# Lyrica Classic Entertainment Inc.



6959 Golden Ring Rd., Rosedale, MD 21237 202-699-0341 | info@lyricaclassic.org www.lyricaclassic.org

# Call for Singers – U.S. Premiere of opera "Baruch's Silence"

Lyrica Classic is casting for the U.S. premiere of "Baruchs Schweigen" (Baruch's Silence), a contemporary chamber opera by acclaimed Israeli composer Ella Milch-Sheriff, based on her father's Holocaust diary. The production will take place as part of the 2025 Muffled Voices Festival, which is dedicated to operas by women composers and suppressed historical narratives.

"Baruch's Silence" has previously been staged at major European venues including Volksoper Wien, Braunschweig, Fürth, and Tel Aviv. This is the first U.S. production of a work by one of Israel's most widely performed living composers.

The opera will be fully staged by acclaimed Russian stage director <u>Elizaveta Korneeva</u>, known for her work with the Bolshoi, Ural, and Mariinsky Theatres. We are casting **lead roles and covers** for this high-level, emotionally compelling production.

#### **ABOUT THE OPERA**

- Title: Baruch's Silence (Baruchs Schweigen)
- Composer: Ella Milch-Sheriff
- Libretto: Based on the Holocaust diary of Baruch Milch
- Language: German (with elements in Russian, Ukrainian, and Hebrew)
- **Duration:** ~110 minutes
- Structure: One-act chamber opera
- Cast: 8 singers
- Ensemble: Chamber orchestra
- **Note:** All roles are relatively short and ensemble-based. Principal characters are **Baruch** and the **Daughter**.
- ♦ Audition Location: No live audition required unless we determine it's necessary for final casting decisions. In that case, callbacks may be held via Zoom or in person.
- ♦ Performance Date: September 20, 2025



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- ♦ Location: Maryland Theatre, Hagerstown, MD (with a potential repeat in New York City later in the fall)
- ♦ Rehearsals: September 1–20, 2025 (DMV area)
- ♦ Dress Rehearsal: September 20 (same day as performance)

#### **AVAILABLE ROLES**

# **Baruch (Baritone or Bass-baritone):**

A deeply emotional role, portraying a Holocaust survivor reliving his trauma. Requires expressive dramatic range and strong low register, but not a true bass. Good German pronunciation required. Preferably an older singer or someone who can appear older with makeup. Principal role.

#### **Daughter (High Mezzo-soprano):**

The narrator and bridge between past and present. Introspective, lyrical, and emotionally nuanced. Strong German required. Visual age: 30–50. Principal role.

#### Child (Soprano):

A symbolic role representing innocence and memory. Requires strong musicality and acting. Sings in German and Ukrainian. Visual age: ~10. Main but small role.

#### **Bruder (Tenor):**

Baruch's brother. Emotionally intense, small role. Sings in German.

#### Russischer Offizier / Herr B. (Bass):

Small double role for a true deep bass. Strong acting required. Sings in German, Russian, and Ukrainian.

#### Grossmutter / Frau B. (Soprano – mature, full lyric):

Small double role. Visual age: 45+. Sings in German.

#### Erste Frau / Mädchen B. (High Soprano):

Small double role for a young-looking soprano (20+). Sings in German.

#### **ELIGIBILITY & PREFERENCES**

# LYRICA CLASSIC ALLOWING UNDISCOVERED MUSIC TO FIND ITS RECOGNITION

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- We work exclusively with professional artists.
- Prior experience is not required, but applicants must demonstrate:
  - o Strong vocal and acting ability
  - Responsibility, professionalism, and the ability to learn music on deadline
  - o Respect for collaborative rehearsal environments
- We strongly prefer singers based in the DMV area (MD, DC, VA), but exceptional candidates from other states will also be considered. Housing support may be available for out-of-town artists.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Please email the following materials to **info@lyricaclassic.org** with the subject line: **Muffled Voices Audition 2025 – [Role]** 

(e.g., "Muffled Voices Audition 2025 – Baruch")

#### **MATERIALS REQUIRED**

- Resume / CV
- Recent Headshot
- Recent, up to 3 Video Recordings:
  - o At least one in **German** or **contemporary style**, if available
  - o Preferably from live performances with orchestra or piano
- Short Cover Letter answering the following:
  - o Why do you want to perform in *Baruch's Silence*?
  - Why do you think this role is a good fit for your voice?
  - What is your **height**? (for stage purposes)
  - Do you need housing in Maryland for the rehearsal period?
  - Are you available September 1–21, 2025, in full?
     (If not, please list any known or possible conflicts.)

#### **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:**

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- All selected singers must have their roles fully learned and memorized by August 20, 2025.
  - o Memorization will be checked individually.
  - o Singers who do not meet preparation expectations may be replaced.
- Optional ensemble rehearsals may be scheduled in August prior to the official rehearsal period.
- An intensive rehearsal period begins September 1, including both music and staging.
- Four orchestra rehearsals will be scheduled between September 12–19, 2025, with the final performance on September 20 at the Maryland Theatre.
- Must be available September 18, the entire day, for the stage and orchestra rehearsal at the Maryland Theatre.
- Dress rehearsal will be on September 20 in the afternoon, before the evening show.

#### **COMPENSATION**

This is primarily an in-kind collaboration in line with the festival's mission and current funding structure.

- A **minimal honorarium** will be offered, determined individually based on role, availability, and travel needs.
- Housing will be provided for singers traveling from more than **50 miles** outside of the rehearsal location, if needed.

We are committed to delivering a high-level production and creating a valuable artistic experience for everyone involved.

#### **MATERIALS:**

- Recording
- Score & Libretto
- Festival Webpage