

DEATH'S JEST-BOOK

A GROTESQUE MUSICAL COMEDY

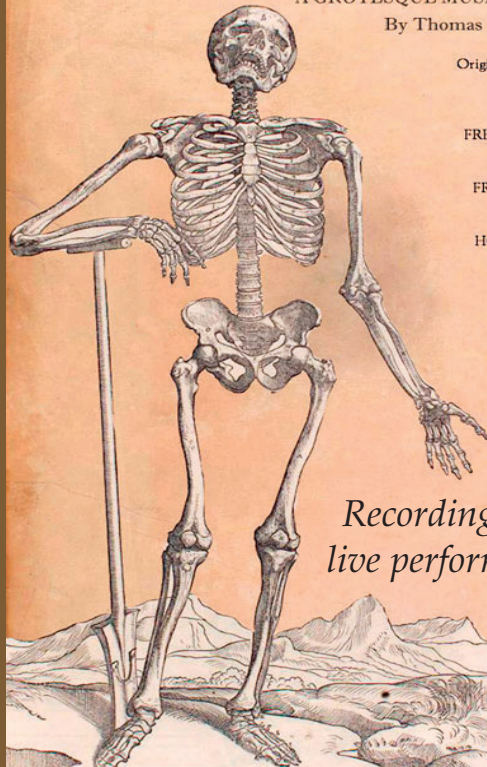
By Thomas Lovell Beddoes

Original Musical Score by
BRIAN HOLMES

Directed by
FREDRICK BURWICK

Choreography by
FRANCINE MAIGUE

Vocal Direction by
HOLLEY REPLOGLE



*Recording of a
live performance*

Death's Jest Book, Libretto by Thomas Lovell Beddoes, adapted by Jerome McGann, Music by Brian Holmes

1.	Mandrake's Song ("Folly hath now turned out of door")	1:45
2.	Kate and Chorus: Song from the Ship ("To sea, to sea")	1:48
3.	Sibylla: Song from the Waters ("The swallow leaves her nest")	1:44
4.	Wolfram and Sibylla: The Phantom Wooer ("A ghost, that loved a lady fair")	3:12
5.	Mandrake: Wolfram's Dirge ("If thou wilt ease thine heart")	2:01
6.	Mandrake and Kate: The New Cecilia ("Whoever has heard of St. Gingo")	4:02
7.	Beddoes: The New Dodo ("Squats on a toadstool")	6:15
8.	Entr'acte: Sibylla: Dream-Pedlary	2:05
9.	Kate and Chorus: Song in the Air ("The moon doth mock")	2:36
10.	Chorus: Song of the Deaths ("Mummies and skeletons")	5:34
11.	Wolfram, Melveric, Beddoes: Drinking Song ("My goblet's golden lips")	2:40
12.	Wolfram's Song ("Old Adam, the carrion crow")	2:52
13.	Wolfram, Sibylla, and Chorus ("We do lie beneath the grass")	3:19
14.	Mandrake's Song ("Folly hath now turned out of door")	1:51

Thomas Lovell Beddoes began *Death's Jest Book* when he was a 22-year-old student who had left Oxford to continue his medical studies in Germany. When the play was rejected by his best friends, he fell into a bout of drinking and depression that ultimately resulted in his being expelled from Göttingen University. He completed his medical degree at Würzburg and spent the remaining 24 years of his life, until his ultimate suicide, adding songs and scenes to his play. The themes were immediately tied to his tormented homosexuality, and to the experience that taught him that all expressions of desire were taboo and must be repressed or hidden. Lovers love in vain: the only consummation is in the grave. Dramatic moments of grief lapse inevitably into mocking fatalism. One by one, each of the characters is murdered, yet each refuses to die and continues to play.

DEATH
BEDDOES, *Poet and Mountebank*
HOMUNCULUS MANDRAKE, *Zany to a Mountebank*
MELVERIC, *Duke of Münsterberg*
WOLFRAM, *a Knight*
ZIBA, *Necromancer*
TORWALD, *the Duke's Minister*
SIBYLLA, *rescued from captivity*
KATE, *Tavern Hostess and companion to Mandrake*
CHORUS
MUSICIANS

Tom Wheatley
Daniel Zamani
William Bibbiani
Zachary Gallagher
Stephen Pu
A. J. Rodriguez
Greg Cragg
Holley Replogle
Rebecca Wyrstek
Veronica Bitz, Kristin Crawford, SunMin Kim
Jeff Moguillansky (keyboard), Master Kaneshiro (guitar),
Jong Ling Wu (flute), Brian Holmes (horn)