

Otar Taktakishvili (1924-1989)

MINDIA [1959-1960]

Opera in 3 acts (3 scenes) by Revas Tabukashvili based on poems by Vasha-Pshavela (Luka Rasikashvili)
Russian by E. Alexandrow – German by Jörg Morgener (based on a translation by Nelly Amashukeli and Wolfgang Offermanns)

full eve

Mindia, young mountain dweller. *tenor*
 Msia, his lover *soprano*
 Tshalkhia, mountain dweller *baritone*
 Khevisberi, Mindia's father, leader of the mountain dwellers *bass*
 A messenger *bass*
 Village community – voice of Nature *mixed choir*

3(picc).3(cor anglais).3(bas clar).3(db bn) – 4.4.3.1 – timp. perc (timp, tgl, doli, side dr, bass dr, cym, bells, tam-t, glsp, xyl). harp. piano/cel. strings – banda: 3 trpt

In the fairytale-like past of Georgia lives Mindia, who has the ability to understand the “voices of nature” inhabiting plants and animals. He is fulfilled by their message of a life in love and harmony. For this reason, he refuses his father's command to take blood revenge against Tchalkhia, who has killed Mindia's brother. Mindia is mocked by the village community as a coward because of his refusal to take revenge. Mindia acts heroically during an invasion by foreign warriors. The enemies are finally chased away, but Msia, his lover, and Mindia's mortally wounded father again command Mindia to avenge the blood guilt. Mindia refuses again, but when Tchalkhia attacks he kills the opponent in self-defence. In deep remorse over his act, he leaves his home town. In the isolation of the mountains, he perceives the “voices of nature,” who, this time, accuse him of shedding of blood. He mortally wounds himself with the stab of a dagger and, dying, listens to the wondrous sounds of nature.