

OPERA BABEL

ZUZANA MICHLEROVÁ

The opera *Babel* written by the Czech music composer Zuzana Michlerová and the librettist, painter, stage director and scenographer Vladimír Kiseljov interconnects the theme of the Biblical Fall of the Tower of Babel, the Flood and the redemption of the world by Love. The story has its roots in the Bible and in history, however, there is a strong parallel with contemporary society as well. The Tower of Babel is a symbol of an abstract system created by people and characterized by rush, stereotype, ignorance, loss of understanding among people, lack of love, respect and logical thinking, all of that having no positive future and leading to decadence and destruction. But people are already manipulated to such an extent that they even do not realize the wretchedness of that state and they are thus slaves to the stereotype they are incapable of abandoning. One of important ideas of the work is that even an individual (as a part of an interconnected mosaic) is capable of bringing a change into the whole system (society) if he/she can find force to quit the stereotype and thus make the old functionless system fall and create space for establishing a new system. The important element of the change is the force of love, respect, open mind, will to advance, qualities that are anchored deep in human nature.

The total length of the opera - cca 65 minutes