

ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

PROGRAM NOTES

ISCARIOT

Program note by Robert Sirota:

Who was the true Judas? Was he a zealot-provocateur, a misguided pawn for vested political interests, or a tragic agent of destiny? These are the questions raised by Douglas Munsell's lively and controversial libretto to *Iscariot*, a full-length opera with music by Robert Sirota.

The action of the opera, which follows the Passion of Christ from the point of view of Judas, presents him as a multifaceted and tormented man, whose love of Jesus and embrace of freedom for the Jewish people causes him to be swept up by forces beyond his control.

The 90-minute work, with a cast of thirty singers and a twelve-piece orchestra, will receive its world premiere at St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church, Wall Street in May, 2012.