



The Invention of Morel

An opera by Stewart Copeland

Based on the novel by Adolfo Bioy Casares



The Invention of Morel

A chamber opera in one act (2017)

Duration: 1 hour 24 minutes

Orchestration: 1.0.1(bc1)+bc1.1/0.1.1+btbn/

2 perc/pf. egtr/sin lge str

Cast

Narrator (tells the tale)	Baritone
Fugitive(acts out the tale)	Baritone
Faustine (mystery woman)	Lyric soprano
Morel (dashing inventor)	Tenor
Stoever(challenging guest)	Bass
Dora (radiant diva)	Soprano
Duchess(grumpy duchess)	Mezzo-soprano
Alec (arrogant architect)/ Ombrellieri (Italian rug merchant)	Tenor

Synopsis

A fugitive from justice has found refuge on a remote island. There is rumor of a strange disease connected to this deserted place. Suddenly a group of exotic tourists arrive. He fears arrest but falls in love with one of the intruders. To meet her would be to risk everything but his heart drags him to her. She ignores him completely! Soon he is barging in on the tourists' strangely anachronistic party, wailing for attention. Why won't she acknowledge him, why won't they arrest him? What are those machines in the basement? And why does she keep repeating the same conversation with that Morel? A charismatically odd man, made even stranger by his isolation, solving a cosmic mystery while maddened by love is the sort of fantastic romance that opera serves so well.

Video highlights from the world premiere production can be found at vimeo.com/239936335

Password: fugitive

Stewart Copeland

Recipient of the Hollywood Film Festival's first Outstanding Music in Film Visionary Award, a Grammy nominee for his 2005 CD "Orchestralli," and a 2003 inductee to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, **Stewart Copeland** — the former drummer and founder of The Police — has been responsible for some of the film world's most innovative and groundbreaking scores.

His most recent concert works include *BENHUR, A Tale of the Christ* which features Copeland as soloist in a live orchestral score for the 1925 silent film; *Poltroons in Paradise* commissioned by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic; *Gamelan D'Drum*, commissioned by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for the world percussion group D'Drum; and *Tell Tale Heart*, a short one act opera based on the story by Edgar Allen Poe for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

In 2017, The Chicago Opera Theater premiered Copeland's surreal chamber opera *The Invention of Morel*, a co-commission with Long Beach Opera based on the novel by Adolfo Bioy Casares. This season, *The Sheriff of Luxembourg*, Stewart Copeland's rousing new work for solo percussion and tape, will be premiered by Christoph Sietzen in Cologne and toured in Europe throughout the season.



'Jabbing staccati mirror the thrumming of Morel's sinister machines, effectively undergirding the vocal writing.'

John von Rhein, *Chicago Tribune*, 2017

'At a compact 90 minutes, it floats by like a hallucination. The libretto is poetic, effectively highlighting the themes, symbols and surreal plot of the novella.'

Julie Riggott, Culturespotla.com on *The Invention of Morel*, 2018

'It is an important and intriguing new work that deserves attention.'

Opera Today, 2017

Management: Polyarts

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