

LSD: HUXLEY'S LAST TRIP

a one-act chamber opera exploring consciousness, power,
and transcendence in mid-twentieth-century America

Music and Libretto by Anne LeBaron
with libretto contributions from
Gerd Stern and Ed Rosenfeld



The LSD Trio: Love, Sex, and Death

OVERVIEW

A visionary opera tracing the cultural, political, and psychological impact of LSD in mid-twentieth-century America, culminating in Aldous Huxley's final moments on the day of JFK's assassination.

SYNOPSIS

(see Full Synopsis for scene-by-scene descriptions)

Spanning two turbulent decades of discovery and paranoia in mid-twentieth-century America, *LSD: Huxley's Last Trip* traces the rise of an unprecedented chemical force as it moves through the hands of scientists, CIA operatives, and a visionary writer/philosopher, culminating in a quiet act of transcendence amid a national tragedy.

Featuring Albert Hofmann, Aldous Huxley, and Mary Meyer within a larger cast, the opera shifts fluidly between historical fact and hallucinatory experience, guided by the recurring presence of the LSD Trio, three sopranos who personify the drug as a seductive, mind-expanding, and ultimately transformative force.

Encompassing scientific breakthroughs, utopian visions, CIA mind control experiments, and political power, the opera culminates on November 22, 1963, when Aldous Huxley takes LSD on his deathbed as news of JFK's assassination unfolds in the background. In a final act of compassion, his wife Laura sings him "into the light."

PRODUCTION DETAILS

CAST: 10 singers and 1 actor (portraying 23 roles)

INSTRUMENTATION: Chamber ensemble + microtonal instruments designed by Harry Partch (optional)

DURATION: 90 minutes

STAGING: Flexible; suitable for multiple venue types

RELEVANCE

A work that resonates with contemporary conversations around power, consciousness, science, and ethics, *LSD: Huxley's Last Trip* invites audiences to reconsider a pivotal era whose unresolved tensions continue to shape our world.

CONTACT For inquiries, scores, and production materials: alebaron@calarts.edu