

libretti for cantatas

bruce bailey

bqe (brooklyn-queens expressway)

bruce bailey

an urban cantata for soprano, baritone and piano trio

COMPOSER Daniel Felsenfeld
LIBRETTO Daniel Neer

Commissioned by Two Sides Sounding for the 2014 Brooklyn BEAT Festival

Bruce Bailey was a housing advocate who tirelessly championed for tenant's rights on New York's Upper West Side during the gentrification and urban renewal facet of New York City's infamous housing crisis in the 1970's and 1980's. His fearless and controversial pursuit of justice for the common man was rigorously resisted by NYC landlords, building owners and real estate moguls, and his powerful presence resonated in all areas of New York City government, from the police force and court system to the City Council and the office of Mayor Ed Koch. His shocking murder in 1989 went unsolved and remains a mystery to this day. Composer Daniel Felsenfeld's new urban cantata is in homage to Bruce and the city he lived in, offered in vignettes by baritone Daniel Neer, who also provides lyrics to Felsenfeld's music, and soprano Eleanor Taylor, both of whom portray myriad characters throughout the work. Original photography by Tish Webster (longtime friend, advocate of Bailey and staff photographer of the Columbia Tenants Union) is presented and re-imagined by director and media artist Ted Gorodetzky as visual media accompaniment. *Special thanks to Nellie Hester Bailey for her unwavering support in the development of this project.*

PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

September 16, 2014 **WORLD PREMIERE**

Two Sides Sounding | Brooklyn BEAT Festival | Brooklyn Historical Society

Daniel Neer (baritone), Eleanor Taylor (soprano)

Mila Henry (piano), Lynn Bechtold (violin) and Jennifer DeVore (cello) of Zentripetal

Ted Gorodeetzky (director and multimedia composition)

LINKS

[The Shopkeeper's Aria, from Bruce Bailey](#)

bqe (brooklyn-queens expressway)

an urban cantata for soprano, baritone, and piano four-hands

COMPOSER Robinson McClellan
LIBRETTO Daniel Neer

Commissioned by Two Sides Sounding for the 2013 Queens New Music Festival

BQE is an urban cantata by composer Robinson McClellan and lyricist Daniel Neer, which juxtaposes the tempestuous relationship of master city builder Robert Moses and the writer/activist Jane Jacobs, with the controversial planning of one of New York City's most audacious super-highways: The Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. Through the imagined communiqué of letters, phone calls, memos and town hall meetings, the aggressive modern-city vision of Moses is matched by the grassroots-oriented social consciousness of Jacobs, portraying two radically different visions of urban development and renewal during the second half of the Twentieth Century.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

May 18, 2013

WORLD PREMIERE

Two Sides Sounding at the Queens New Music Festival | The Little Theater, Queens, NYC

Daniel Neer (baritone), Eleanor Taylor (soprano)

Mila Henry (piano), Lucas Wong (piano), Ted Gorodetzky (direction and visual media)

LINKS:

BQE World Premiere Video on robinsonmcclellan.com

For full text, visit: [BQE Libretto](#)

[World Premiere Performance at Queens New Music Festival](#)

