



# last night's Symphonie

A film by Adam Grannick

A story of  
hard knocks and heartbreak  
in the key of G minor.

## DISTRIBUTOR CONTACT

Adam Grannick  
Adam Grannick Multimedia  
(224) 361-6876  
adam.grannick@gmail.com  
www.filmelodic.com

## PRODUCTION DETAILS

**Total Running Time:** 15:42  
**Completion Date:** November 2012  
**Country:** USA



# SYNOPSIS

Hector Berlioz's 19th century classic *Symphonie Fantastique* comes alive in modern New York City to tell the story of two lives forever changed by one passionate night of rash decisions.

Hector and Harriet, two young New Yorkers, meet at a party on a hot summer night and enjoy a romantic adventure out in the city. The next morning, a repentant Hector sets out to right his wrongs, embarking on a tortuous odyssey through the perilous streets of Brooklyn and Manhattan.

This film has little sound other than the music of *Symphonie Fantastique*, which inspires not only the story, but also informs each character's actions.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

**LAST NIGHT'S SYMPHONIE** attempts to dissolve stereotypes about the target audience for classical music. The film is the culmination of years of experiments with visualizing hidden stories within masterpieces of classical music and linking the universal sounds with the modern experiences of new and potential audiences.



Can Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* tell the story of three students braving the exhaustion and exhilaration that is a typical day in high school?



Could Stravinsky's *Firebird* be about a young woman struggling to fight off attackers in a dark alley?



Could Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* be reimaged as a struggle between an all-powerful evil blacksmith and a young composer with a music box for a heart?

**LAST NIGHT'S SYMPHONIE** uses the international language of music to take the traditional place of dialogue. But in this story there is no “missing” dialogue, no miming, and no intertitles. Instead, we unify the story by using themes and beats present in the music. In the context of our story, the themes and beats take on meanings that universalize the music for a young and modern audience. The characters and settings have musical counterparts that create associations more familiar to a 21st century audience.

**LAST NIGHT'S SYMPHONIE** brings to life what we believe are the similar processes of surrendering to music and surrendering to love – leaving oneself vulnerable to intense pain and exquisite joy.

We hope with this visually powerful and plot-driven expression of Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*, classical music will find a new generation of absorbed listeners.



# PRODUCTION STORY

From the very beginning, a spirit of collaboration and passion for art characterized the entire production process of **LAST NIGHT'S SYMPHONIE**.

We pitched our proposal on Kickstarter.com, determined to raise necessary funds for creating this film on a small budget. Each member of the cast and crew took responsibility for spreading the word – in person as well as through extensive social media outreach. Writer/Director Adam Grannick helped raise additional funds by playing violin in Central Park – often selections from the film's score – to cover the cost of transportation and craft services. Making this film a reality was truly a team effort, from top to bottom.

With great resolve, the cast and crew worked long shoot days and endured an array of obstacles and interruptions, from thunderstorms to nearby marriage proposals.

One of the biggest challenges was organically melding the characters' actions and motivations with the subtleties of *Symphonie Fantastique*. With diligence, the actors became intensely familiar with the music, internalizing the various instrumental cues that signaled the direction their characters would take. On set, music playback tracks often included pre-recorded spoken cues to help the actors move naturally in time with the score.





# ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

## WRITER/DIRECTOR

### Adam Grannick

Adam Grannick is a New York City filmmaker and graduate of Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. His work ranges from short form documentary production to experimental film. In addition, Adam is a classically trained violinist and strives to combine the craft of filmmaking with his passion for music.

## PRODUCER

### Benedetta Grasso

Benedetta Grasso is a writer, screenwriter and journalist. She was born in Milan, Italy in 1987 and has lived in Manhattan since 2006. She received a B.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, graduating with honors. She is involved in different creative projects: documentaries, short movies, online publications, TV series and movie productions collaborating with various actors and directors. Benedetta currently works for the Walt Disney Company / Pixar.

## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

### Mickey Lewitter

With a background in still photography, Mickey Lewitter is thrilled to be making his debut as a DP with **LAST NIGHT'S SYMPHONIE**, and is looking forward to the next project. His work in photography spans the globe from Paris to Copenhagen to Buenos Aires.



# ABOUT THE CAST

## HECTOR

### Maxwell Eddy

Maxwell Eddy is a working actor based in New York City. Equally inspired by new and innovative works as well as classic texts, he is at home on the stage, in front of the camera, or anywhere his creativity can run rampant! Maxwell has had the pleasure of working with acclaimed directors Moises Kaufman, Oskar Eustis, and David Herskovits. Favorite roles include, Cleante and Dr. Purgon in *The Imaginary Invalid* (The New Ohio), Torvald in *A Doll's House* (Access Theatre), Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hudson Warehouse), and Star Cat in *Psycho Beach Party* (The Workshop Theatre Co.).

## HARRIET

### Erin E. McGuff

Erin E. McGuff is a writer and an actor who loves Ireland, the Titanic (1912–2012), and tea. Originally from Pearland, Texas, she graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and has been performing and writing in NYC since. This past year she co-wrote the script for the upcoming documentary, *Hiding in the Spotlight*, a Global Vision Group production, and you can read one of her plays, *A Refusal*, at [LiteraryLaundry.com](http://LiteraryLaundry.com). She is also a contributing columnist for the award-winning site, *Woman Around Town*.

## CAMILLE

### Kim Blanck

Kim Blanck is a California girl currently pursuing her MFA in Acting at UC San Diego. Recent NYC credits include the new musical *Folk Wandering* (Ars Nova), the Shakespeare-infused clown tale *Alfridge von Waddlegrave* (Ars Nova, Brooklyn Lyceum), and the historical comedy romp *First Ladies Project* (Robert Moss Theater). She is a company member of Political Subversities and a proud alum of NYU.





# CREDITS

**Hector** Maxwell Eddy  
**Harriet** Erin E. McGuff  
**Camille** Kim Blanck

**Written, Directed and Edited by** Adam Grannick  
**Producer** Benedetta Grasso  
**Director of Photography** Mickey Lewitter  
**Assistant Camera** George Westberg  
**Associate Producer** Staci Myer-Klein

**Key Makeup Artist and Hair Stylist** Jody Formica  
**Costume Designer** Ryann Weir  
**Production Designer** Allison Flynn

**First Assistant Director** Sarah Levine  
**Second Assistant Director** George Westberg  
**Third Assistant Director** Alexandra Naides

**Associate Casting Director** Erin E. McGuff  
**Associate Casting Director** Adriana Spencer

**Original Music** Cheryl Krugel-Lee

**Art Department** Adam Grannick  
Allison Flynn  
Staci Myer-Klein  
Melodie Kao

**Dance Choreographer** Adriana Spencer

**Party Dancers** Crystal Boyd  
Quincy Ellis  
Hallie Goodman  
Brandon Tyler Harris  
Miles Jackson  
Betsy Kuehl  
Casey Rogers  
Adriana Spencer

**Hopscotch Kids** Ashley Figueroa  
Molly Terraciano

**Colorist** Adam Grannick  
**Visual Effects** George Westberg  
Adam Grannick

**Post-Production Mixer** Scott Byrne

“SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE”  
Composed by Hector Berlioz  
Performed by the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra