

H625  
1995  
6-7



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**Chamber Opera**  
**Music by Elizabeth Hoffman**  
**Libretto and Direction by James Labe**  
**Conducted by Kris Falk**

**Wednesday, June 7, 1995 8 pm**  
**Meany Studio Theater**

sponsored by the Seattle Arts Commission and the University of Washington School of Music

# JOB'S WIFE

a chamber opera in three acts

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

8 pm



Meany Studio Theater

Music.....Elizabeth Hoffman  
Libretto.....James Labe  
Conductor.....Kris Falk  
Stage Director.....James Labe  
Set Design.....James Labe  
Set Construction.....Elizabeth Hoffman, James Labe  
(rocks thanks to Vivian Umino)  
Costume Design.....Elizabeth Hoffman, James Labe  
Lisa DeFrance (seamstress)

This performance is a premiere of the opera, completed this year under a Seattle Artists Grant from the Seattle Arts Commission.

<b>CAST</b> (in order of appearance)

JOB.....Brian Box  
JEMIMAH.....Amy Cheifetz  
SORCERESS.....Lucretia Fleury  
WIFE.....Christine Graham  
FATHER.....Robert Tangney  
BOY.....Christopher Roberts  
ANGEL.....Lucretia Fleury

DATE # 12, 887

CLASS # 12, 888

DATE 12/88 ACT I (45') SYNOPSIS

In the Bible, Job was a good man who suffered many curses but never rejected God. His wife told him he should curse God and die. He refused, but begged God for an audience to plead his innocence. Finally God appeared in a storm and informed Job that mortals are too limited to understand the reasons for their suffering.

This sequel begins years later as aged Job and his young daughter Jemimah are on their way to her wedding. Jemimah runs ahead. Job meets with a sorceress who brings his wife back from the dead, so that Job can fulfill his vow that they would be together at Jemimah's wedding. Job and his wife sing of their personal passions and their bittersweet love, tempered by lives of suffering.

CASS SIDE A  
CASS SIDE B

DATE 12/88 ACT II (25') --INTERMISSION--

Act II begins with Jemimah, her fiancé, and his father preparing the wedding site. Job and his wife enter shortly. The adults exchange different points of view about marriage and sacrifice and what it was like to be young. Then they watch as the enraptured lovers sing of love in their wedding ceremony. Afterwards the newlyweds retire to a tent to consummate their marriage. Overcome by the ceremony, Job's wife runs away. Meanwhile, Job and the groom's father drink and celebrate. Suddenly there is a crash of thunder and the sky darkens. The storm is upon them.

DATE 12/88 ACT III (20')

Act III begins in the stormy darkness. Job's wife is alone. She realizes that she has fulfilled the promise to attend Jemimah's wedding and that the storm signals her return to death. But she has renewed her desire to live and resolves to fight God. An angel descends a golden ladder from the clouds and challenges Job's wife to fight for a blessing. They struggle and finally Job's wife wins. The angel blesses her, affirming her desire to remain among the living.

## ORCHESTRA

<b>Violin I</b>	Coral Overman
<b>Violin II</b>	Laurel Wells
<b>Viola</b>	Ed Davis
<b>'Cello</b>	Gretchen Yanover
<b>Bass</b>	Todd Gowers
<b>Flute</b>	Megan Lyden
<b>Oboe</b>	Stina Dragovich
<b>Clarinet</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Horn</b>	Donald J. Ankney
<b>Trombone</b>	Chad Kirby
<b>Percussion</b>	Patrick Roulet
<b>Harp</b>	Bianca Ence

## ALTERNATES:

Thane Lewis, Ellen Gray  
Loren Dempster  
Aron Taylor  
Darlene Franz  
Thuc Nguyen, Kate Labiak  
Nate Irby-Oxford, Kevin Karnes

*Special thanks to Pamela Vokolek*