

**Unisa Library Manuscripts Collection**

***BUCHULAND***  
AN OPERA IN THREE ACTS

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**BUCHULAND**  
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*Buchuland*, an opera in three acts, was commissioned by the Unisa Music Foundation with funds made available from the Art & Culture Trust of the President for the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Conference of the International Society for Music Education (ISME) held at the State Theatre during July 1998. The Conference was hosted and presented by the University of South Africa, the State Theatre, Pretoria, the City Council of Pretoria and the University of Pretoria from 19-25 July 1998.

South African newspapers have been full of stories of people who are claiming land which belonged to them and from which they were forcibly removed. In these stories lies the genesis of the opera *Buchuland*. But an opera has to be more than just a historical document. *Buchuland* is a story of people who loved the land and, thirty five years later, eventually triumphed and returned to their land. Buchu is an indigenous herb found in many parts of South Africa. The name "Buchu" comes from the Khoi language, the Khoi people having been the first to recognise its medical qualities.

The opera was composed by the South African composer, Roelof Temmingh. The librettist, Michael Williams, was the director and David Scarr the conductor of the opera. Denise Sutton was the Concert Master of the New Arts Philharmonic Orchestra Pretoria and Rachelle Jonck the Chorus Master of the State Theatre Opera Chorus.

The opera in three acts was sung in English and Afrikaans with English subtitles.

**Buchuland Archives (1,0 linear metres)**

The papers were donated to the Unisa Library by the Unisa Foundation in 1998.

The material includes correspondence, vocal scores, scripts, libretto and the complete orchestral material. The conductor's score is not included in the material. Most of the materials are photocopies.

The Unisa Music Foundation has the exclusive rights to all performance material of the work (the orchestral and vocal parts, piano reduction and score) and, at its own discretion, to hire out the material. All fees for future performances, television productions and recordings of the work shall accrue to The Unisa Music Foundation.

The material may be used for research purposes.

## **BUCHULAND**

### **AN OPERA IN THREE ACTS**

#### **1 Correspondence**

- |     |   |            |
|-----|---|------------|
| 1.1 | Letter from Jelena Zsadanyani, State Theatre Pretoria, to Shelaine Torta, Unisa Music Foundation                          | 1998.09.30 |
| 1.2 | Letter from Mr John Roos, Director of the Unisa Music Foundation to Mr Petrus Willemse, Subject Librarian, Unisa Library. | 1998.10.12 |
| 1.3 | Letter from Petrus Willemse, Subject Librarian, Unisa Library, to Mr John Roos, Director of the Unisa Music Foundation    | 1998.10.13 |
| 1.4 | Performance agreement regarding opera (fragment)  | no date    |

#### **Orchestral parts**

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 2.1 | Strings<br>Violin; viola; cello; double bass         |
| 2.2 | Percussion<br>Timpani                                |
| 2.3 | Woodwinds<br>Piccolo; flute; oboe; clarinet; bassoon |
| 2.4 | Brass<br>Trumpet; trombone; tuba; horn               |
| 2.5 | Keyboard<br>Piano                                    |

#### **3. Vocal scores**

#### **4. Libretto for *Buchuland*, background, photocopies of photographs (Bound together)** Contents of bound volume:

The Opera Commission  
Elandskloof: a Source of information  
Cast of characters  
Synopsis

##### **Breakdown of scenes:**

##### **Act 1:**

Scene 1: The mountain country of the leopard, Kolkat  
Scene 2: A magistrate's court  
Scene 3: A magistrate's court  
Scene 4: Buchuland Mission Station Square  
Scene 5: Buchuland Mission Station Square  
Scene 6: Buchuland Mission Station Square

##### **Act 2**

Scene 1: Buchuland Mission Station Square  
Scene 2: The Pastorie  
Scene 3: Buchuland Mission Station Square (Landbouskou)  
Scene 4: The March  
Scene 5: Buchuland Mission Station Square  
Scene 6: The eviction

##### **Act 3**

Scene 1: Voting line, South Africa's first free elections  
Scene 2: Katie's joint, city nightclub  
Scene 3: Mountain country of Kolkat, Titus's farm  
Scene 4: Magistrate's court  
Scene 5: Mountain country of Kolkat, Titus's farm  
Scene 6: Buchuland Mission Station Square

Musical breakdown:

Act 1

Musical interlude I: Drought

Act 2

Musical interlude II: Resistance

Act 3

Musical interlude III: Reconciliation

ACT 1

ACT 2

ACT 3

Appendix 1      Buchu – The healing plant

Appendix 2      The Dutch Reformed Church and its missionary endeavour

Appendix 3      Photocopies of photographs:

\**Cape Times* (20 November 1990) photograph and article, which inspired the opera

\*Photographs of Elandskloof Mission Station, February 1996

-Old church and school building at Elandskloof

-Mission shop

-Ruin of burnt home

-Church bell

-Entrance to old Church

\*Photos taken from the Elandskloof application to the Land Claims Court

\**Cape Times* photo, 17 December 1996, Victory procession of Elandsklowers returning to their land.