

## CAST

Dorothy Brett, *soprano or mezzo-soprano*  
Mabel Dodge Sterne Luhan, *mezzo-soprano or soprano*  
Frieda Lawrence, *contralto or mezzo-soprano*  
Angelo Ravagli, *high baritone or tenor*

## NOTES

*Lorenzo's Ashes* is a memory play in which three women relive their passionate involvement with the writer D. H. Lawrence. Set outside Taos, New Mexico, on Lawrence's Kiowa Ranch, the opera tells the true and amazing story of how that spot came to be Lawrence's final resting place. Frieda, Lawrence's widow, wishes his ashes to be entombed in a memorial on the ranch. She sends her Italian lover Angelo to France to retrieve Lawrence's ashes. Two other women, however, oppose this plan. Mabel Dodge Luhan, an American heiress, and Lady Dorothy Brett, a British painter, both former intimates of Lawrence, wish to release the ashes into the New Mexican wilderness. While fighting over the fate of Lorenzo's ashes, all four characters confess startling secrets and reveal how the force of Lawrence's art shaped their lives – and afterlives – forever.

The opera may be performed with piano or with chamber orchestra. Minimal sets and costumes are required. Duration: approximately 40 minutes.

The composition of the opera was made possible by a deeply appreciated composer residency at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico, in January, February, March and April, 2012.

*Lorenzo's Ashes* is dedicated to the memory of Helene Wurlitzer (1874-1963) and Henry Sauerwein, founding director of the Wurlitzer Foundation.