

The American composer Leonardo Balada was born in Barcelona in 1933. His one-act opera, *Hangman, Hangman!* is freely adapted from an American cowboy folk-song. Johnny, its hero, is a dreamer who has been apprehended for stealing a horse, and is about to be hanged. *The Town of Greed*, in two parts, is a sequel to *Hangman, Hangman!* and presents the same principal characters but twenty years later. In both operas abrasive contemporary orchestral sonorities co-exist with highly melodic vocal lines. As in a cartoon, the characters and issues are presented in an irreverent manner, direct and with bullet-like sharpness and directness.

Leonardo  
**BALADA**  
(b. 1933)

- [1] - [18] **Hangman, Hangman!** 44:11  
 [19] - [32] **The Town of Greed** 32:49

Narrator .....	Anthony McKay	Rat .....	Gary Koehler
Sheriff .....	Patrick Jacobs	Wreck .....	Paul Nicolaysen
Hangman .....	Stephen Neely	Rip .....	Roy Matway
Johnny .....	James Longmire	Rude .....	Kenn Kumpf
Mother .....	Elizabeth Sederburg	Capote .....	Adrian Rollett
Father .....	Robert Fire	Ambassador .....	Craig Raymaley
Sweetheart .....	Natalya Kraevsky	Queen's Secretary ...	Petra Dierkes-Thrun
Secretary .....	Ja-Nae Duane	King's Secretary .....	Rose Dorsey
Tokopoko .....	Craig Raymaley	Irish Man's Secretary .....	Linda Shaw
Irish Man .....	Colman Pearce	Wall Street Man ....	Robert Frankenberry
Rich .....	Robert Frankenberry	Townspeople .....	Pittsburgh Camerata
Rot .....	Jim Means		

**Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble • Colman Pearce**

Recorded at the Kresge Recital Hall, Carnegie Mellon University, Pennsylvania, 25th-26th April 2001

Executive Producer: Kenneth A. Keeling, Sr. • Project Co-ordinator: Christian Kriegeskotte

Assistant Co-ordinator: Moira Levant • Carnegie Mellon Recordists: Mark Hall, Craig Sager, Harold Walls

Recording Producer, Editing and Mastering: Eleanor Thomason (K&A Productions Ltd.)

Recording Engineers: Eleanor Thomason, Riccardo Schulz • Music Notes and Synopsis: Leonardo Balada

Cover Image: *Johnny* (2002) Cristina Moreno Santabarbara

Special thanks to Mark Kamlet, Gary Fienberg, Robert Skavronski, Amy Stabenow, Jessica Hays

This project was made possible with the generous support of and financial assistance from Carnegie Mellon University

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THE NAXOS RECORDING COMPANY

**DDD**

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Playing Time  
76:59



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**BALADA: Hangman, Hangman!**

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