



ROBERT ELLSWORTH FENG

Librettist

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Robert Ellsworth Feng is a Chinese-American librettist from Kailua, HI who creates impactful and entertaining works. Mr. Feng's works often find themselves interwoven with his identity as an Asian-American through biting comedy and horror. Robert's goal is to help create an equitable industry and a stage that reflects the diverse and multicultural audiences of today.

Robert began writing libretti while attending the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, where he collaborated with several student composers to premiere their works including Terrence J. Martin's song cycle "Projections" for bass voice and piano, and Nicholas Bentz's monodrama "Mikylyxka Hllupo" for bass voice and Pierrot Ensemble.

Mr. Feng has gone on to premiere his first opera with Mr. Bentz titled "Having Guests for Dinner", a one-act horror-comedy opera. It made its virtual premiere with New Opera West in 2020 and its live premiere with Hartford Opera Theater in 2021. Later this year, the opera will receive its premiere as a full opera with orchestra in association with /Kor/ Productions, LTD. Robert has also worked with award winning composer Felix Jarrar, first on an art song titled "When they killed us, did you say they killed Americans?" as a response to the 2021 Atlanta Spa Shootings. In collaboration with Mr. Jarrar, Robert's second opera received its workshop premiere with OPERA America titled "You do not recognize the bodies in the water," a supernatural horror opera. Robert has since written original text for an oratorio detailing nuclear war titled "Annihilation" and is working with Nicholas Bentz on their next opera "Salmo", a sci-fi grand opera.

Robert is the recipient of the Seagle Festival Guild Scholarship, the George Woodhead Prize in Voice and the Peabody Career Development Award and placed second in the New York Classical Music Society International Voice Competition, third in the Lyra Mozart International Voice Competition, third in the Opera for Earth Vocal Competition. Robert received his Bachelor's degree at Peabody Conservatory, his Master's degree at Manhattan School of Music, and is an alumni of Seagle Festival. Mr. Feng is currently a Resident Artist with Hawai'i Opera Theatre for their 2022-23 season.