

KARAMU HIGH SCHOOL Presents



DOWN IN THE VALLEY

by Kurt Weill



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presents

"DOWN IN THE VALLEY"

A Folk Opera for Young People

music by Kurt Weill

libretto by Arnold Sungaard

Producer: Mr. I. C. Cash

Musical Director: Mr. R. G. Smith



THE STORY OF THE OPERA

As the result of the "eternal triangle" we discover Brack Weaver in jail. In the morning he will be hanged for the murder of Thomas Bouche. Brack is waiting for a letter from his true love, Jennie Parsons. No letter comes, and Brack decides that he will break loose and spend his last hours with Jennie. Peters, a fellow prisoner, tries to dissuade Brack from this, but Brack is determined. The scene shifts to Jennie standing on the front porch of her home, mourning for her loved one, who is about to die. Her father becomes angry and reminds her that Brack has killed a man.

Suddenly, Jennie hears Brack whistling and she hurries to meet him. Brack tells her that men are searching for him, but that he had to see her before he died. Jennie urges him to run away, but Brack will not leave until he knows that Jennie loves him.

Together they remember, in the form of a flashback, the events leading up to Brack's imprisonment. "Do you remember, Jennie . . .?"

Back to the present and Jennie again urges Brack to run away. But Brack intends to give himself up. He is now calm and confident, knowing that Jennie loves him.

