

---

---

---

---

---

---

**SOBE ARTS (MYSTERY PARK ARTS COMPANY, INC.)**

A 501 (C) (3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT ARTS PERFORMANCE AND EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

# TESLA

Soundtheater/Interdisciplinary Opera

Music

by

**Carson Kievman**

Libretto

by

**Thomas Babe and Carson Kievman**

Spoken comments from 2004 New York City Opera Vox Festival Concert

Nikola Tesla is one of the geniuses of the modern age. A Serbo-Croatian by birth, he became a naturalized American citizen and lived here for the rest of his life... his adult life. A loner by nature, he never fully adapted to the American way of self-promotion and wealth building. Perhaps that explains his friendship with theoretician Albert Einstein and dreamer Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain. While almost single-handedly responsible for inventing modern technology, by way of harnessing and delivering electricity through alternating current, or AC, and inventing the method for delivering wireless communications, including radio, lasers and robotics... without Tesla there would be no radio, television or cell phones or anything else along these lines. In spite of that, his fame bubbles under the surface of our cultural consciousness, only known to a dedicated cadre of those "in the know." If he is known at all, it is primarily for his legendary battles with Thomas Edison, over Edison and J.P. Morgan's massive investment in direct current power, or DC, vs Tesla's AC power system, which he initially intended to harness electricity and give away for free... so right there was a problem. Buried in history by Edison and Morgan by way of a staged execution of a dog and an elephant







**SOBE ARTS (MYSTERY PARK ARTS COMPANY, INC.)**

A 501 (C) (3) NOT-FOR-PROFIT ARTS PERFORMANCE AND EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

Westinghouse realizing that he can stick it to Edison with Tesla's research. Even as Morgan is showering Edison with more investment cash, Westinghouse makes an offer to Tesla to buy all his patents.

A glorious vision of the future opens at the end, with Morgan's announcement that he wants to harness the energy of Niagara Falls, and Westinghouse announcing that Tesla and AC current will compete.