Presenter Name:

Susan Kander

Work title:

Carry My Own Suitcase

Composer:

Susan Kander

Librettist:

Susan Kander and Roberta Gumbel

Work Description:

Roger, 25, wants to be like his big brother, Billy: to see the world, be more independent, live in an apartment with fun roommates. To watch Sponge Bob Square Pants and eat pizza with olives every night. But Roger has profound autism and Mom is not ready for this. A speaking singer and a dancer simultaneously portray Roger in all his exorbitance, charm, impulsiveness, and minutia. Dad is ready for Roger to move out of the house and into a new setting. Mom just can't get there. Billy has always put his parents' needs before his own, but now he has a new girlfriend and an exciting job offer far away. One night, a pleasant evening at home goes radically off the rails and this family, like so very many families, must figure out how to step through the next door.

Duration:

1 hour 40 minutes no intermission

Vocal Forces:

Acting Roger – speaking singer (skilled music reading required), 25

Dancing Roger – need not look at all like Roger

Diana (Mom) – mezzo, 50s

Sam (Dad) – baritone, 50s

Billy (brother) – tenor, age 7 and 28

Laney (Billy's girlfriend) – soprano, 20s

Neuro Specialist – soprano, 50s

Bass-baritone double cast as James – a social worker, 45-50, a slob with a golden heart, and Mr. Zingone – pizza place owner, 83

Instrumental Forces:

Ensemble of 11:

2 violins, cello, bass, 2 clarinets, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano

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

A company to produce the premiere or a consortium. The opera was successfully workshopped in spring 2023 with a generous grant from the NEA and an Opera America Discovery Grant. It is ready for full production.

Work page/website (if available):

http://susankander.net/works/carry-my-own-suitcase-2023/

Link to work samples:

http://susankander.net/works/dwb-driving-while-black/