

Krzysztof Meyer (*1943)

KYBERIADE, Op. 15 [1970]

Opera in 3 acts (11 scenes) by Krzysztof Meyer based on Mieczyslaw Lem's short stories "The Friend of the Automathias" and "The Story of the Three Storytelling Machines"

Polish – German by Jörg Morgener

full eve

Cosmic stranger	tenor
Trull, constructor	bass
Shining ring	coloratura soprano
Queen Genia	soprano
King Mandrilus the Greatest, ruler of the much-too-many	tenor
Postman of the much-too-many	mezzo soprano
Cunning, constructor of the dream cupboards.	baritone
King Voluptatus	heroic tenor
Knight Vinodur	bass
Old cyber-witch	contralto
Old man	low bass
Automathias	baritone
"In-the-Ear," a mini-computer	mezzo soprano and contralto
Perfect advisor, electronic Attorney and legal computer	speaking roles
The Much-too-many.	mixed choir
The Gewindianer	bass choir
Degenerals	tenor choir
Detectives.	men's choir
Princess Hopsala, 8 -10 young dancers	ballet

3(2picc).3(cor anglais).3(Eb clar, aalto sax, bass clar).3(db bn) – 4.4.3.1 – 5 perc (4 timp, crot, claves, guiro, steel plate, cym, tamb, 2 bongos, 4 tom-t, side dr, bass dr, gong, tam-t, chimes, glsp, xyl, vibr, marimba). harp. cel. piano. harm. strings

In an age inhabited by androids, the constructor Trull invents a storytelling machine for the melancholy Queen Genia; its tales are intended to entertain her and cheer her up. The first is about how Trull builds a super-computer for the King of Much-too-many, with whose help, however, he is to be himself turned off. Through a refined trick, however, Trull succeeds in thwarting the King's plan.

In the second story, King Voluptatus has three giant erotic dream cupboards built for his by the engineer Cunning, which he tires out with enthusiasm. Fully caught in this world of dreams, he loses his ability to return to reality.

In the story of the third machine, Automathias, shipwrecked, finds himself in great danger from which even his tiny computer "In-the-ear" sees no way out. After being rescued unexpectedly, he becomes a bitter enemy of technology for the rest of his existence.

At the end of this ironical-utopian reflection about earthy existence, there arises the insight that not money, progress and perfection can save the world, but only wisdom and truth.