The University of Washington
School of Music
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Present

An Evening of Opera

1 R #1 - 6433 6538
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MARKHEIM
An Opera In One Act
by
CARLISLE FLOYD

Libretto by the Composer
After the Story by Robert Louis Stevenson

Tuesday, April 4, 1972
Glenn Hughes Playhouse
Thursday, April 6, 1972
41st and University Way Northeast
MARKHEIM

by

Carlisle Floyd

Sherman W. Dearth*, Director
Donald James, Conductor
Dan Shelhamer, Accompanist
Carol Crawford, Rehearsal Pianist

CAST

Josiah Creach .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. Bob Julien
Markheim .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. Stan Wexler
Tess .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. Christine Lightfoot
A Stranger .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. Bruce Browne

SYNOPSIS

The story concerns Markheim, a dissolute young gentleman who comes to a pawnshop on Christmas Eve in desperate need of money. The pawnbroker, Josiah Creach, extorts confessions of Markheim's immoral life, apparently in return for a loan—which is then refused. Overcome with rage, Markheim strangles the pawnbroker and searches the shop for his cashbox.

The young man's search is interrupted by a mysterious stranger who reveals supernatural knowledge of Markheim and his actions. Warning Markheim that the murder is about to be discovered by the shopkeeper's servant girl, Tess, he offers to show where Creach has hoarded his fortune—if Markheim will commit his life to pleasure and forswear guilt and conscience. An argument ensues, and at length the servant girl does indeed return, confronting Markheim with the prospect of disclosure.

The stranger now urges a second murder, and only at the last moment does Markheim draw back from the terrified girl, crying out that he has killed her master and asking her to call the police. Tess runs screaming from the shop, the infuriated Stranger abruptly vanishes, and the redeemed Markheim, awaiting arrest, falls to his knees with tears of relief and joins in the hymn of Christmas carolers offstage.

*In partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree of Master of Music.