

The Hunger Art

AN OPERA IN ONE ACT

Libretto by
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(2007)

SCENE I: In the town square at midnight

Prague, 1924:

A chorus of **BUTCHERS** (including **BRONISLAV**, his assistant **JAN**, and his son **MILOS**) stands beside the giant cage of the hunger artist, bored, eating giant slabs of cooked meat off of large barbecue forks.

$\text{♩} = 112$

Soprano
Ivona

Tenor
Alfons

Countertenor
Milos

Tenor
Jan

Baritone
Bronislav

Piano

P marcato

cantabile

mp

p

8^{vb}

7

Pno.

mp

6

5

mf

mp

(8)

11

Pno.

mf

f

mp

15

Milos. *f* The Hun - ger Art ist is a sneak-y breed. *p* For thir- ty - eight

Jan. *f* The Hun - ger Art ist is a sneak-y breed. *p* For thir- ty - eight

Bron. *f* The Hun - ger Art ist is a sneak-y breed. *p* For thir- ty - eight

Pno. *f* *p*

20

Milos. *mp* days we butch-ers, we hon-est butch-ers, must en-sure that not a mor - sel, not a *mf*

Jan. *mp* days we butch-ers, we hon-est butch-ers, must en-sure that not a mor - sel, not a *mf*

Bron. *mp* days we butch-ers, we hon-est butch-ers, must en-sure that not a mor - sel, not a *mf*

Pno. *mp*

(ALFONS comes into view at the downstage-most part of his cage.
 HE is the Hunger Artist, and is searching through a pile of things.
 The BUTCHERS shine flashlights into the cage.)

25

Alfon.

Milos.
 sin - gle mor - sel_ touch - es their teeth! *ff*

Jan.
 sin - gle mor - sel_ touch - es their teeth! *ff*

Bron.
 sin - gle mor - sel_ touch - es their teeth! *ff*

Pno.

30

Milos.
 Look at the sneak! *f*

Jan.
 Look at the sneak! *f*

Bron.
 Look at the sneak! *f*

Pno.

8^{vb}

34

Milos. *p* Sneak-ing a - round.

Jan. *p* Sneak-ing a - round.

Bron. *p* Sneak-ing a - round.

Pno. *p marc.*

(8)

39

Milos. *p* Sneak!

Jan. *f* Sneak-

Bron. *f* Sneak-

Pno. *f sf mf*

(8)

44 *mf*

Milos. Prob - ab - ly search - ing for some food.

Jan. *mf* Prob - ab - ly search - ing for some food. (paying no attention to ALFONS) Butch - ers

Bron. *mf* Prob - ab - ly search - ing for some food.

Pno.

48

Jan. are de - pend - a - ble men.

Pno.

51

Jan. For for - ty days and for - ty nights we stand *f*

Pno.

(BUTCHERS use flashlights as swords.)

57

Milos. *f* On guard!

Jan. *f* guard!

Bron. *f* On guard!

Pno. *f dim.* 3 3

60

Jan. *mp* *f*
Cho-sen by the pub-lic to en - sure the sneak-y lit-tle sneaks don't sneak!

Pno. *mp* *fp* 3

64

Milos. *f* Oh! We drive the la - dies wild! They *mp*

Jan. *f* Oh! We drive the la - dies wild! They *mp*

Bron. *f* Oh! We drive the la - dies wild! They *mp*

Pno. *f sfz* *mp* 3 5 3 3 *cant.*

8^{vb} marc. 3

75

Milos.

Jan.

Bron.

mf (rubbing MILOS' head)

My lit-tle Mi-los has fin-al-ly be-come a man!

Pno.

mf

cresc.

marc.

79

Alfon.

Milos.

Jan.

Bron.

Pno.

mf

mp

f

mf

p

p

p

8vb

Ahhh!

A man I am!

A chip off the old-bl...(block)

Is the

Is the

Is the

(a caterwaul of hunger, cutting off BRON.)

freely ff

p

(ALFONS returns to his searching,
looks in a small purse.)

86

Alfon.

Milos.
Hun-ger Art-ist hun- gry? Ha Ha Ha! Who would have thought it? Star-ving one-self for

Jan.
Hun-ger Art-ist hun- gry? Ha Ha Ha! Who would have thought it? Star-ving one-self for

Bron.
Hun-ger Art-ist hun- gry? Ha Ha Ha! Who would have thought it? Star-ving one-self for

Pno.
poco a poco cresc. *mf*

90

Milos.
thir-ty-eight days— A fel low will get hun- gry!

Jan.
thir-ty-eight days— A fel low will get hun- gry!

Bron.
thir-ty-eight days— A fel low will get hun- gry!

Pno.
p *f*

(IVONA enters, with just her eyes, under a pile of straw in the rear of the cage, not visible to ALFONS. She is the spouse, and artistic partner of ALFONS.)

93

Ivon.

Alfon.

Bron.

Pno.

(drops the purse, another hunger wail)
freely ff

Ah! *3*

(ALFONS finds a soiled bag.)

mf

What is in the bag hun-ger

mf *pp* *f*

8^{vb}

99

Milos.

Jan.

Bron.

Pno.

mf

What is in the bag hun-ger art-ist, you sneak-y lit-tle

mf

What is in the bag hun-ger art-ist, you sneak-y lit-tle

art- ist? What is in the bag? What is in the bag hun-ger art-ist, you sneak-y lit-tle

3 *3*

(8)

♩ = 96

104 *più f*

Milos. *sneak!*

Jan. *più f* *sneak!*

Bron. *più f* *sneak!*

Pno. *rubato* *ff* *mf*

(8) *Ped.* →

106 *accel.*

Pno. *ppp*

(8) *Ped.* →

108 *♩ = 72*

Alfon. *p* *freely, earnest*

No - bo - dy trusts the hun - ger art - ist. Yet

Pno. *fff* *p*

Ped. sempre

114

Alfon. *I* *3* am a trust-worth-y man. She, *3* she is new to this

Pno.

118

Alfon. *mp* jour-ney. I've been wa-ry of her since our fast ing— be-gan. *p* I-

Pno.

122

Alfon. *mp* von - a, you lack the heart and the fo-cus that al - lows for the jour-ney of art. *pp*

Pno.

126 **B** **Sostenuto** $\text{♩} = 120$

Pno. *p*

continue to pedal always

134 *p* in a Baroque style, minimal vibrato

Alfon. *8* The beau - ty of art is the beau - ty of com - mitt - ment.

Pno.

143

Alfon. *8* This jour - ney is big - ger than both of us.

Pno.

152 *pp*

Alfon. *8* A voy - age of

Pno. *pp* *leggero*

161 *mp* *niente*

Alfon. *8* self - less art.

Pno.

169

Alfon. *p*

We are but the ves - sels

Pno.

178

Alfon.

that hun- ger weaves.

Pno. *legg.*

185

Alfon.

We do it for them I - von - - -

Pno.

190

Alfon. *f*

-na! For

Pno. *f*

195 $\text{♩} = 84$ *poco vibr.* **pp** $\text{♩} = 120$

Alfon. them! _____ For them!

Pno. **fff** *maestoso* **p**
Ped. sempre

202 **Meno mosso rit.** $\text{♩} = 100$

Alfon. _____

Pno. *dolce*

C (The BUTCHERS clap for ALFONS.) $\text{♩} = 84$

212 **p** **mf**

Milos. It means that he can't be eat - ing... no?

Bron. I love it when he sings! Oh ho! that

Pno. **p**

216

Bron. *f*
sneak - y lit - tle sneak has learned to eat while he sings.

Pno. *f sfz*

218 (ALFONS finds a burlap sack. HIS face lights up.)

Alfon. *f*

Milos. *f*
What have you found hun - ger art - ist? What

Jan. *f*
What have you found hun - ger art - ist? What

Bron. *f*
What have you found hun - ger art - ist? What

Pno. *pp f* *p r.h. only*
6 6