

CARNIVAL OF SOULS

CHARACTERS

MARY HENRY A (Earth Mary)	Soprano (Lyric Mezzo)
MARY HENRY B (Limbo Mary)	Soprano (Lyric)
MARY HENRY C (Soul Mary)	Soprano (Dramatic Mezzo)
CHORUS	
QUARTET OF TOWNSPEOPLE	SATB
SHERIFF	Bass
CHORUS OF SOULS / TOWNSPEOPLE	SSAATTBB
TRIO OF FACTORY WORKERS	TTB
SOUL #1	Tenor
SOUL #2	Soprano
SALESWOMAN	Soprano
POLICE OFFICER	Baritone
MASTER ORGAN BUILDER/ MINISTER GUILD	Bass
HARVEY THE DIRECTOR/ HARVEY THE SOUL/ DR. SAMUELS	Baritone
JC THE SCREENWRITER/ JOHN LINDEN	Tenor (Lyric)
MRS. THOMAS	Contralto

TIME: 1962

CARNIVAL OF SOULS

An opera in 2 Acts

PROLOGUE (orchestra)

The stage is dark.

MARY and friends drag race; the cars crash and plummet over the Kaw River Bridge.

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

Lights up to reveal MARY HENRY. She is soaking wet.

The TOWNSPEOPLE, including the SHERRIF, enter.

MARY A

The river is so cold.

The sheriff puts a blanket over Mary's shoulders.

MARY A

The boys dared us to race

I was just a passenger.

Do you want to race, Mary?

I said don't care-

I don't care about boys.

Rose was driving so fast

Slow down, Rose!

But they were young men

Determined to be men..

And we, young women

Determined to be women.

We beat them to the Bridge

The Kaw River Bridge

Its wood trestles uneven and worn

I don't know how we lost control

The old wood cracked easy

Three of us in the front seat

Steering in the air

Not a second to look in each other's eyes

And say goodbye.

I held my breath-a little gulp of air.

I don't know how I got out

Just followed the shimmering sunlight

It seemed so easy

Too easy.

Floating towards the light

I thought the girls were behind me.