

PASSPORT

ANIARA

FRAGMENTS OF TIME AND SPACE



THE CROSSING
KLOCKRIKETEATERN
WUSHENG COMPANY

I T I N E R A R Y

June 20-23, 2019

Christ Church Neighborhood House Philadelphia, USA

July 3-4, 2019

Haarlem Choral Biennale Haarlem, The Netherlands

September 16-21, 2019

Finnish National Opera, Helsinki, Finland

A N I A R A : fragments of time and space

music by Robert Maggio
libretto by Dan Henriksson
based on Harry Martinson's
*Aniara. En revy om människan
i tid och rum* (1956)

conceived and produced by
Donald Nally, Dan Henriksson
and Robert Maggio

S E T T I N G

The last spaceship to leave a destroyed Earth veers off course and heads into eternity; her refugees are left to face the emptiness within and without.

C H A R A C T E R S I N O R D E R O F A P P E A R A N C E

Narrator / Chief Astronomer Mimaroben	Carl Alm Matti Raita
Passenger	Katy Avery
Passenger	Elijah Blaisdell
Passenger	Karen Blanchard
Passenger /Mimaroben	Steven Bradshaw
Passenger /Deaf Man	Micah Dingler
Passenger	Joanna Gates
Passenger /Astronomer	Dimitri German
Passenger	Steven Hyder
Passenger /Mima Cult Leader	Michael Jones
Passenger /Isagel	Maren Montalbano
Passenger /Chebeba	Rebecca Myers
Passenger /Isagel	Rebecca Oehlers
Passenger /Deaf Man	James Reese
Passenger	Daniel Schwartz
Passenger	Rebecca Siler
Passenger /Isagel	Elisa Sutherland
Mima	Antti Silvennoinen

A N I A R A B A N D F I N L A N D

Percussions	Juhani Hapuli
Clarinet	Markku Luuppala
Cello	Iida Sinivalo
Guitar	Jarmo Julkunen

D E S I G N & P R O D U C T I O N T E A M

Conductor	Donald Nally
Director	Dan Henriksson
Choreographer	Antti Silvennoinen
Set, Light & Video Designer	Joonas Tikkanen
Costume Designer	Erika Turunen
Sound Designer	Paul Vazquez
Sound Technician	Anders Pohjola
Light & Video Operator	Otso Vartiainen
Executive Director (The Crossing)	Jonathan Bradley
Artistic Director (The Crossing)	Donald Nally
Artistic Director (Klockriketeatern)	Dan Henriksson
Project Manager (Philadelphia)	Anna Drozdowski
Producer (Helsinki)	Eeva Bergroth
Assistant Conductor	Kevin Vondrak
Rehersal Pianist (USA))	John Grecia
Communication	Ida Henrikson
	Julia Hovi
Sales	Sebastian Hornborg
Graphic Design	Elizabeth Haidle
	Nils Krogell
F I N N I S H N A T I O N A L O P E R A	
Stage Manager	Aimo Ruotsalainen
Light Manager	Vesa Pohjolainen
Assistan Light Manager	Jukka Niiranen
Sound Designer (FNOB)	Jaakko Korkalainen
Wardrobe	Pauliina Ruhanen

R I G H T S

Harry Martinsons *Aniara* is represented by ALIS (Administration av litterära rättigheter i Sverige). The composer and the librettist own the rights to the score and the libretto. All the production rights owned by The Crossing and Klockriketeatern.

GLOSSARY & CHARACTERS

Aniara – a goldonder hit hard by asteroids on a routine mission to Mars and thrown off course, pointed irretrievably toward the constellation Lyra

Chebeba – an eyewitness to the destruction of Xinombra

Chefone of Xaxacal – the ship’s commander, and, later a brutal tyrant

Goldonder – a spaceship measuring sixteen thousand feet long by three thousand feet wide, built for large-scale emigration and carrying eight thousand passengers

Isagel – the pilot of Aniara and the soul of Mima

Karelia – the “old country”

Lyra – a distant constellation “all too far for any human mind to understand the distances or times”

Maa – Earth

Maailma – a once mighty city on Maa and the departure point for Aniara’s space journey

Miima – a futuristic kind of artificial intelligence, said to have built half of itself, offering comfort to Aniara’s passengers through visions

Mimarobi – the engineer and caretaker of Mima

Fototurben – a nuclear bomb

Xinombra – a city on Earth destroyed by nuclear war

Yurg – a dance

This performance is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

S Y N O P S I S

P R O L O G U E

Beneath the Catalpa Tree

We meet the Narrator and Mimaroben as eternal storytellers. They recall another life, when wood still existed – the time before the nuclear catastrophes.

1. Relief to forget

A sweet memory from the old country, Karelia, its nature with lakes and summer light.

I - THE SPACESHIP ANIARA

2. A mere routine take-off

The goldonder Aniara is ready to leave the planet Maa, on a routine mission to Mars.

3. That was how the solar system closed

A swerve to avoid an asteroid takes Aniara off course; the spaceship is severely damaged, and soon beyond contact with Maa.

4. And time went by

5. We still pursue the customs formed on earth

Life onboard continues; the crew creates a sense of day and night. Passengers try to live as before; they dance through midsummer night. The ship's dimensions are enormous, but in the vast sea of space it is insignificant and alone – drifting, with no return.

I I - M I M A

6. Mima

We meet Mima; she seems to be some kind of artificial intelligence, intended to offer comfort on a far shorter voyage. Mimaroben is her engineer, “a priest in blue.”

7. Dance: Yurg

The passengers worship Mima – a song of trust and dependence.

8. Isagel

We meet Isagel; she is also looking for comfort, but is suddenly horrified by the images from Mima's inner visions. Mimaroben closes Mima as an act of love for Isagel.

9. The Phototurb

News from Maa: the city of Maaailma is destroyed by the phototurb. Reports from the dying city echo through Mima. The Deaf Man tells the story of his own death.

10. Lamentation

Frightened minds and blinded souls recall the destruction of Xinombra and the last spring when nature was still alive. Chebeba provides an eyewitness account.

11. Mima dies

Mima is powered by her enigmatic, refined construction; her emotional depth overcomes the capacity of human emotions. After a last report in the dialect of higher, ultramodern tensor-theory on the cruelties of man, amid the cries of weeping, vaporized stones, Mima dies of grief and guilt.

I I I - F R A G M E N T S

12. She spared Aniara

Mimaroben recalls the moment when the pilot, Isagel, suggested pointing Aniara toward a half-extinguished sun to crash and end it all. When Isagel breaks down and slips away towards the Fields of Eternal Numbers, Mimaroben understands that she is the soul of Mima.

13. Intermezzo – Glass of Godhead

The Chief Astronomer gives a lecture on the depth of outer space.

14. The mirror-dance by a thousand mirrors

Mimaroben creates dreamlike illusions with thousands of mirrors to offer some comfort to the passengers. But the tapestries of fantasy are not enough to replace the pervasive inner emptiness.

15. The persecutions on board

The ship's commander, Chefone, begins persecutions. Soon, the gravity system is also seriously damaged. The firm grounds of existence quake.

16. The files of Thinking

In the forgotten Chamber Number Seven there is a Crowd of Thoughts, where possible solutions lie.

E P I L O G U E

17. Beneath the Catalpa Tree

Around Mima's grave, the fallen lie in a circle. And through them all, Nirvana's current passes.

Aniara: fragments of time and space is a co-production between Klockriketeatern and The Crossing, together with Wusheng Company and the Finnish National Opera.

Read more: aniara.crossingchoir.org

K L O C K R I K E T E A T E R N

Klockriketeatern is an international nomad theater from Helsinki, Finland. Our aim is to create meaningful theater based on curiosity towards life and the world.

The name Klockriketeatern comes from our first production: Harry Martinson's *Vägen till Klockrike* (The Road). We work with artists and organizations in different countries, in many languages, in changing spaces.

– for the values of art to life and society –

klockrike.fi

B O A R D

The Board for Klockriketeatern r.f. consists of Mikael Paul (chairman), Carl Alm, Tom Grönberg, Ragni Grönblom-Jolly, Jesper Karlsson, Kirsikka Moring and Susanna Sonninen.

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

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We are truly inspired by the audience's support. A warm thank you!

C U R R E N T P R O J E C T S

Marat/Sade

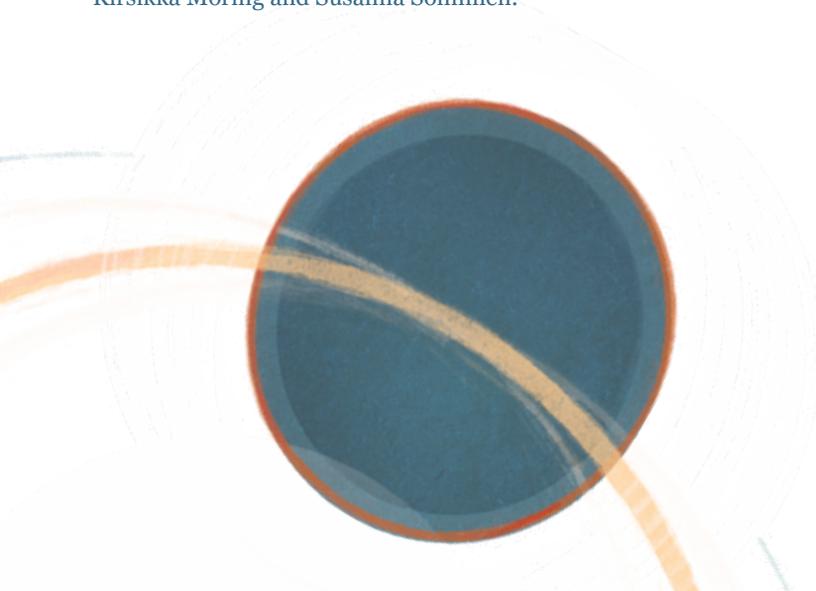
After a great success in Helsinki, Espoo and Tampere Theater Festival – in two languages – the Thalia Award winning performance *Marat/Sade* has been invited to Novosibirsk, Russia, in October 2019. A co production with Sirius Teatern and Teater Mestola.

Julius Caesar

Tragedy. Farce. Toga. Premiere in 2020.

Adventurers in Languageland

In our book *Adventures in Languageland* we present creative solutions for making multilingual theatre. Download the book for free (in Swedish & Finnish, summary in English): klockrike.fi



THE CROSSING

“America’s most astonishing choir”
—New York Times (June, 2019)

The Crossing is a professional chamber choir conducted by Donald Nally and dedicated to new music. It is committed to working with creative teams to make and record new, substantial works for choir that explore and expand ways of writing for choir, singing in choir, and listening to music for choir. Many of its nearly ninety commissioned premieres address social, environmental, and political issues. With a commitment to recording its commissions, The Crossing has issued 19 releases, receiving two Grammy Awards for Best Choral Performance (2018, 2019), and three Grammy nominations in as many years. The Crossing, with Donald Nally, was the American Composers Forum’s 2017 Champion of New Music.

www.crossingchoir.org

The Crossing is represented by Alliance Artist Management.

allianceartistmanagement.com

WUSHENG COMPANY

Wusheng Company celebrates physical theatre and develops new ways of expression in the field of performing arts. As the first European professional Beijing Opera group, Wusheng Company updates traditional Beijing Opera by adding Finnish knowledge and craft into it.

wushengcompany.com

ANIARA SUPPORTERS

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THE PRESSER FOUNDATION



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Konstsamfundet



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*in support of Karen Blanchard’s performance

