

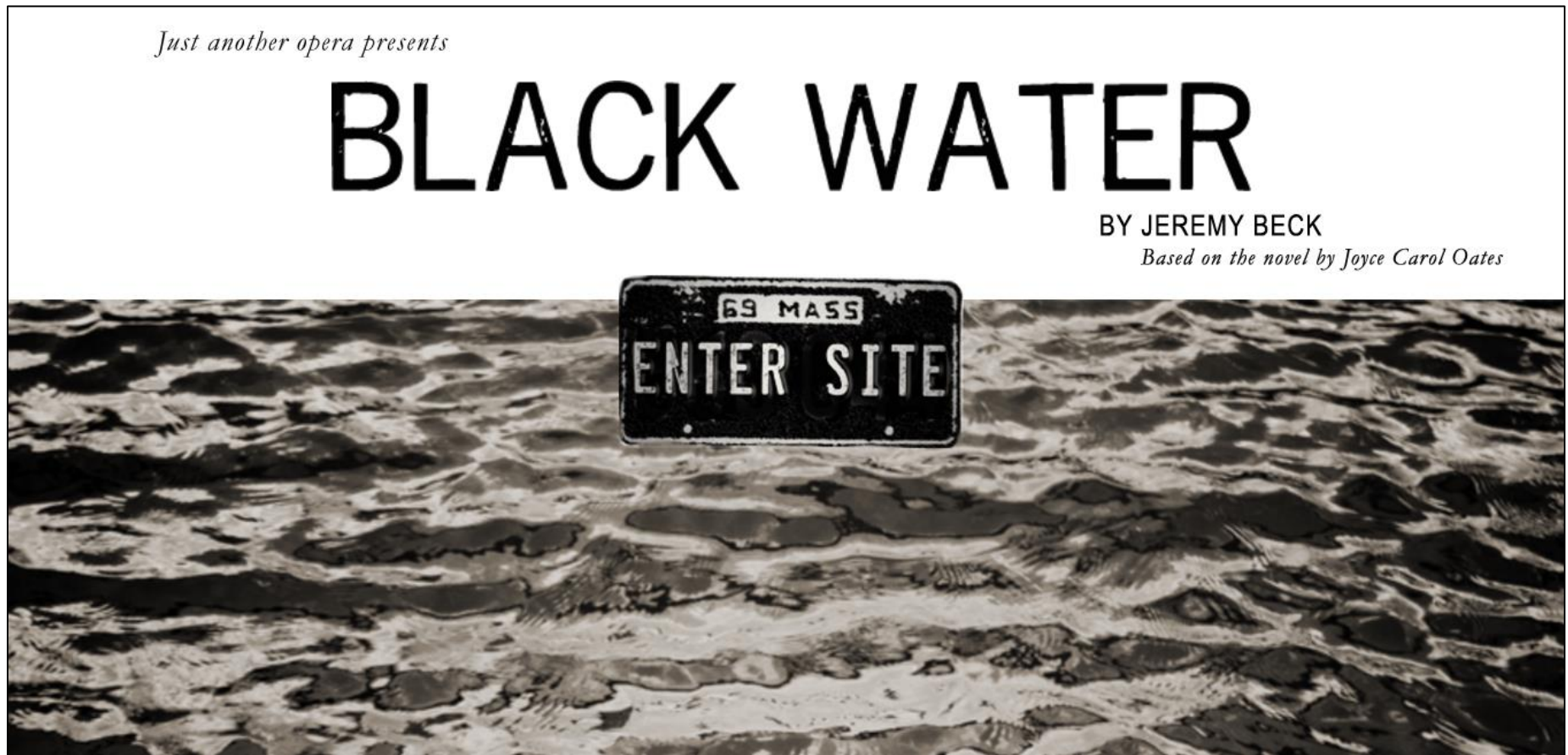
Website for *Black Water*

URL: <https://harwoodmonica.github.io/black-water-opera/index.html>

Summary: The website for *Black Water* was submitted as the final project for *Principles of Web Design and Technology I*, CMST 385. The website was generated using HTML and CSS, as well as images that I created by editing stock images in Adobe Photoshop. Since the musical piece, *Black Water*, is based on an historical event involving Senator Ted Kennedy and Mary Jo Kopechne in Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts during the summer of 1969, I wanted to create a dramatic landing page that engaged users with an interactive element, while reflecting the tone and subject matter of the piece. The license plate is a button that leads you to the website, which provides more details about the piece.

Preview of the website:

I. Landing Page



BLACK WATER

[HOME](#)[ABOUT](#)[PERFORMANCES](#)[MEDIA](#)[CONTACT](#)[REFERENCES](#)

Black Water

An Opera by Jeremy Beck

In 1969, the dead body of a young woman, Mary Jo Kopechne, was discovered inside an overturned car in a channel on Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts. The car belonged to Senator Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy, who did not report the late-night incident to police authorities until the following morning. After the discovery, Kopechne's body was recovered from the submerged car and Kennedy gave a statement to police saying that during the previous night, she was his passenger when he took a wrong turn and accidentally drove his car off a bridge and into the water. After pleading guilty to a charge of leaving the scene of an accident after causing injury, Kennedy received a suspended sentence of two months. The national scandal that followed may have influenced Kennedy's decision not to campaign for President of the United States in 1972 and 1976.

Black Water by Joyce Carol Oates is a slightly-veiled fictional account of these events. This extended composition is dramatically effective as both a concert work and as a staged monodrama. Whether in a concert setting or in the theater, the soprano and the pianist assume multiple roles and states of mind (following the variety of levels created by Oates). The work is presented almost completely from the point of view of the drowning woman: in reality, in flashback, in dreams and in hallucinations.



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BLACK WATER

HOME

ABOUT

PERFORMANCES

MEDIA

CONTACT

REFERENCES

About the Opera

Black Water

Black Water is a one-act opera, a monodrama for Soprano and piano by Jeremy Beck. The opera is based on a novel by Joyce Carol Oates, which is a slightly-veiled fictional account of the incident at Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts, in the summer of 1969. That summer, the dead body of a young woman, Mary Jo Kopechne, was discovered inside an overturned car in a channel on the island. The car belonged to Senator Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy, who did not report the late-night incident to police authorities until the following morning.



About the Composer

Jeremy Beck

"[This] American composer knows the importance of embracing the past while also going his own way... [In] Beck's forceful and expressive sound world... the writing is concise in structure and generous in tonal language, savouring both the dramatic and the poetic."

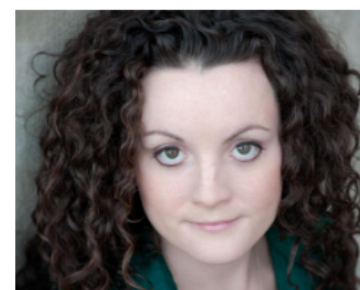
— Donald Rosenberg (Gramophone, Dec. 2013)

Called "an original voice celebrating music" by MusicWeb International (2009), Jeremy Beck's music has been described by NewMusicBox (2012) as "rhythmically intricate, and [making] nods to the past while sitting squarely in the present... Though architecturally rigorous, Beck writes clearly and without pretense[.]"

Based in Louisville, Kentucky, Beck's music has been presented by New York City Opera, American Composers Orchestra, the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Iowa, the Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra, Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra, Center for Contemporary Opera, Peabody Opera, Yale Opera, the Dallas Festival of Modern Music, IonSound Project, Pacific Serenades, and the

About the Performers

Monica Harwood



Soprano Monica Harwood is an emerging young artist among local and international opera talent. Recent highlights include her performance of the role, Zerbinetta in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Maria in *West Side Story*, and as a soloist at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. With an affinity for German repertoire, she attended the University of Miami Salzburg Summer Voice Institute in 2013.

Monica began her vocal training at Salisbury University, where she performed in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, and

BLACK WATER

[HOME](#)[ABOUT](#)[PERFORMANCES](#)[MEDIA](#)[CONTACT](#)[REFERENCES](#)

Performances

University of Mary Washington Chamber Music Festival

Saturday, February 25, 2017



The Chamber Festival is presented each Spring featuring student, faculty, and professional groups. Various musical styles and genres, spanning centuries, are performed. The Music Department is committed to promoting contemporary works. Original compositions by students and faculty are also debuted. This February, Soprano Monica Harwood and UMW's own Andrew Kraus will present the one-act chamber opera, *Black Water* by Jeremy Beck as a part of the festival.

All performances are in Pollard Recital Hall, room 304

All concerts, master classes, and recitals are free and open to the public and no tickets are required.



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V. Media Page: <https://harwoodmonica.github.io/black-water-opera/media.html>

BLACK WATER

HOME

ABOUT

PERFORMANCES

MEDIA

CONTACT

REFERENCES

Watch and Listen



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BLACK WATER

[HOME](#)[ABOUT](#)[PERFORMANCES](#)[MEDIA](#)[CONTACT](#)[REFERENCES](#)

Thoughts? Questions? Connect with us!

Monica@BlackWater.com

Name:

Email:

Comment:



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VII. References Page: <https://harwoodmonica.github.io/black-water-opera/references.html>

BLACK WATER

[HOME](#)[ABOUT](#)[PERFORMANCES](#)[MEDIA](#)[CONTACT](#)[REFERENCES](#)

References

Water Image

MLeWallpapers.com (2008). *Shades of Blue* [Photograph]. Retrieved from <http://www.mlewallpapers.com/view/16x10-Widescreen-7/Shades-of-Blue-474.html>

Newspaper Image

The Boston Globe (1969). *Boston Globe front page: July 20, 1969* [Photograph]. Retrieved from http://archive.boston.com/news/specials/kennedy/day3_ted_car_accident/

Andrew Kraus Image

Kraus, Andrew (2009). *Golden Age of the Piano CD Cover* [Photograph]. Retrieved from <http://www.andrewkraus.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/GoldenAgeOfThePianoCD-Cover-Small.jpg>



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