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COMPOSER BRIAN CURRENT WINS PREMIO FEDORA AWARD
FOR HIS CHAMBER OPERA “AIRLINE ICARUS”; PERFORMANCE SCHEDULED



Composer Brian Current has been named winner of the third edition of Italy's international Premio Fedora Award for his 2005 chamber opera, *Airline Icarus*. The work will receive its first staged production under the auspices of the Atelier La Voce dell'Arte on April 29, 2011, at the Grand Hotel Dino of Baveno, on the shores of Italy's Lake Maggiore.

The award is given annually to the composer of a previously unperformed, one-scene work lasting between 45 minutes and one hour and scored for not more than five solo voices and an instrumental ensemble of no more than 15 performers. The jury for the award comprised Louis Andriessen of the Netherlands, Lyell Cresswell of New Zealand and Giovanni Bietti and Enzo Restagno from Italy.

Brian Current said, “I’m simply thrilled – this has been a long time coming for a piece I've been reworking on and off for almost a decade and has never received a staged performance. I’m very grateful to all those who helped, as funding organizations, as musicians, as directors and performers — all have been crucial to the development of the work”.

Airline Icarus is a music drama about the intersecting thoughts of passengers aboard a commercial airplane. It explores themes of hubris mixed with technology, the forced intimacy of strangers, and flying too close to the sun. The piece is presented with the singers performing in front of video screens that depict a dreamlike airplane in flight. The screens change continuously according to the point of view of the drama. Over the course of the 50-minute length of the work, the plane becomes brighter and brighter and eventually vanishes.

The work is scored for eight singers, flute, clarinet, piano, percussion, strings and electronic soundfiles. Although excerpts have been performed by Soundstreams in Toronto and by [New York City Opera](#), the performance in Verbania will be its world premiere.

Brian Current studied at McGill and the University of California at Berkeley. He prizes include the CBC National Competition for Young Composers (2001), the Barlow Prize (2003), and most recently, the K.M. Hunter Award (2010). Two other premieres will be given during the 2010-2011 season: in February, *Strata* will be played by its commissioning ensemble, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, and in April, *Whirling Dervish*, for Sufi Dervish and orchestra will receive its first performance by the Kirchner-Waterloo Symphony.

Brian Current lives in Toronto, where he serves on the faculty of the Glenn Gould School of Music at the Royal Conservatory.

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