

LIBRETTO

Free Will

ACT I SCENE 1

1st scene ANGELS' EMERGENCY SESSION

GABRIEL, the CEA of angels has called an emergency session because God's project to save the world called Free Will is failing. Angels GAZARDIEL and JOPHIEL try to come up with ideas, but neither one of them manages to convince Gabriel. Finally a young angel called BASTIANEL has the courage to open her mouth and she has an idea that Gabriel likes: sending back to Earth human geniuses of former times. Together the angels come up with three names to save the world: Mozart to improve it with music, Oscar Wilde with his words and Joan of Arc to be the charismatic leader. They will be taken from the limbo and sent back.

(1)Overture ... music commenting on videoclips and pictures showing mankind's suffering projected on a screen... God's musical voice slowly emerging (as a kind of main theme) and then, at the climax of the overture, awfully thundering with no underlying music ...

2) Sudden darkness and absolute silence fall on stage (few seconds)
3) Lights turn on the Angels Board of Directors meeting, several angels seated round a conference table. An administrative assistant, Bastianel, stands quietly aside when not engaged in passing out copies of documents, refilling cups, or fetching supplies. Gabriel, trance-like, eyes closed and arms raised, channels God's thoughts in a kind of stream-of-consciousness:

GABRIEL

Bleak, blind, murky earth
Doubing, doomed, desolate souls
Violent, malignant, warring spirits
withering wretched wasteland
distress...distress

(Gabriel's meditative state ends. He opens his eyes and lowers his hands to his side. Picking up a tablet from the table, Gabriel assumes a direct and very serious manner, scanning his notes then addressing the collective of angels.)

GABRIEL

As your CEA
I've called this emergency session
At God's request

As these images demonstrate
The Free Will Project
Has not met God's expectations
Famine and Fear
Terror and Greed
Their 'milestone' of a new century
Did nothing
To keep their eyes on eternity
And our merger with Globalism
Still nets a gain in devastations

God is firm
The deadline is now
We must act
Use our insight
And our influence
To help fix this creation
So I open the floor
To your propositions

GAZARDIEL

I think it's about time we show
humans
Those ignorant little creatures
Let's give them a run for their money!
I'm talking about a serious
punishment!
A good old fashioned punishment!
I'm talking about floods!
I'm talking about massive
earthquakes!

Let's show them
They've seen nothing yet!

JOPHIEL
Hate to say this
But isn't that kind of obvious?
That's pretty much
What's been going on lately...

GAZARDIEL
You don't get it, do you?
Let's give them something
They can't misinterpret!
A fire rain or a Deluge
You get the picture.

JOPHIEL
Is chaos really the answer?
More fear?
More hate?
More pain, more suffering?

GAZARDIEL
All right, all right
You come up with something better.

JOPHIEL
How about this?
A new Messiah!

GAZARDIEL

Look what happened to the last one?

JOPHIEL

But this time it's going to be different

Thanks to modern technology

Their methods can spread

The word faster, more purely

No riddles or parables or *whatever*

they were

A Prophet who dies happily

...I like 'happily'

GABRIEL

This didn't work as God planned last time.

People divided instead of united.

And it's still getting worse day by day!

Really makes God look bad.

No, I'm afraid we can't risk it

GAZARDIEL

I'm just saying

Punishment!

JOPHIEL

Messiah!

GAZARDIEL

Punishment!

JOPHIEL

Messiah!

BASTANIEL

Excuse me!

I'm very sorry to interrupt

But I have an idea

GAZARDIEL

But you are very small and insignificant

GABRIEL

We are running out of options here

Let the boy speak

BASTIANEL

I mean what about

Instead of messengers

Who never fit in

We could send leaders

Who, instead of rejecting money and power

Adapt them, use them as the tools they are

To change big things, in bigger ways

Creative minds, genius of the past times

Look down into the Limbo

I'm sure there we will find the right

Men

GAZARDIEL

So you think some sinner

Might fit better than

A pure angel of God?

GABRIEL

Too much blood

JOPHIEL

That must be the craziest idea

ANGELS:

I've heard in my life

Aristotle?

GABRIEL

GABRIEL

Be quiet, both of you!

Out of touch.

Bastianel, I like your idea

It's crazy, I admit

BASTIANEL

But at least it's something new

How about Oscar Wilde?

Now who do you have in mind?

GABRIEL:

(This is where the angels decide who

Now you're talking

they will send back to Earth)

He could both think and talk

ACT I Scene I part 2

JOPHIEL

GABRIEL

Maybe technology

I want to hear some names

Could use a Bulldozer too?

GAZARDIEL and JOPHIEL

Merged with biology

JFK! MLK!

GAZARDIEL

With a strong arm to push through

GABRIEL

Politics, boundaries

Wounds too fresh

Rules and traditions and feuds

ANGELS:

GABRIEL

Attila the Hun? Napoleon?

The taproot of disease--

BASTIANEL

could be cured-- and hunger too!!

GABRIEL

But who?

ANGELS

Einstein of course!

GABRIEL

No, not a passivist

ANGELS:

Leonardo!

GABRIEL

No, we need someone to lead
not just go their own way

BASTIANEL

Joan of Arc!

GABRIEL

Finally!

A fighter and a visionary
But I still feel we lack of something
Something more complex
Not easily put in words

BASTIANEL:

Maybe a composer, musician
To transform the world stage
But who's the greatest of them all?

Pause. Gabriel and the angels
exchange contemplative glances.

Bastianel barely disguises disbelief.

Almost with a hum, Bastianel softly
prompts with "M---"

Gabriel and the angel unwittingly
catch the spark of her thought and
shout triumphantly in unison:

"MOZART!

GABRIEL

"Go! Gather them! "

All rush offstage.

ACT I SCENE 2

2nd scene LUCIFER FINDS OUT

LUCIFER finds out that Heaven is trying to save the world again when one of her helpers inform her that three souls are missing from the limbo. She orders the GIANTS, played by the choir to go and find these souls. LUCIFER claims that she will defeat Heaven for good.

LUCIFER

Have you noticed how God seems to talk down to us

Like if he broke it down to us

We'd turn to the light?

Oh, but we know

We know how it really goes

We know what's what

Don't we?

CHOIR

We do, Your Highness

We know what's what

LUCIFER

It's another fine day for us

Terrible news from around the World

A MEMBER OF THE CROWD

Will you comment on the souls missing from Limbo, Your Highness?

LUCIFER

WHAT?!

One of Lucifer's aides walks over to her holding out a Blackberry, shows her the screen. Lucifer takes the Blackberry and scrolls rapidly, pursing her lips

Another member of the crowd shouts out:

The blogs say sixty-three grams disappeared from Limbo!

LUCIFER

Sixty-three grams

would equal

(looking up) three souls!

(Pause, Lucifer gathers herself)

Once again

The Enemy tries to use a band-aid

To stop their own gunshot wound

Three souls to save the World?

Well isn't that sweet

CHOIR

But aren't you furious, Your Highness

With enemy trying to interfere with

Your glorious plans?

LUCIFER

I'm not furious, I'm amused

At least this'll keep me

From getting bored

I think this is the moment

To show who's the boss

For once and for all

CHOIR

Show them, Your Highness!

For once and for all!

LUCIFER

Now go and find

These ridiculous souls

It's time to humiliate Heaven

CHOIR

We will make you proud, Your

Highness!

We'll create the most terrifying chaos

In the history of Heaven and Earth

LUCIFER

Good.

Now get on with it.

ACT II Scene 3

3rd scene GENIOUSES ARE BACK

Bastianel gives the geniouses their last instructions and leaves them on their own. The geniouses find out their new jobs: Mozart will be a singer songwriter, Wilde the new Secretary General of UN and Joan of Arc the leader of the world's largest bank group. Mozart and Wilde are hesitant at first but Joan of Arc convinces them to trust God.

BASTIANEL

So now

You've been caught up to date

You're current with culture

and aware of present state

Know now

Our door's always open (gestures skywards)

And I am nearby too

Off you go then --best of luck to you!

(Bastianel abruptly disappears, leaving our 3 each holding a piece of paper with their new 'job descriptions'.)

WILDE (reading in disgruntled disbelief)

Secretary General

He sounds disagreeable

I once said God punishes

By answering our prayers

MOZART (reading, rather insulted)

Singer songwriter

I guess then I'm a troubadour?

JOAN (merely skimming the paper)

Banking leader

Whatever this is—

God will be there!

WILDE

So they believe

we'll fix things up

MOZART

Don't look at me

I just woke up

WILDE

I can't believe that's all they'll say

MOZART

You mean before we're cast away?

WILDE

When did we all agree to this?

MOZART

I don't feel well, I'm getting sick

JOAN

Dying was bad but it doesn't last!

WILDE

This feels like being back in jail

W & M

Dying was bad and that's a fact!

MOZART

It feels like being sent to HELL

JOAN

Help yourself and God will help you

JOAN (impatient):

Oh stop whining

MOZART

There is nothing

Even you

all that pressing

you were doing

WILDE

You were dead!

Must admit

WILDE

WILDE, MOZART

Easy to say for Joan of Arc

It didn't work that way before

MOZART

WILDE

As a saint you've a running start

What is different?

JOAN

MOZART

Pray, then act

What is better?

W & M (sarcastic):

JOAN (aria)

Like it's magic!

This time money's on our side

No selling souls no losing pride

JOAN

Pray, then act

Look at people, look at life

Don't tell me it's not worth a try!

W & M

Stop your whining and wake up

We can't do it

What more do you want?

You're alive!

This time money's on our side

No selling souls no losing pride

Don't you remember who we are?

We're Wilde, Mozart and Arc!

Our audience is guaranteed

We have the power and prestige

Help yourself and God will help you

Trust in God and He will help you

MOZART

For all I know

She could be right

WILDE

But what if not?

MOZART

It's worth a try

JOAN, MOZART, WILDE

Our audience is guaranteed

We have the power and prestige

WILDE

We're starting at the end, you see

JOAN, MOZART, WILDE

maybe we really can succeed

JOAN

I hear the angels, I'm ready to begin

MOZART

I can imagine I hear the muse,

let's get to work

J & M (brightly resolved to their fate

now):

We'll pretend

We'll muscle through it

So we die again

There's nothing to it!

There's nothing to it!

WILDE (warming up more slowly):

nothing lost is nothing gained...

I guess that I can try again

ARC, WILDE, MOZART

and if we die well then—so what?

ACT II Scene 4

4th scene LUCIFER'S MEETING WITH WORLD LEADERS

*This is the current writing task.
Lucifer meets three leaders:
URAKABARAMEEL, AZAZEL and
ZAVEBE to plot against the
geniuses. She tells them that
Wilde is going to declare new
human rights, Joan of Arc is
going to pay the debts of the
developing countries and Mozart
is going to have a charity tour for
the benefit of all the poor
mothers and their children. They
agree to kill Oscar Wilde, attack
Arc's bank by hacking and launch
a blackmailing campaign against
Mozart.*

LUCIFER:

I have called you here
To protect what we hold dear
It's the thing that we share
And control with utmost care

Zavabe, Azazel, Urakabameel,
alarmed:

What is it that you've heard?
What is it that you've heard?
You bought our souls
We have made good
Stayed corrupted like we should!

LUCIFER starts by reassuring them
with praise, then ends sharply with
her point:

You have done so well
What a ranking you now hold
I have left you alone
Now the bets are being called

CHORUS of Giants, pandering to
Lucifer, lecture the 3:

You owe Her the ranking you now hold
yes you do
You owe Her the ranking you now hold

ZAVABE, Azazel, Urakabameel,
defensively and yet somewhat
boastfully:

Zavabe: I govern banks
Azazel: I rule the mob
Urakabameel: I monopolize media
We do our jobs
We do them well
We globalize your principles

LUCIFER, smarmily:

Come now, there's always room to
raise the bar a little bit, isn't there?
Chorus of Giants, obsequiously:
Come now, there's always room to
raise the bar a little bit
A little bit
A little bit

Somehow
Somehow
Somehow

ZAVABE, Azazel, Urakabarmeel,
confused and still deeply concerned:
What is it that you've heard?
What is it that you've heard?
You bought our souls
We have made good
Spread corruption like we should!

LUCIFER gets more specific:
Zavabe, my friend
Have you heard Joan Archer's plans?
to pay away the debt
Of the poorest of nations

Lucifer:
So now
What do you think will happen to your
precious banks
if she does?

Chorus of Giants, in ludicrous mimicry:
So now
what do you think will happen to your
precious banks
if she does?

Zavabe, distraught:
I govern banks

This cannot be
We'd all be facing bankruptcy!

Pleased with Zavabe's reaction, Lucifer
now turns now to Azazel:

My dear Azazel
Round up your crime cartel
Wilde's speech Friday at noon
Must be stopped or there'll be hell

Lucifer now spins abruptly to confront
Urakabarmeel:

Urakabarmeel
This Zohart has such appeal
The music industry
All looks bad compared to he

Lucifer continues, coaxingly:
Surely
There must be a way to tarnish up his
image
Isn't there?

Zavabe, Azazel, Urakabarmeel stare
mutely back at Lucifer, aghast.

Lucifer brings her point home again:
I have called you here
To protect what we hold dear
It's the thing that we share
And control with utmost care
You have done so well
What a ranking you now hold

I have left you alone
Now the bets are being called

Chorus of Giants:
You owe Her the ranking you now hold
yes you do
You owe Her the ranking you now hold

Meanwhile Zavabe, Azazel,
Urakabameel pace worriedly,
discussing amongst themselves. Some
resolution is reached, and all three
sing in sequence in a manner meant to
placate Lucifer:

Urakabameel:
A tabloid here

Azazel:
A sniper there

Zavabe:
A hacker with both skill and flair...

Azazel, Urakabameel, Zavabe:
We'll do our jobs
We'll do them well
We guarantee your victory!
We guarantee their misery!

5th scene WILDE'S SPEECH

Oscar Wilde is going to deliver a speech reading a new Universal chart of the rights of man. There is an assassin hiding in the crowd ready to shoot Wilde but this attempt fails.

** Who is the assassin, is it Lucifer or one of the leaders? How will it fail?*

ACT III: CHAOS AND ESCAPE

** This is one possible place for Mozart's charity concert.*

6th scene TRIUMPH AND CHAOS

News coming from all over the world testify that God's plan worked fine . The geniuses are celebrating their success. Suddenly bad news break in: The repayment of the debts of the poor countries has made the whole financial market collapse. Millions of new unemployed men and women light up violent riots along the streets of the capitals in Europe and US. Oscar Wilde is killed by a fanatic.

7th scene THE END

Mozart and Joan of Arc have escaped with the help of the angels and are now waiting for new instructions from God on an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

** The atmosphere and message of the last scene is still open for discussion.*

