

FACTS AT A GLANCE (2023 premiere)

What: PROSPERO'S ISLAND, a new chamber opera

Who: Composed by Allen Shearer, libretto by Claudia Stevens

Based on Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*

Conducted by Nathaniel Berman, directed by Philip Lowery

Presented by Ninth Planet and InTandem

When: March 25, 2023

Saturday Evening at 7:30 pm, one performance only

Run Time: 95 minutes, plus one intermission

Where: Herbst Theater (Veteran's War Memorial Bldg.), 401 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA

Briefly: In this stirring yet often lighthearted opera, Shearer and Stevens bring Shakespeare's great play to life as a chamber opera, transporting it to the Falkland Islands in the 1950's. With powerful imagery and stirring music, the opera takes place on one momentous day, from dawn until dusk. Over that day, the lives of all on the island will be changed forever, as they learn the truth about Prospero's dark past and then must make their way into a brave new world. Audiences will meet Prospero, Master of the island, who in this adaptation, has done great harm through his science and now yearns to make amends and provide a new life for his daughter; "Mandy," Prospero's bookish daughter, sheltered on the island for fourteen years; Ariel, a magical being half-bird, half woman, whose loyalty to Prospero will be tested; Caliban, angry and rebellious, longing to find his father, yet afraid of what he will find; "Andy," who falls in love with Mandy, yet must bring her father to justice; and the comedy team of paratroopers Steffi and Trish, who carouse and create general chaos.