



Sufinansirano sredstvima
programa Evropske unije
Kreativna Evropa

CROSS OPERA: OTHERNESS, FEAR AND DISCOVERY

DREAM

One-act opera

Libretto written by

JASMINA MITRUSIC

CHARACTERS

Sara, refugee from Syria, mother	_____	Alt
Maria, refugee from Syria, daughter	_____	Soprano
Ana, assistant in refugee center from Vranje	_____	Mezzo soprano
Adnan, refugee from Afghanistan	_____	Bass
Hasan, refugee from Afghanistan	_____	Baritone
Osman, refugee from Afghanistan	_____	Tenor
Narrator		

NARRATOR:

We are located in the south of Serbia, near Vranje. A small bus stop, there are no passengers; the bus just left the station. Midnight passed. It's cold, mid-December. Three women are appearing from the dark. Anna, an associate at the refugee center, as a child came with her parents to relatives in Vranje, fleeing the war. She helps now women who come in large numbers from Syria. Right now we are finding her helping Sara and Maria, mother and daughter, refugees who are going from refugee center in Vranje to Belgrade. Mother, sick, surrounded by dark thoughts, was forced to leave immediately, because her son who managed to reach Serbia arrived at the Stationary in Belgrade. Since she was sick, she worried that she would not see him anymore. Daughter Maria is happy to see her brother, but she is worried for mother who is very ill.

Scene 1

Ana, Sara and Maria are approaching bus station. Ana and Maria are helping Sara to walk.

ANA: *(pulling Sara's hand, trying to hold her on her feet)*

Here is! We arrived!

MARIA:

Just a little bit more! *(Sarah stumbles)*

Mother! *(Scared)*

SARAH *(With heavy voice, through moan)*

It's ok, it's good.
May I put down my body somewhere,
To rest my bones,
My soul is heavy, pulls me...

ANA:

You can sit here. (*Sarah sits down on the bench*)

SARAH:

I don't know what is colder,
This bench or my heart?
What we are going to do now?
Will bus come until morning?
What if I die
Before I see my son?

MARIA: (*upset*)

Mother, don't talk like that!
You will see his children one day,
You will hug and kiss them,
Beloved children,
And that day,
We all will be together!

SARAH:

Oh, what a dream you have, Maria,
My dear child.

Beautiful dream,
But my soul is full of pain,
fear, death...
There are no dreams for me anymore!

ANA: (*Covers Sarah with blanket*)
I brought a blanket; here, cover yourself!
Everything will be fine!
Soon the bus will arrive,
and in the morning you'll see your son!

SARAH AND MARIA: (*softly, duet*)

SARAH:
I will see my son!

MARIJA:
I will see my brother!

(*They sit side by side on the bench and cover with blanket. Lights turn off.*)

Scene 2

NARRATOR:

Three women are napping on the bench. Three men are approach to them in silence. First one is Adnan, thirty-three-year-old Afghan, who left his wife and three young children, escaping to not be killed. He was a soldier in the regular army, and when the new government came, he refused to shoot at his compatriots. In past six years he trying to leave Serbia, in intent to reach Germany, where his cousin lives. The second one is Hasan, a nineteen-year-old boy from Afghanistan, painter who has escaped to find a place under the sun for himself, a place where he can paint what he wants. He became an orphan since three years ago and he traveling since then. Hasan is in Serbia half a year. He went to Belgrade, to get out of there headed north. The third one is Osman. Four years ago his parents sent him on the road and now he is sixteen. Born in Pakistan, but grew up in Afghanistan; his childhood was very difficult. Father sent him to France to relatives. Recently he has arrived in Serbia where he met Adnan and Hasan. This night he decided to go to Belgrade with two older compatriots, whom he met in the refugee center.

(Hard walking, tired, Adnan, Hasan and Osman are slowly enter on the stage.)

ADNAN: *(suddenly stop and held the others)*

Stop! *(Quietly)*

Check if there are any people.

HASAN: *(Stared and noticed Sarah and Maria huddled next to each other, napping)*

There are some women, don't be afraid.

ADNAN: *(looked at them)*

It seems they are sleeping.

OSMAN:

It's good that they are women.

Few evenings ago,

Some boys from Pakistan attacked me,
They wanted to break my neck,
They told me I am traitor!
How could I be traitor?
I was just a child...

ADNAN: (*looking at sleeping women*)

Quite! Quite...

To not wake them up,
To not afraid this poor,
orphan and tired.

HASAN: (*Noticed Maria's face and blench*)

(*For himself*)

Oh, how beautiful she is,
looks so familiar!

Yes, I saw her face in a dream!

Or it's just seems to me?

ADNAN: (*pointing on the bench*)

Come, there is a space here.

We'll take a rest and wait.

HASAN:

Come on!

OSMAN:

Come on.

(They sit on the bench quietly next to each other)

ADNAN: *(for himself)*

Gall and sorrow,

Breaks my soul,

Where am I? What I am?

Where I'm going...

My kids are hungry...

O, deaf night,

I better not to exist...

Scene 3

NARRATOR:

Leaning on each other, passengers on the bus station fell into the dream.

(Atmosphere is changed. Lights. Characters are in the same, long, white, dresses.)

OSMAN: (*Run into the scene, like he is defending from something, wailing*)

No! No, please!

Please don't!

No!

(*Fall down, defends himself from imagined enemy*)

ANA: (*Approaches, put the hand on Osman's head*)

Stand up, child.

Open your eyes and you will see your path. (*Continues to comfort him, while he is still crying.*)

ADNAN: (*speak to Sarah*)

Let's feel every single living being!

SARA: (*speak to Adnan*)

Heal our own soul!

HASAN: (*Approaches, see Maria who enter from another side*)

Here she is again,

Wonderfully face,

Tender and bright like petals

under the morning sun.

MARIA: (*see Hasan*)

O, beautiful reality!

My heart trembles from happiness

It is you, my beloved,
My desired dear!

HASAN: (*approaches to Maria and hugs her*)

You are my light,
Mine meaning,
My muse.
Eye of my eye,
Breath of my breath!

HASAN AND MARIA (*duet*):

There is no force which will divide us!

(*Suddenly , they diverges and depart. Further, seem as they are looking for each other.*)

ADNAN: (*Approaches to Ana and Osman who is on his knees. Speak to Osman*)

You fell down.
Now stand up.

ANA: (*to Adnan*)

Let's awake the truth.

OSMAN: (*raises his head, speak to Ana*)

Mother! Don't leave me! (*stands up and run after imagined mother*)

HASAN: (*from the bottom of the scene*)

Maria!

ADNAN: (*turns around and scream*)

My father!

How to extinguish desire for revenge in my heart?

OSMAN: (*stands up, run and begging*)

Leave me alone,

Let me go! (*Falls down*)

ANA: (*to Hasan*)

Love is beyond division on good and bad.

MARIJA: (*shouting*)

Hasan!

I can see your light!

(*Hasan can hear her, but can't see her*)

HASAN: (*pointing above*)

My soul wants in height!

SARA: (*to Adnan, calms him down*)

Believe that everything in life has a sense.

ADNAN: (*to Hasan*)

Fight for your love!

SARA: (*To Adnan*)

Fear is the beginning of all evil!

ADNAN:

I don't feel hate any more.

Peace in the soul, freedom of mind

Is this a dream?

SARA: (*to Maria*)

Which love is not worth the sacrifice?

OSMAN: (*stands up*)

Word is reality of the spirit.

(*All singers leave the scene, except Ana*)

ANA: (*Recital*)

Why people cannot see the truth?

When will the souls be pure?

(*aria*)

We will become worthy

To call us people,

when we learn to respect life,

love and reason.

If we have no fear,

We'll discover the world

where we can be different,

where we can be fearless

to discover the truth!

(Other singers like a choir):

Oh, help my soul.

(Singers leave slowly. Lights change.)

Scene 4

NARRATOR:

Loud engine sound wake up sleepers. They stand up and become aware of weird moment when they saw one another.

(They are again in checkroom; everyone are on the stage.)

SARA: *(winces, jump from the dream)*

Oh my God! What a dream!

MARIJA: *(See Hasan)*

(For herself)

My eyes, calm down!

I don't dare even to think!

What a miracle this is!

ANA: *(stands up smiling, warmly talk to Adnan, Hasan and Osman)*

Good evening, good people! *(stays in conversation with Adnan and Osman)*

HASAN: *(to Sarah i Maria)*

We didn't mean to wake you up. Or frighten!

OSMAN: (*talking joyfully to Ana*)

I had a dream about You!

(*Ana, Osman and Adnan chat*)

HASAN: (*to Maria*)

Especially I don't want to scare You!

MARIJA: (*for herself*)

Heart, calm down!

SARA: (*to Hasan*)

Can the love be,

above the earthly laws?

Yes, my dream is alive,

and in the dream we were all the same,

no matter how big otherness is.

How to live with this dream now? (*Breaking his hands put the head in hands*)

HASAN: (*to Sara*)

Forgive, my soul vein

From your glance,

Because I believe,

Maria is the soul of my soul,

mine,

because I have dreamed her.

Hers face is on my paintings!

Don't torture me!

(Sara starts falling; Hasan je gets her in his arms.)

Mother!

Oh, Maria,

Let me help you! *(Lifts Sara)*

ADNAN: *(Approaches good-humored)*

Hasan, Hasan,

My friend in misfortune,

Ana will help us to make shift

in Belgrade.

We were lucky to meet her!

(General approval)

ANA: *(help them to stand up)*

Don't worry, everything will be fine!

Let's go now all together, slowly!

Bus is arrived!

(They stand up and going to the bus station entrance)

FINALE

SEXTETTE (*everybody for own self, polyphony*):

ANA:

Let's awake the truth.

SARA:

Heal our soul.

MARIA:

I can see your light.

ADNAN:

Let us feel every single living being.

HASAN:

My soul needs height.

OSMAN:

Word is reality of the spirit!

(Everybody are with their own thoughts, going in column, slowly leaving the scene)

The End