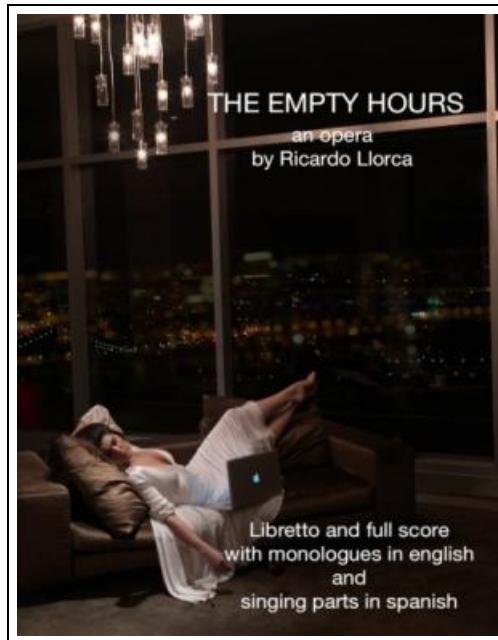


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2013. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. The Empty Hours - an opera/monodrama for soprano, actress, chorus, piano and strings orchestra- is a work about a lonely woman, addicted to the internet, who lives in her own fantasy world. The Empty Hours is an attempt to explore a psychological process, so common in our contemporary world: the loneliness and the increasing feeling of emptiness of the developed Western societies. The compositional techniques in the score have already ample abstractions symbolizing the fragmentation of society, the isolation, the loss of identity that accompanies technology and the dark side of modernity. The Empty Hours arose from Ricardo Llorca's growing interest in juxtaposing and combining traditional techniques with elements of contemporary music. Italian and Spanish Renaissance music and 17th Century operatic recitatives blended with a more contemporary language have served as the principal source of thematic and structural inspiration for this work. Building upon these ideas Llorca has created recognizable melodic cells and poly rhythmic combinations within a stable structure and bitonal harmonies over a traditional foundation. The score is complex, as one would expect in a contemporary opera, but not indecipherable. Similarly, the timbre possibilities of the soprano have been thoroughly exploited, in some cases supported by the orchestration and in others opposed by it, but always within the limits of conventional writing for each instrument. The Empty Hours thus acquires a dual character, at once traditional and contemporary, maintaining a coherent narrative which is elaborated over a harmonic and melodic foundation that may be called non-atonal. According to Llorca: In order to shed light on the ideas behind this opera and my motivations for composing it, it may help to mention certain factors and subjective phenomena...

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