

MAN AGAINST THE SKY



A ONE - ACT MUSIC DRAMA

Music
WILLIAM CROWDER

Libretto
ALFRED GROH

Art Direction
CATHAL O'TOOLE

Written especially for **WILKES COLLEGE** 25th Anniversary

MAN AGAINST THE SKY

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Music William Crowder

Libretto Alfred Groh

CAST

ROSEANNE.....BASIA MIESZKOWSKI JAWORSKI
STANDISH, Chief Justice.....GEORGE RICHARDS
CELIA, his daughter.....HELEN RALSTON
JEFF.....WAYNE WALTERS
DEPUTY.....ROBERT MORGAN

CHORUS

MARILYN CARL • JEAN PYATT • MARIAN LAINES
JANET JONES • RAYE LOUISE THOMAS • SAM LOWE
SYLVIA CUSICK • CARROLL DAVENPORT • JUDY WARNICK
JANET CORNELL • JEROME LUFT • WILLIAM PETERS

Accompanist AUDREY J. BARTLETT

Director WILLIAM CROWDER

SYNOPSIS

As the opera opens, Roseanne is searching the sea, awaiting the return of her lover. Jeff has violated the law of the island, which forbids a man to leave. The punishment is death. Roseanne knows that he cannot find the freedom he is looking for by running away from his love or from his responsibility under the law, and scans the sea for signs of his boat.

But her belief that neither love nor law must bind a man, she says, prevented her from forcing him to stay.

Jeff returns. He eludes Justice Standish's men who are guarding the shores. Roseanne and Jeff are reunited, just as the storm that has followed him is about to break. Jeff tells her that on the sea he realized that in her love he found the strength to free his spirit. It was weakness drove him from her. They go to the Temple of Mercy, nearby, to pray.

Celia, secretly in love with him, hoping to save his life, tears from the Book of Justice the law which her father upholds. "Now he can be free," she says, since her act has removed the wicked law from the Book. But a law is bad not because it is on the books but because the evil stain is on the conscience, and Standish stands accused under the moral law of the universe.

"It is you who are guilty!" Roseanne accuses Standish, after he has sent his men to the Temple of Mercy to kill Jeff. Standish looks for consolation from his daughter, but Celia cannot protect him; from Roseanne, who has shattered his confidence in the law; from the chorus, who find courage within themselves to accuse Stan-

dish of violating a law they knew was bad but to which they had conformed. Their words, "Roseanne is right, the law has been betrayed," prophetically underline Roseanne's, "The law removed, the law retained, Upon your soul the evil's stained."

Jeff has paid with his life for the freedom for which they had been unwilling to sacrifice their disbelief. Celia and the chorus comfort Roseanne, as Jeff's lifeless body is borne across the stage, by reminding her

*That he kissed you
Dearest Rose
Leaving you
In repose.
He's your man
You must be strong.
For he gave
Your heart a song.*

WILKES COLLEGE

Wilkes College is a small (in size), co-educational, liberal arts college in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, part of its campus fronting the Susquehanna River. In 1933 Bucknell University and far-sighted men and women of Wyoming Valley, in order to provide opportunities for higher education in an area where these facilities were lacking, established Bucknell University Junior College. The local college was chartered as an independent four-year institution and renamed Wilkes College in 1947.

Under the leadership of Dr. Eugene S. Farley, president since 1936, and a devoted Board of Trustees, with Gilbert McClintock as chairman, Wilkes College has realized a substantial growth and has earned a sound reputation that is based upon its efforts to maintain high intellectual and personal standards.

Dedicated since its inception to those ideals which have inspired the great institutions of free learning in the United States, Wilkes College has recently opened its \$1 million science building as evidence of its belief in the spirit of free inquiry. Its plans for the cultural improvement of the community include an arts building, historical center, and theater.

MAN AGAINST THE SKY, an original one-act music drama, was written in recognition of the creative voice Wilkes College brings to Wyoming Valley, which looks to the college with increasing awareness of its vital and important contribution to the life of the community that nourishes its growth.

This performance of
MAN AGAINST THE SKY
is the concert version

as it was presented for faculty and friends of Wilkes College on December 21, 1957. Members of the cast and chorus are students of Wilkes College. Mrs. Jaworski and Mrs. Ralston are graduates of the college. William Crowder, also a graduate, is teaching at GAR High School, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Alfred Groh and Cathal O'Toole are members of Wilkes College faculty.