

# For You

by Michael Berkeley  
and Ian McEwan

*For You* is a dramatic new opera exploring themes of obsession and betrayal. It is the composer Michael Berkeley's second collaboration with the celebrated author Ian McEwan (the first was their 1983 oratorio *Or Shall We Die?*).



Allison Cook (Maria) and Alan Opie (Charles) in the Music Theatre Wales production of *For You*.  
Photo: Clive Barda

Although essentially dark, there are moments of irony, wit, and humour throughout the opera. Soaring vocal lines, intricate ensemble pieces, and imaginative instrumental writing make this an electrifying work.

*One of the great things about working with a writer on an original libretto is that it unfolds as you go along. Ian would feed me the text as he wrote it and I would play back to him what I'd done with it. He then used that as a reference point for what was coming next. So that meant that the music itself was integral to the narrative.*

**MICHAEL BERKELEY**

Following the world premiere of this exciting new opera at the Linbury Studio, Covent Garden on 28 October 2008, Music Theatre Wales is undertaking their second UK tour of the work this summer:

Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon	29 May
Clwyd Theatr Cymru, Mold	2 June
LBT, Huddersfield	10 June
Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester	25 June
Birmingham Repertory Theatre	4 July
Oxford Playhouse	11 July

Scores and parts are available from the OUP Music Hire Library:

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Fax: +44 (0)1865 353767

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*This is pithy, witty stuff: McEwan skewers these characters to his blackly comic canvas in typically concise fashion. . . . Berkeley's palette—all fevered chromaticism, suspenseful ostinatos and fierce but eminently singable vocal lines—is a heady concoction.*

**NEIL FISHER, The Times, 30 October 2008**

*For You is a dazzling and taut chamber piece.*

**LYNNE WALKER, The Independent, 30 October 2008**