

YORK

The First Free Man

This full-length opera continues Trinkley and Charnesky's work on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It began with *The Last Voyage of Captain Meriwether Lewis*, a cantata whose action occurs on the night of Lewis' suicide. The opera's action follows the epic sweep of the Lewis and Clark Voyage of Discovery while focusing on a single hero: York, William Clark's boyhood slave and the only African-American to travel with the Expedition.

Act one opens with York a slave in southern Indiana, the personal servant of William Clark. He accompanies his master on the Expedition and becomes, out West, an equal laborer with the rest of the crew. The Native Americans, awed by his dark skin, consider him almost godlike. At last York views the Pacific and is transformed - for the first time in his life he is a free man.

The second act follows the aftermath of the Expedition. Back East, York is merely a slave once more. Despite York's repeated entreaties, Clark keeps the man in slavery for five more years. Finally given his freedom, York tries to live in the East but at last returns to the West and to the land of freedom.

For information regarding perusal scores and audio and videotapes of *Eve's Odds*, contact:

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