

2023

Concert recording 2022-04-02b

Kailey Miller Erwin

Henry Aggus

Edward Mountz

Roel Orduño

Victoria Greer

See next page for additional authors

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Performer(s)

Kailey Miller Erwin, Henry Aggus, Edward Mountz, Roel Orduño, Victoria Greer, Kevin Lancaster, Alex Andrews, Cody Robinson, Kira Stackhouse, and Molly McCourt

GRADUATE COMPOSITION RECITAL

Kailey Miller Erwin, composer

Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall

April 2, 2022 | 3:30pm

the game
a contemporary opera in one act
concert version

prologue

Set on the planet Tygon – Zack awakens from his latest virtual reality simulation in The Game and is greeted by his childhood friend, Kyle. Zack's memory slowly returns about his reality on Tygon. We are also introduced to the creator of The Game, Brandon Strayne, as well as another player who will get one last shot at making history, Alexandra Montoyas. Trew and Alexandra prepare for their final play of The Game while, behind the scenes, Brandon attempts to manipulate Game-play to derail the Mainframe's wishes.

act one

Set on the planets Tygon and Earth – Stephanie, an Eternal who can communicate on Tygon and Earth, unlike The Game players, sets the scene at the opening of act one. Zack and Alexandra are now virtual reality players on Earth. Their characters are named Trew and Danielle, respectively. We follow them as they grow from children to teenagers to young adults. Brandon, meanwhile, is continuing his diabolical plans to thwart the Mainframe's plans. Trew and Danielle make a startling discovery and their beliefs about their world are turned upside down. Brandon becomes more desperate to accomplish his goals, resulting in the opera's conclusion containing a tragic cliffhanger.

cast

Zack/Trew – Henry Aggus

Kyle/Trew's Dad – Edward Mountz

Brandon – Roel Orduño

Alexandra/Danielle – Victoria Greer

Brandon's Dad/Carl – Kevin Lancaster

Stephanie – Alex Andrews

Raphael – Cody Robinson

Young Danielle – Kira Stackhouse

Young Tommi – Molly McCourt

Young Trew – Edmund Terry

Trew's Mom/Michelle – Emma Martin

Teen Tommi/others – Miyah McCourt

Teen Trew – Eustace Terry

Teen Danielle – Gianna Arens

Sylvia/Sensei – Mary Maxwell

This opera is adapted from the book The Game by Terry Schott. Please join us at the Victory Theatre in Downtown Rogers next Friday, April 8th at 7:30pm to experience the fully staged opera!

Thank you to our director, Brittany Tavernaro, and our stage manager, Mary Maxwell, for your assistance throughout this process. Thank you to our costume designer, Cassandra Moore. Thank you to Terry Schott for allowing me to adapt your story for the stage. I would like to thank Dr. Robert Mueller for his continuous encouragement and support throughout this seven-year-long process of finishing this opera. I think a large work like this is never truly finished, but Dr. Mueller has helped steer me in the right direction to accomplish the huge goal of presenting this opera for my thesis. Thank you to Dr. Joon Park and Mr. Henry Runkles, who are on my thesis committee, and have also been fantastic professors during my time as a graduate student at the University of Arkansas. A special thank you to Dr. Ronda Mains, without whom I would not have graduated from this program. Additional thanks to my family and friends who supported me during this process, especially my husband, Alex Erwin, who still believes I can do anything.

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