

# **VIKTOR ULLMANN**

(1898–1944)

## ***The Broken Jug*** ***(Der zerbrochene Krug)***

*One-act opera*

Village judge Adam has had a rough night. He is battered up and cannot find his wig—an attribute of his power. Judge Walter from Utrecht has just arrived for an inspection. In his presence, Adam has to deal with a complaint from a distraught Mrs. Marthe Rull, who brings pieces of a broken jug. She accuses her daughter Eva's suitor Ruprecht of being a culprit, convinced that he must have secretly followed Eva through the window at night. All the testimonies are confusing, making Adam perplexed the most. Moreover, Ruprecht suspects to have a rival. Eva tries to explain everything, but is unsuccessful until Mrs. Brigit arrives with Adam's wig in her hands, which she found beside Mrs. Rull's house. Adam is convicted of breaking the jug, since it was he who visited Eva that night. Ruprecht is acquitted of the false accusation and the lovers reconcile.

## ***The Emperor of Atlantis***

*or*

## ***Death's Refusal***

## ***(Der Kaiser von Atlantis oder Die Tod-Verweigerung)***

*One-act opera*

Emperor Überall wants to rule the world and breaks a war of all against all. He isolates himself from the outside world and commands through the Loudspeaker's announcements. Death can no longer stand the slaughter and refuses to serve the Emperor. The wounded on the battlefields suffer immensely, but cannot die. The Emperor realizes that if Death does not do his job, he cannot achieve his power. There is still mutual love among the people, and they are determined to rebel against the dictator. The Emperor is forced to surrender. Death will resume his duties, but the Emperor will be the first to be taken away.