

VOCAL SCORE

DINNER AT EIGHT

AN OPERA IN TWO ACTS

Based on the play *Dinner at Eight* by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber



DINNER AT EIGHT

Music by William Bolcom · Libretto by Mark Campell



BOLCOM MUSIC



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Commissioned by Minnesota Opera
A Minnesota Opera New Works Initiative Production

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ORCHESTRATION

2 Flutes (2. dbl. Piccolo)
2 Oboes (2. dbl. English Horn)
2 Clarinets in Bb (1. dbl. Clarinet in Eb,
2. dbl. Bass Clarinet in Bb)
Alto Saxophone in Eb
Bassoon
Contrabassoon

3 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C (1. dbl. Piccolo Trumpet in Eb)
Tenor Trombone (with F attachment)
Tuba

Timpani
3 Percussion
Harp (Optional)
Keyboard (with Piano, Celesta, Harpsichord,
Electric Piano and Marimba sounds)

Onstage Solo Viola
Strings

Running time is approximately 2 hours and 6 minutes,
Including one 20-minute intermission.

Production Support includes The National Endowment for the Arts, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc., and The Amphion Foundation, Inc. New Works Initiative Supporters include the Ruth Easton Fund of the Edelstein Family Foundation in honor of Tom McBurney, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

WILLIAM BOLCOM
Dinner at Eight
 Opera in Two Acts in English

Libretto by Mark Campbell based on the play, *Dinner at Eight*, by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber.

First performed by Minnesota Opera at the Ordway Music Theater, March 11, 16, 18, and 19, 2017.

Cast of first performance

Principals [in order of appearance]

<i>Millicent Jordan</i>	Mary Dunleavy
<i>Oliver Jordan</i>	Stephen Powell
<i>Paula Jordan</i>	Siena Forest
<i>Carlotta Vance</i>	Brenda Harris
<i>Dan Packard</i>	Craig Irvin
<i>Kitty Packard</i>	Susannah Biller
<i>Lucy Talbot</i>	Adriana Zabala
<i>Larry Renault</i>	Richard Troxell
<i>Dr. Joseph Talbot</i>	Andrew Garland

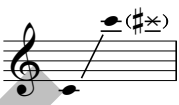















Other roles

<i>Max Kane</i>	Benjamin Sieverding
<i>Gustave</i>	Thomas Glass
<i>Miss Copeland</i>	Mary Evelyn Hanglely
<i>Tina</i>	Nadia Fayad
<i>Miss Alden</i>	Alexandra Razskazoff
<i>Eddie</i>	Tom Ringberg
<i>Mr. Hatfield</i>	William Lee Bryan
<i>Zoltán</i>	Andy Stein

Creative team

<i>Conductor</i>	David Agler
<i>Stage Director</i>	Tomer Zvulun
<i>Set Design</i>	Alexander Dodge
<i>Costume Design</i>	Victoria Tzykun
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Robert Wierzel
<i>Sound Design</i>	Kevin Springer
<i>Wigs and Makeup Design</i>	David Zimmerman
<i>Dramaturg</i>	David Sander
<i>Production Stage Manager</i>	Kerry Masek

Cast

MILLICENT JORDAN	Lyric coloratura soprano.	40-43 years old. Wife of Oliver, mother of Paula; a veneer of vapidness hides an inner resolve.	
OLIVER JORDAN	Baritone	50-55 years old. Husband of Millicent, father of Paula; quiet, dignified, sensitive.	
PAULA JORDAN	Soprano	19-20 years old. Daughter of Oliver and Millicent; stylish, confident, but naive about love.	
CARLOTTA VANCE	Soprano	50-55 years old. A former star of the theatre; still vital, with a flair for the dramatic.	
DAN PACKARD	Baritone	30-35 years old. Husband of Kitty Packard; self-important businessman, a loud-mouth.	
KITTY PACKARD	Soprano	22-27 years old. Bored wife of Dan Packard; sexy, sleek, and knows her power.	
LUCY TALBOT	Mezzo-Soprano	35-40 years old. Wife of Dr. Talbot; smart, poised and unhappy in her marriage.	
LARRY RENAULT	Tenor	45-49 years old. A former movie star; faded from too much drink. He is a casualty of the end of the silent era.	
DR. JOSEPH TALBOT	Baritone	35-40 years old. Husband of Lucy Talbot; handsome, confident, starting to show a conscience.	
MAX KANE	Bass	30-35 years old. Larry's agent.	
GUSTAVE	Baritone	25-35 years old. The Jordans' butler.	
MISS COPELAND	Soprano	40-45 years old. Oliver's secretary.	
TINA	Mezzo-Soprano	20-25 years old. Kitty's maid.	
MISS ALDEN	Soprano	25-30 years old. Dr. Talbot's assistant.	
EDDIE	Tenor	16-18 years old. Hotel Versailles bellboy.	
MR. HATFIELD	Baritone	30 years old. Hotel Versailles manager.	
ZOLTÁN	Non speaking role	Onstage Solo Violist	

Guide to Idiomatic Notation

ACCIDENTALS

Courtesy accidentals are added to ease sightreading. Accidentals still remain in force and are canceled in the traditional way. Fewer or no courtesy accidentals are found in music with a key signature.

VOCAL NOTATION

Three forms of notation indicate other than normal singing tone. These are indicated as follows:

Figure 1



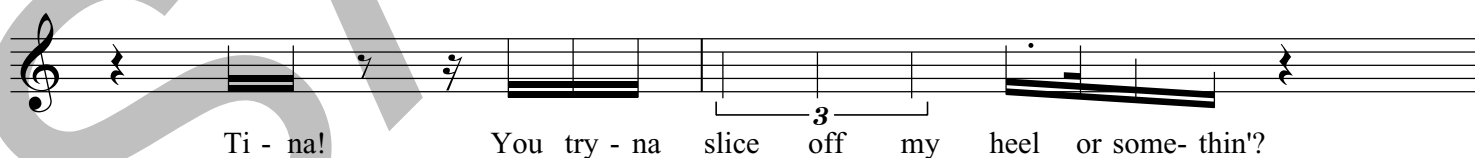
In Figure 1, a normal notehead with an x through its stem indicates a general allusion to pitch, but in a speaking tone.

Figure 2



In Figure 2, the x-noteheads give the general contour of the line, but pitches are not as important as in Figure 1. The notes are spoken.

Figure 3



In Figure 3, stems without noteheads give just the rough shape of the spoken line..

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Setting: New York City, 1931

ACT I

Prologue 1	(a Manhattan Skyline).....	1
	ENSEMBLE: MAX, GUSTAVE, MISS COPELAND, TINA, MISS ALDEN, EDDIE, MR. HATFIELD, ZOLTÁN	
Scene One No. 1-1	(The drawing room of the Jordan home, 9:00 AM, Friday MILLICENT, OLIVER, GUSTAVE, PAULA.....	9
Scene Two	(Oliver Jordan's business office in Lower Manhattan, 1:00 PM, Friday)	
No. 2-1	MISS COPELAND, OLIVER, CARLOTTA.....	40
No. 2-2	CARLOTTA, OLIVER, MISS COPELAND, PACKARD.....	51
No. 2-3	OLIVER.....	64
Scene Three No. 3-1	(Kitty's bedroom in the Packard penthouse, 4:00 PM, Friday) KITTY, TINA, PACKARD, DR. TALBOT.....	69
Scene Four No. 4-1	(The drawing room of the Jordan home, 3:00 PM, Wednesday) LUCY, MILLICENT, PAULA.....	87
No. 4-2	PAULA, LARRY.....	96
Scene Five No. 5-1	(Larry Renault's room in the Hotel Versailles, 2:00 PM, Friday) LARRY, PAULA, MAX, EDDIE.....	100
No. 5-2	LARRY.....	115
Scene Six No. 6-1	(The drawing room of the Jordan home, 4:00 PM, Friday) MILLICENT, CARLOTTA, PAULA, GUSTAVE, OLIVER.....	121

ACT II

Before Act II: Entr'acte		142
Prologue 2	(a Manhattan Skyline).....	148
	ENSEMBLE: MAX, GUSTAVE, MISS COPELAND, TINA, MISS ALDEN, EDDIE, MR. HATFIELD, ZOLTÁN	
Scene One No. 1-1	(Dr. Talbot's office, 5:00 PM, Friday) MISS ALDEN, DR. TALBOT, OLIVER, LUCY.....	152
No. 1-2	LUCY, MISS ALDEN, DR. TALBOT.....	158
Scene Two No. 2-1	(The drawing room of the Jordan home, 6:15 PM, Friday) MILLICENT.....	167
Scene Three No. 3-1	(Kitty's bedroom in the Packard penthouse, 7:00 PM, Friday) KITTY, PACKARD, TINA.....	170
No. 3-2	KITTY, PACKARD, TINA.....	180
Scene Four No. 4-1	(The drawing room of the Jordan home, 7:45 PM, Friday) MILLICENT.....	188
Scene Five No. 5-1	(Larry Renault's room in the Hotel Versailles, 8:00 PM, Friday) LARRY, MAX, MR. HATFIELD.....	192
Scene Six No. 6-1	(The drawing room of the Jordan home, 8:15 PM, Friday) ZOLTÁN, MILLICENT, GUSTAVE, KITTY, PACKARD, OLIVER, LUCY, DR. TALBOT, CARLOTTA, PAULA.....	205

The creators of *Dinner At Eight* dedicate this score
to the memory of Arnold Weinstein.

DINNER at EIGHT

Libretto by
MARK CAMPBELL

Music by
WILLIAM BOLCOM

ACT I, Prologue 1

[Full Overture. Lights up on a Manhattan skyline.]

Tempo di Broadway, $\text{♩} = 152$ or slower

simile

Orchestra

f brash

6

fp *p* *f* *fp* *p* *cresc.*

B.D. *fz*

11

ffz *f* *f*

16

cresc. *ff*

[An ENSEMBLE composed of MAX KANE, GUSTAVE, MISS COPELAND, TINA, MISS ALDEN, EDDIE, MR. HATFIELD and the VIOLIST strides onstage in costumes and props befitting THEIR professions. THEY sing.]

21

Ensemble:

Times may be tough, Times may be
Times may be tough, Times may be

fffz mf *mp*

26

queer, Don't let it bring On a sin - gle tear.
queer, Don't let it bring On a sin - gle tear.

f

31

De-spite your woes, The bub - bly still flows... The par - ty goes on..
De-spite your woes, The bub - bly still flows... The par - ty goes on..

p *cresc.* *ff* *ffz*



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