

HE WHO GETS SLAPPED

A New Opera in Two Acts | Currently in progress

Music by Alex Burtzos | Libretto by Daniel Neer

Source Material	Adapted from the 1914 play of the same name by Leonid Andreyev	
Setting and Time	The backstage area of a circus tent, Autumn 1922 and Spring 1923	
Basic Structure	Two Acts (with One Intermission)	
Scene Breakdown and Length	Act I: Scene i	50'
	Scene ii	35'
	Act II: Intermezzo and Pantomime	5'
	Scene i	35'
	Entr'acte	5'
	Scene ii	30'
	Scene iii	8'
	TOTAL LENGTH:	2.48'
Cast (in order of appearance)	"PAPA" BRIQUET, manager of the circus	Bass-Baritone
	TILLY, a musical clown	Soprano (non-binary)
	POLLY, a musical clown	Mezzo-Soprano (non-binary)
	COUNT MANCINI, a grifter	Character Tenor
	ZINIDA, a lion tamer	Mezzo-Soprano
	THOMAS, a strong man	Tenor
	HE, a stranger	Character Baritone
	JACKSON, the chief clown	Bass
	CONSUELO, a bareback rider and Mancini's daughter	Soprano
	BEZANO, an acrobat	Tenor
	BARON REGNARD, a wealthy financier	Baritone
	A GENTLEMAN	Lyric Baritone
	A BALLERINA / ROSALINDA, an acrobat	Spoken Role/Dancer
	A BALLERINA / SARAH, estranged wife of HE	Spoken Role/Dancer
	CIRCUS EMPLOYEES/THE BARON'S ENTOURAGE	Non-Speaking Roles
Timeline of Development	Act I libretto completed	July 2020
	Act I, Scene i piano/vocal score completed	August 2020
	Full libretto draft completed	October 2020
	Read-through of libretto first draft	November 2020
	Final libretto completed	January 2020
	Audio/video recording of Scene i excerpts	February 2021
	Act I, Scene ii piano/vocal score completed	March 2021
	Read-through of completed libretto	November 2021
	Act II, Scene i piano/vocal score completed	November 2021
	Complete piano/vocal score finished	April 2022 (est.)
	Piano workshop	January 2023 (est.)
	Orchestration completed	December 2023 (est.)
Orchestration	Final orchestration will depend on the resources of the presenting company. Ideal orchestration: 2.2.2.2 2.1.1.1 2 Perc. Hp Pno/Cista Strings Chorus	
Brief Synopsis	A mysterious stranger finds refuge in a broken-down circus and persuades the jaded owners to hire him as a clown. Known as "He Who Gets Slapped," the newcomer quickly emerges as a star attraction. HE becomes infatuated with Consuelo, a beautiful bareback rider. Haunted by the secrets of his past and slowly succumbing to paranoia, he tries desperately to free Consuelo from the control of her scheming father, unleashing a cascading series of events that expose the fragility of the circus's microcosmic society and forever scar its inhabitants.	
