyguards are heavily armed.

Chingling, are you in danger? Is your life at risk?

Soong Chingling

Mother, don't worry!

There's chaos everywhere.

The government has arranged bodyguards for me

So Yat-sen can work without worry.

Mrs. Soong

I dare not tell your father

About the attacks on the Presidential Quarters.

He asks every day.

He longs for your return every night.

Soong Chingling

Although I've been stubborn since childhood,

Father still thinks about me!

Mrs. Soong

Chingling, he might say he's angry,

But in his heart he forgave you long ago.

Let's hope that there'll be peace,

Then there would be no need

For Sun and you to be on the run.

孫文與你無用再奔波，
哪天生個小兒孫，他一定病痛全消！
我去喚醒查理，以免他怪罪我。

【宋嘉澍夫人下】

选段 4

宋慶齡

一句善意的叮嚀，
牽動久未平伏的心情，
失去懷中孩子，
換來心中沉痛。
想像世間有更大的悲傷，
想像人生有更大的追求，
我繼續踏上火紅的救國列車，
拜別為人之母的心願。
讓它成為一種憧憬，
讓它成為美麗的遺憾。
失去懷中孩子，
孫文與我同樣沉痛，
平凡願望成泡影，
亂世的憧憬是奢侈！
讓我把難過收起，
以免父親看出端倪……

【傳出聲嘶力竭的叫聲】

是誰叫得那麼驚慌？

【再傳出叫聲】

是爸爸！我的老父親！

【宋慶齡正準備進去，宋嘉澍夫人匆匆跑出來】

The day when you deliver your child,
Your father will recover from all illness!
Let me wake him up or he'll never forgive me.

(Mrs. Soong exits.)

Excerpt 4

Soong Chingling

This loving homecoming
Reawakens my grief
I've lost my child.
There's an unspeakable ache in my heart.
There's no bigger sadness in this world;
there's no bigger aspiration in this world.
As I continue my journey in saving our
nation,
I bid farewell to my dreams of mother-
hood.
Let it be my unfulfilled dream;
Let it be my beautiful regret.
Sun and I are both devastated with the loss
of our child.
A simple wish vanishes;
A simple wish in these chaotic times is a
luxury!
I must hide my grief.
Father cannot see me like this ...

(A scream from off-stage.)

Who screams with such fear?

(Another scream.)

That is my father!

(As Chingling hurries to the back, Charlie
Soong runs out.)

宋嘉澍夫人

慶齡！快請大夫！

宋慶齡

我最擔心的事情要發生了！

宋嘉澍夫人

掙扎、叫喊，

一刻都不得安寧；

大汗淋漓，

分不清是病還是夢。

宋慶齡

惶恐、驚慌，

害怕失去至親！

心中默禱，

死神不要再降臨！

Mrs. Soong

Chingling!

Call the doctor!

Soong Chingling

What I fear most is about to happen!

Mrs. Soong

Struggling,
screaming ...

I cannot calm him
down!

He sweats profusely;

I cannot tell if it's a
nightmare or his

ailments.

Soong Chingling

Fear, terror ...

Afraid of losing the
closest family!

I pray with all my

heart. Death, do not

touch my family

again!

【全劇完】

The End

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