

# **What Time is it Now?**

*A one-act chamber  
opera in 11 songs*

(2004, rev. 2005)

**duration: 45'**

**Composer: Anna Höstman  
Libretto: P.K. Page**

*“What Time is it Now?” was first performed in the Philip T. Young Recital Hall 24 October 2004, with Kiiri Michelson (mezzo soprano), Cathy Fern Lewis (soprano) and Christopher Butterfield (tenor). It was conducted by David Cecchetto and directed by Dylan Robinson with lighting by William Macwood.*

*It was subsequently performed by the Victoria Symphony under the baton of Tania Miller in the Royal Theatre October 2006, as part of a concert tribute for P.K. Page’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and recorded and broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Kiiri Michelson, Cathy Fern Lewis and Ken Lavigne, tenor).*

Ensemble:

Deb, an old lady (soprano)  
Deb, her young 20-year-old Self (mezzo soprano)  
Craig, a caregiver (tenor)

Clarinet  
Piano

Percussion (1 player)

- marimba
- vibraphone
- xylophone
- temple gongs
- suspended cymbal
- 5 graduated bells
- tom
- glock
- celesta (opt. glock)

Violin  
Cello  
Bass

Score in C

Duration: ca. 45 minutes

**Setting:**

A small living room, shabby but with books, good paintings on the walls and a grand piano. Ensemble onstage in the living room. The Old Lady is sleeping in a wheelchair down stage left. Her Younger Self is stage right, invisible to Craig. She requires special lighting as she is from another time and place.

**Note from the librettist:**

*What Time is it Now?* questions the very nature of reality. What is truth? Is it one of the many conflicting realities of memory, imagination, and the present that so confuse the Old Lady? Is it the coarser reality of her male care-giver? Or is it the higher reality, that is glimpsed at the finale?

**Note from the composer:**

The score for *What Time is it Now?* explores ideas of atemporality and the transitory nature of this world through the use of multiple overlapping tempi, fragmentation of textures, and a formal approach to structure that is decidedly non-linear, based on emergence, disappearance and re-emergence often taking place seemingly out of context, and sometimes in concept alone.