

Presenter Name:

Jennifer Jolley

Name(s) of additional presenter(s):

Hai-Ting Chinn

Work title:

Spacewalk

Composer:

Jennifer Jolley

Librettist:

Hai-Ting Chinn

Work Description:

The first all-women spacewalk took place in October 2019. It was the 221st spacewalk performed in support of space station assembly. Although the milestone came far too late in NASA's history, it also signaled the advent of a new, more inclusive era for the agency. This story is compelling both for its description of women's remarkable scientific achievements and its broader social significance. This story celebrates our common humanity and inspires women, girls, and anyone committed to a more equitable world.

Within the opera, Spacewalk captures the wonder during the event and the sense of possibility it has since inspired. The work intersperses the real-time radio conversations of astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir with Mission Control CAPCOM Stephanie Wilson talking during their spacewalk, with scenes of other female astronauts "in studio" explaining the difficulties, dangers, and delights of their assignment. These exchanges between actors and forebears provide crucial technical insight into the unfolding drama to the audience and heighten their contemplation and emotive response.

Duration:

70 minutes

Vocal Forces:**SPACEWALKERS:**

Christina Koch [pronounced "cook"], NASA astronaut, flight engineer: Mezzo-soprano

Jessica Meir [pronounced "meer"], NASA astronaut, flight engineer: Soprano

INSIDE THE ISS:

Luca Parmitano, Robotic Arm Operator; Italian ESA astronaut and ISS Commander: Tenor

Andrew Morgan ("Drew"), NASA Astronaut, inside the ISS: Baritone

ON THE GROUND AT HOUSTON:

Stephanie Wilson, NASA astronaut and CAPCOM (capsule communicator, Mission Control): Mezzo

Brandi Dean, NASA Public Affairs Officer: Soprano

Tracy Caldwell Dyson, NASA astronaut: Soprano

Anne McClain, NASA astronaut: Contralto

AT THE WHITEHOUSE:

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine: Baritone (offstage)

Instrumental Forces:

This ensemble will include 1 flute, 1 oboe, 1 clarinet, 1 bassoon, 1 horn, 1 trumpet, 1 trombone, 1 percussionist, 1 keyboard synth, 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 violoncello, and 1 double bass. It will be amplified and also include electronics.

Approximate budget to produce:

65000

Production intention - what are you looking for? (i.e. co-producers):

We are looking for producers to bring this project to life.

Work page/website (if available):

<https://www.jenniferjolley.com/spacewalk>

Link to work samples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=003M8c6TMx8>