

Date du récital/Date of recital: *November 4, 2022*

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The world is not what it used to be. Then again, the world is never what it used to be for every generation that feels the passing of time. The present day however feels like there is a speeding up of change, and are we able to evolve fast enough to keep up? Are we able to realize we are being manipulated while it is happening? The internet is full of confusing places, where you can surround yourself with likeminded people. A time where anyone has a community, we have communities for people who love plants, cats, hair, makeup, sports, cocktails, etc. This is a beautiful thing for the world, to find community! However, the internet also makes space for other communities, helping them find like minded people. Communities of racists, homophobes, toxic masculinity, incels, extremists, you name it there is a group on the internet for it. This problem is getting worse and worse and it is causing division as a human race. We have stopped talking to others who have differing views than our own and this leads to reinforcing of beliefs and no challenging of said beliefs. You can find anyone to support you on the internet, because of the almost eight billion people on this planet there is bound to be some one else who agrees with you even if it is a terrible idea.

Dean Burry's *Il Giudizio di Pigmaliione* leans into the idea that you can get so caught up on the world online that you forget what reality looks like. This opera focus' on the perception of the male gaze, the straight cis-gendered male gaze, upon women. You see in this opera how Pigmaliione, played by Alex Norton III, is obsessed with women and how he wants women to be. The beginning scene starts with women protesting and Pigmaliione being disgusted. So disgusted that he puts his headphones on to drown out what they are saying. While the women are screaming phrases that are along the lines of "my body, my choice." Then Pigmaliione comes across this woman who he thinks is beautiful and great, but she does not act in the way that he wants and so he takes a picture of her and transforms her into what he wants her to be, changing her to a place where she is not recognizable.

Anna Theodosakis, stage director of this show, she is amazing talent who brings a sensitivity to the subject matter that many directors would not posses. She hails from Toronto, recently nominated for Outstanding Direction for *the Magic Flute* with the Canadian Opera Company. She has brought a lot of clarity to the scenes and problems that are being addressed in this Opera. One way she has helped the story to be clearer by making the "ideal" woman that Pigmaliione creates and shows us, its actually a Frankenstein-like woman, this beauty standard of Pigmaliione's is disgusting, unreal, un-achievable. Pigmaliione, however is convinced that she is perfect.

Dean Burry is a Canadian Composer, grew up in Newfoundland. Studied Saxophone in university but found his passion for composing and composed many works during university. Burry is most well known for the opera *Brothers Grimm* (2001). He is the 2011 recipient of the Ontario Arts Foundations *Louise Applebaum Composers Award* for excellence in the field of music for young people. One of the biggest Canadian opera composers of our time. *Il Giudizio di Pigmaliione* is a world premier, it has never been performed publicly and Opera McGill is so happy to portray this production.

The character that I am portraying is Orfeo, the narrator and instigator of the story. I see my character as kind of the puppet master, if there was one, behind all our screens deciding what we will believe and what we will not believe. Orfeo narrates the story, but also stirs the pot in Pigmalione so that he is left alone with no one at the end. Social media essentially alienates us all from other humans, and the character of Orfeo is the personification of social media if social media had a master mind behind it. Orfeo is the algorithm that gives you the version of reality that you want to see. I'm just giving you what you want! Pigmalione and Orfeo as characters are not supposed to be redeemable at all, they are just to show us the evilness through art. Some may feel like this story is over done, yet it is still accepted by many men who think they have a right to a woman's body, they have a right to believe she should look/act/smell/walk/emote a certain way. This story shows that these men deserve to be alone, they deserve nothing. They are in love with an idea of women that is harmful to women, it is killing women and we need to stop allowing this incel-behaviour on the internet or anywhere on the planet.