

Spacelord and Queen

A musical fairy tale for narrator and orchestra with a libretto by Claire Solomon

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: March, 2023, commissioned by the Louisville Orchestra for the 2022-23 Creators Corps.
Duration: 14'
Instrumentation: 2*2*22; 2221; timpani +2; harp; piano; narrator; strings

Composed for Louisville Orchestra's celebrated "Making Music" educational concert series, which has brought live orchestral music to every 4th and 5th grader in the public school system for over 80 years, *Spacelord and Queen* is a "musical fairy tale" with an ecological theme for narrator and orchestra with a libretto by Claire Solomon. The story concerns an ambitious drop of water named Spacelord and his various sparring encounters with a vain stinkbug named Queen. Concepts from the school science curriculum – precipitation, evaporation, weather systems – appear as plot elements alongside conflicts that stem from the wasteful and environmentally disruptive behaviors of the "Human Geniuses." The orchestra illustrates and dramatizes these environments and conflicts as the narrator engages the live audience in active storytelling. Bielawa performed as narrator for the six premiere performances, which reached thousands of schoolkids.

– Lisa Bielawa

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