



# Errollyn Wallen

## Another America: Earth (2003)

Opera

Libretto by Errollyn Wallen

2 Sopranos, Mezzo Soprano, Alto, 3 Tenors, Baritone, Bass

Flute, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion (2 players), Violin, 3 Celli,

Electric Bass Guitar

Duration: 20 minutes

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First performance: Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 9 November 2003

Commissioned by the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Nitro

**Another America: *Earth*** is an original story set in the Mississippi Delta in 1930. The North-South divide, religion, racism and the recent discovery of Pluto form the backdrop to a galaxy of characters each expressing different aspects of human longing. In **Another America: *Earth***, musical and dramatic events happen simultaneously as in a film; each of the characters has his or her own story which unfolds at different speeds and through different close-ups — this work is like looking at a picture from different angles. As recently freed slaves, Marcus and Ruth Yellow have been granted 40 acres of land and a mule to forge their future. Already struggling, US Government bureaucracy threatens to dispossess them. Marcus dreams of being re-united with his son Buck, who he has driven away through cruelty. Gelma, Buck's girlfriend, is shattered when she hears this news. Many find an outlet for their longing in religious fervour. Whilst everyone is looking down at the earth, Star Woman is looking up to the skies to try to discover the new planet — Pluto.

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Hinrichsen House

10-12 Baches Street London N1 6DN

Tel: 020 7553 4030 Fax: 020 7490 4921

e-mail: [newmusic@editionpeters.com](mailto:newmusic@editionpeters.com)

internet: [www.editionpeters.com](http://www.editionpeters.com)

