



# MARIE BEGINS

Funding from OPERA America's Opera Grants for Female Composers program, supported by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation. 2017.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**Composer, Concept:** Ellen Fishman

**Librettist:** Julia Curcio

**Creative Direction:** Simon Rogers

**Film Production:** 7 Wonders Cinema

**Interactive Agency:** The Elevator

**Polling Technology:** Awesomefat LLC  
Consulting

## SYNOPSIS

Marie is a modern woman in a time of endless possibilities. But on her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, she reflects on her life and realizes she hasn't done much of anything, especially since her father passed away. Today will be the day that she starts getting her life together. The opera, which takes place in the modern apartment of the female lead, starts with an introduction of the main character, Marie. At the end of this scene the audience votes which path to take from the two choices presented as the accompanying jazz trio improvises. After the audience selects the first path, they will encounter other choices at the end of each 2-6 minute scene. With each choice, characters who are intertwined with the lead character present new plot twists and dilemmas. The scenes progress from solo to ensemble singing as the experience unfolds.

## SCORE AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION

**DURATION:** 1 hour 15 minutes in addition to the 15 minutes that the jazz trio plays before the opera begins.

**INSTRUMENTATION:** electric piano, double bass and drum set form the jazz trio. The trio must be able to read music and improvise.

**CAST:** Marie, soprano; Gabe, tenor; Lee, mezzo-soprano; Mom, mezzo-soprano; Dad, baritone; Sage, bass-baritone, Pizza guy, tenor; chorus includes cast members plus 4-12 members.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Video projection of polling questions and results are required. Polling system works on all computer platforms without additional software and is advanced by an operator. Internet is necessary for the computer running the polling system (but not the audience).

**DEVELOPMENT:** Featured excerpt performance by Tri-Cities Opera at OPERA America's New Works Forum, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2018

Invited full workshop performance by The Music Theatre and Opera program in the School of Music at Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts. 2018.

**WORLD PREMIERE:** Westminster Choir College, Fall 2020

**PUBLISHER:** Ellen Fishman

For more information about MARIE BEGINS, please email Ellen Fishman at [efjcomposer@me.com](mailto:efjcomposer@me.com)