

# The Canticle of the Black Madonna

A SOLDIER'S JOURNEY FROM THE DESOLATION OF WAR  
TO THE HEALING EMBRACE OF LOVE

## ENDORSEMENTS

"You honor me, and my brothers and sisters in arms, with this opera. Please know that as a combat veteran I am truly and deeply touched that you have undertaken such an elusive and misunderstood issue as combat-related PTSD in America today. I am thankful to you all for what you do, and I know my fallen friends would be as well."

Miah Washburn, 1SG, U.S. Army Infantry

"In my career as a professional opera singer, I have premiered countless new works, but none has moved me so deeply as *The Canticle of the Black Madonna*. This important story of extreme loss and profound love is both timely and timeless. I applaud every note of this opera."

Pamela South, Grammy award-winning,  
nationally-renowned soprano

"With a unique blend of the sacred and the everyday, *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* is one of the most original pieces on which I've worked. It presents us with a rare opportunity to dramatize one of the greatest challenges facing us as a nation: healing the wounds of a long and difficult war. Fusing ancient musical forms with modern themes, it explores all the archetypes that make for great drama: love, loss, the return from war and the struggle to make sense of suffering."

Kristine McIntyre, Stage Director, formally with the Metropolitan Opera and the San Francisco Opera, now one of the nation's leading freelance specialists in premiering contemporary works

"*The Canticle of the Black Madonna* is that very special kind of art that genuinely helps people who have fallen into desperate isolation. It grabs you and says, 'You're not alone; you're not misunderstood after all; there's still hope.' This is the kind of art that saved my life."

Sean Davis, former SFC, U.S. Army Infantry

"Classical music is often rightly accused of ignoring the here and now. Fortunately, many younger composers are using classical and postclassical forms to help us understand the sometimes-unpleasant realities of the world we live in."

Brett Campbell, Editor and Cofounder of Oregon ArtsWatch, writing about *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* composer Ethan Gans-Morse

"*The Canticle of the Black Madonna* opened my heart and brought new healing to me, 44 years after I returned from Vietnam. This is a gift that should be shared with the world."

Bill Ritch, combat veteran,  
Silver Star recipient,  
former West Point Instructor

"Over the course of my career, I have worked with hundreds of films, operas, theater companies, and ballets, but none have touched me on the level of *The Canticle of the Black Madonna*. Words cannot describe how moved I was watching this piece. God has blessed you with the insight to produce this opera at this, the right time."

Mark Stafford, Owner of  
Stafford Video Productions

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