
DIFFERENCES IN DEMOLITIONS

presented by Opera Circus

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT GOLDEN
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The music of the Balkans inspires Differences in Demolitions, internationally regarded composer Nigel Osborne's latest work for Opera Circus.

The Balkans, and Bosnia in particular, have been torn apart by ethnic diversity. Yet that same diversity has produced an extraordinarily rich musical heritage. Sevdah music which affected Osborne deeply, draws on Bosnian, Greek and Turkish folk traditions blended with Jewish Sephardic music and seductive Roma song. The opera is based on librettist Goran Simic's poem of the same name. This opera is full of the star-crossed lovers, betrayal and yearning for which 'Bosnian Blues' is famous.

Sevdah is the Turkish word for love or longing. In a world full of destruction and demolition, Hassan, a building worker, cherishes a secret love for Sevda. A mythical woman embroiders love, life and fate into a scarf. A story unfolds of war, greed and desire and the scarf is torn. Sevda begins a journey which unravels, like the scarf, to reveal love, longing...and revenge.

The production, which had its world premiere on June 9, 2007 in the Bosnian city of Mostar, famous for the destruction and rebirth of its exquisite bridge, features performers from Britain, Bosnia and Croatia and as well as playing in Scotland will tour Turkey, Georgia and the Balkans during 2008 and the USA in the Spring of 2009. Like all of Opera Circus's work, it connects with a varied audience, particularly those who wouldn't normally choose or have a chance to see opera.

Nigel Osborne studied composition with Kenneth Leighton, his predecessor as Reid Professor of Music at Edinburgh, with Egon Wellesz, the first pupil of Arnold Schoenberg and with Witold Rudzinski and at the Polish Radio Experimental Studio, in Warsaw. His works have been performed by leading orchestras and ensembles around the world, including the Moscow and Berlin Symphony Orchestras, the Philharmonia of London and Los Angeles Philharmonic. Nigel also pioneered the use of music to help rehabilitate children and young people who have been victims of conflict, and runs programmes in the Balkans, Caucasus, Africa and the Middle East.