

8.669003-04

Playing  
Time:  
**1:55:59**

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# I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky (1995)

Song Play in Two Acts

**Music by John Adams (b. 1947)**

**Libretto by June Jordan (1936-2002)**

Consuelo .....	Martina Mühlpointner
Dewain .....	Kimako Xavier Trotman
Rick .....	Markus Alexander Neisser
Leila .....	Jeannette Friedrich
David .....	Darius de Haas
Tiffany .....	Lilith Gardell
Mike .....	Jonas Holst

Young Opera Company Freiburg  
The Band of Holst-Sinfonietta  
Klaus Simon

**CD 1**

**CD 2**

**1-15 Act One 72:37 1-9 Act Two 43:22**

Recorded at Tonstudio Oase, Freiburg-Wolfenweiler,  
Germany, from 28th January to 1st February,  
and at Tonstudio R, Vienna, Austria, on 21st April 2004.

Produced and engineered by Andreas Bertram  
and Felix Dreher.

Publisher: Hendon Music, Inc. (BMI),  
a Boosey & Hawkes Company.

Cover picture: *Sky with Green Frame*  
by Bonnie Rieser  
(Photodisc Green / Getty Images)  
American flag, folk artist, 1880s.



**AMERICAN OPERA CLASSICS**

Scored for a “rock band” of voices, clarinet, saxophone, keyboards, guitar, bass and percussion, John Adams’ *I was looking at the ceiling and then I saw the sky*, ranges in style from gospel and jazz to rock and pop. A combination of social criticism and love story, it chronicles the life of seven young Los Angeles of different social and ethnic backgrounds, whose everyday speech patterns have been skilfully woven into a lyrical libretto by the late writer and civil rights champion June Jordan. John Adams’ post-minimalist musical language shines through the popular music disguise.

Booklet notes and synopsis in English  
Kommentar und Inhaltsangabe auf Deutsch

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