

**“A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS, ADAPTED FROM THE BIBLE
THE LIFE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST”**

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BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY DR. RAMON SISON GELUZ
ARRANGED BY NALDY RODRIGUEZ



“ A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS, ADAPTED FROM THE BIBLE, THE LIFE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST” is a 90 minute gospel musical in English, the latest creation of Dr. Ramon Sison Geluz, the multi-awarded Composer and Librettist of the first ever original Filipino opera toured in major cities and venues in the United States, **“KARIM AT JASMIN”** (www.karimatjasmin.com).

This 2 Act play shall truly delight and keep the audience enthralled throughout the whole performance. A combination of music artistry, characteristic of Dr. Ramon Sison Geluz’s creations and Naldy Rodriguez’s phenomenal orchestration in collaboration with the high caliber musical talents of the Cast and Staff of MRG Services Inc., who have been performing together for more than 10 years, “A Voice in the Wilderness” promises to be a most enjoyable and memorable experience.

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P R O G R A M M E

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A C T I

- I. “ THE MOST ORIGINAL OF ALL SINS ”**
- II. “ MY FATHER, ANGEL GABRIEL ”**
- III. “ SALOME’S PREDICAMENT ”**
- IV. “THE SONG OF DIMAS, THE RAID ”**
- V. “ SALOME MEETS ST. JOHN “**
- VI. “ BEHOLD MY SON, THE BAPTISM OF JESUS “**
- VII. “ THE LORD’S PRAYER, THE BEATITUDES “**
- VIII. “ ISRAEL, ISRAEL “**

I N T E R M I S S I O N

A C T I I

- I. “ THE GUARDIAN ANGELS’ HYMN “
- II. “ I, HEROD, KING OF THE JEWS “
- III. “ A MOTHER’S REQUEST “
- IV. “ WHAT I WILL DO FOR YOU “
- V. “ ONE STARLESS NIGHT “
- VI. “ DANCE OF THE SEVEN VEILS, YOU’RE GOING
TO BURN IN HELL”
- VII.“ HOW SHALL I BE JUDGED “
- VIII.“ TOWARDS THE GATES OF HEAVEN, THE FINALE “

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ACT I

“THE MOST ORIGINAL OF ALL SINS”

The play begins with St. John’s recurring dream about the Garden of Eden, where the Serpent tempts Eve and Adam, and the very first sin against God is committed by man, the original sin. Banished to a life of sacrifice and toil, the first humans are led out of Eden by St. Michael, the Archangel, and with his flaming sword delivers God’s sacred promise, that His son, the Savior, shall once again give them eternal life with Him in heaven. But before the Son of God is to reveal himself, the God the Father will have to send the Divine Precursor, paving the way for His Son in a world of sin and chaos, a voice crying out in the wilderness, the Baptist, St. John.

“MY FATHER, ANGEL GABRIEL”

St. John wakes up from this persistent dream that has haunted him for years, and calls for his Guardian, who is actually, the Angel Gabriel.

In a vision, The Angel Gabriel who raised St. John in the wilderness like his son, after King Herod ordered the death of all the newborn at the time of Jesus Christ's birth, reveals to St. John about his past and his Divine Commission to pave the way for God's son, his cousin, Jesus Christ.

“SALOME’S PREDICAMENT”

After the Jewish princess, Salome, daughter of Queen Herodias, was deported from Rome by the Emperor to prevent her marriage to a Roman Guard, she plans how she will continue to survive with a broken heart and lack of ties to her people, for although she was born in Jerusalem and a Jew, she was raised in Rome like Roman royalty even if the Romans never really accepted her and the Jews always considered her an alien to their ways and religion. As she travels through the treacherous wilderness, her thoughts are abruptly disturbed by a band of brigands who ambush her caravan.

“THE SONG OF DIMAS, THE RAID”

Dimas, a leader of thieves preying on rich caravans entering Jerusalem to give to the poor and hungry, learns about the arrival of Princess Salome, her entourage, and the wealth that she is bringing and the possible ransom he can collect for her. During the skirmish, she loses consciousness while a giant “bear like” creature suddenly appears to rescue her and carries her off with him even further into the wilderness.

“SALOME MEETS ST. JOHN”

When she awakes, she finds a kind and caring man, St. John, the Baptist.

Salome is towered over by St. John's massiveness, as he explains to her his mission of baptizing the people. Salome realizes how she will become a very important part of his destiny when they join the people heading to the river to be baptized.

“BEHOLD MY SON, THE BAPTISM OF JESUS”

At the banks of the Jordan River, The Promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, has come to be baptized and God the Father presents his Son to his cousin, St. John, as the Angel Gabriel and the Angels of Heaven rejoice. The Holy Spirit manifests as a white shimmering dove hovering in delight in radiating magnificence.

“THE LORD’S PRAYER, THE BEATITUDES”

After His Baptism, Jesus Christ gathers his followers and teaches them how to pray to His Father. He also preaches to them the virtues of the Beatitudes.

“ISRAEL, ISRAEL”

Princess Salome returns to Jerusalem and her people sing to her on the way back to Jerusalem singing praises about their homeland, Israel.

Upon arrival at her father's kingdom, her mother, the Queen Herodias and her spouse, King Herod, welcome her. King Herod is immediately smitten by her.

St. John arrives accusing Queen Herodias of adultery and challenges King Herod's right to rule. King Herod orders his arrest and St. John accepts whatever fate God bestows on him.

END OF ACT I

INTERMISSION

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ACT II

“THE GUARDIAN ANGEL HYMN”

The Angel Gabriel, together with the other Guardian Angels, comfort St. John in his prison cell.

“I HEROD, KING OF THE JEWS”

The narcissistic King Herod becomes increasingly irritated by Herodias' insistence to condemn the Baptist to death.

“A MOTHER'S REQUEST”

Herodias informs Salome about the charges that the Baptist has made against her but because of Salome's friendship with St. John, she arranges with her mother to have him freed by performing a dance for Herod.

Herodias uses this opportunity to trick Salome and ask for St. John the Baptist's head instead.

“WHAT I WILLLL DO FOR YOU”

Salome, totally deceived by her mother, visits her friend, St. John in prison and tells him her plans to free him. St. John, who has always known of his tragic fate and mission, thanks her for her sincerity but assures her that whatever happens, they shall be friends forever, even in the next life.

“ONE STARLESS NIGHT”

In what might be the last night of his life, St. John longs for his faithful friends, the stars in the sky to be with him.

“DANCE OF THE SEVEN VEILS, THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS”

“YOU'RE GOING TO BURN IN HELL”

Salome engages Herod and his guests to the most convincing performance of her life thinking that her dance shall save St. John and at the same time reminds the king of the seven deadly sins of man. At the end of her dance, she finds out that Herodias has already asked for St. John to be executed.

Salome warns her mother Herodias of her eternal damnation in hell because of what she has done.

“HOW SHALL I BE JUDGED”

Rushing back to St. John's prison cell only to find his wooden staff, Salome prays that history shall judge her according to the truth as she decides to become a follower of Jesus Christ.

“TOWARDS THE GATES OF HEAVEN, THE FINALE”

As Salome and the disciples witness the death of Jesus Christ, on the cross, the Angel Gabriel leads the spirit of St. John in a triumphant march into the Gates of Heaven, which St. John realizes is the same place he has always dreamed about all his life, the Garden of Eden, where he is reunited with God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.



DR. RAMON SISON GELUZ, COMPOSER AND LIBRETTIST

Although Dr. Ramon Sison Geluz is a medical doctor and an educator by profession, his real passion has always been in the arts, especially music and poetry. Dr. Geluz is the multi awarded composer and librettist of the first ever original major Filipino opera ***“Karim at Jasmin”***. First staged before a full house, standing ovation performance at **the Cultural Center of the Philippines with the world-renowned Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra** on November 4, 2006, **“Karim at Jasmin”** had its U.S. Gala Premiere at the **Terrace Theater of the Long Beach Convention Center** on June 23, 2007. In its **“All U.S. Cities Tour”** the opera was performed at the **La Mirada Performing Arts Center, the historic Spreckels Theater in San Diego, CA, and the Horn Theater at the North Las Vegas Theater for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

“Karim at Jasmin” was also performed at the **Grand Hall of the Opera Theater of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on May 16, 2009 for the Consular Corps** where it was hailed as the **“one of the most beautiful and elaborate performance of a country”** by Aida Gaona, the Ball Chair for the benefit of the International Committee of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

His other works that have been performed in major venues include ***“Heart ‘N Soul”***, ***“The Life and Loves of Dr. Jose Rizal”***, ***“JV INC., The Musical With A Mission”***, ***“Tina and the Magic Mirror”*** and ***“Ron Dante, Return to Riverdale”***.

His latest creation ***“A Voice in the Wilderness, the Life of St. John the Baptist”*** shall have its premiere performance in the United States on August 24, 2013 at the St. Linus Church and shall be toured in different major venues and churches in the United States.