

Welcome!

Here's a brief guide to listening to the demos for Judgment Day, a modern opera I wrote about the end of the world based on the Christian *Book of the Revelation*. The demos were recorded between March 2020 and January 2021-- my COVID project to dust off a piece of musical theater that had been in progress for over a decade.

A few things before we get to the music...

The Story

If you want to know more about the story, check out the [synopsis](#). The full [libretto](#) is here.

Disclaimers

1. **Best on headphones.** I'm not an audio engineer, and I was new to Logic when I started this project. The mixes are decent, but they could use the guidance of a pro, and they have not yet been mastered. They sound pretty good on most headphones and smaller speakers-- not so great yet on big home systems.
2. **I'm doing everything.** I performed, programmed and sang literally everything on these demos. While the instrumental performances range from good to outstanding (if I do say so myself), several of the vocal parts will have to be re-recorded with singers as I originally envisioned. The very next step toward making a record out of this is to get more vocalists involved, in particular for Maggie, Thomas, Peter, Psi and Marshall Law, as well as a handful of the bit parts and backing vocals. I think I did exceptionally well performing Brother John and THE ONE, so I'm going to keep those (maybe I'm just fated to play bad guys on Broadway).
3. **Remember, these are demos!** The tracks here are overproduced compared to typical demos. I did that to make sure that the energy and pacing of the entire piece was worked out for stage, and so you can almost visualize the action. As a side benefit, a lot of stems are basically ready to go for a professional album production.

Enough, just take me to the music!

Currently these are SoundCloud private links.

[Judgment Day](#), the complete opera
[The Essentials](#) - an abridged version for a faster listen through
[The Singles](#) - just the hits, please

As you listen, you can check out the notes below about what's going on. Enjoy!

General notes

All pop instruments were performed live unless noted: piano, synths, bass, drums, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, ukulele, harmonica.

Orchestral instruments are all MIDI, performed on my Casio digital piano and AKAI controller.

Vocals - all lead and background vocals performed live by me, except for a few samples and loops as noted below.

ACT ONE

If This Goes On...

Thomas delivers an opening soliloquy with dire warnings about the course humankind is on.

<i>Vocals</i>	Thomas
<i>Instruments</i>	Drums, synth bass, synths, bass, electric piano, clavichord, lead guitar, horns

Revelations (I Have Seen)

Brother John relates his visions of the end of the world to his congregation; an old fashioned prayer revival brings down the house.

<i>Vocals</i>	Brother John (verses 1,4), Maggie (verses 2,3), Chorus
<i>Instruments</i>	Piano, organ, bass, drums, gospel choir sample

Prepare Yourself

On a sunny day in the park, Maggie and her church group evangelize the Good Word of the Gospel and warn of the coming end times.

<i>Vocals</i>	Maggie, Chorus
<i>Instruments</i>	Bongos, street percussion, acoustic guitar, steel drums, harmonica, electric guitar, gospel choir sample

Tomorrow

Thomas comes upon the church group in the park and chats with Maggie.

<i>Vocals</i>	Thomas (part 1), Maggie (part 2)
<i>Instruments</i>	Piano, strings, horn, acoustic guitar, electric guitar

Saved

Maggie shares her story of redemption with Thomas and invites him to accept the Lord into his heart.

<i>Vocals</i>	Maggie (verses 1, 2), Thomas (verse 3), Chorus
<i>Instruments</i>	Arpeggiators, tremolo guitar, drums, bass, synths, piano, lead guitar, organ

News of the World

Newscasters deliver the top stories of the day; Marshall Law holds a campaign rally.

<i>Vocals</i>	Anchorman (verse 1), Anchorwoman (verses 2,3), Marshall Law, Crowd
<i>Instruments</i>	Parts 1,3: Orchestra Part 2: Rhythm guitar, drums, bass, lead guitar

Tear it Down

Peter and his band of anarchists plot revolution in a nightclub. Peter fires up the crowd and mayhem ensues.

<i>Vocals</i>	Anarchists 1,2,3, Peter, Chorus
<i>Instruments</i>	Part 1: Synth bass, drum program, synths, arpeggiators, electric piano, Motown horns, sax, gospel vocal effects Part 2: Drums, bass, synth, guitar Part 3: Rhythm guitar, bass, drums, lead guitar

Order, Order, Order!

Marshall Law's police thugs break up the nightclub riot as he looks on from a secure location.

<i>Vocals</i>	Marshall Law
<i>Instruments</i>	Marching band drums, synth bass, samples, megaphone vocal, rhythm guitar, noise guitars

I Want to Believe

Thomas' newly found faith is shaken by the day's news-- but he still needs to believe in something greater than himself.

<i>Vocals</i>	Thomas, Chorus
<i>Instruments</i>	Piano, acoustic guitar, rhythm guitars, bass, drums, mellotron strings, synths, organs, lead guitar, gospel choir sample, gospel vocal effects

Simon Says

Rising pop star Psi sings of a coming savior and new world order.

<i>Vocals</i>	Psi, Backup Singers
<i>Instruments</i>	Synth bass, drum program, claps, samples, loops, synths, acoustic guitar, saxophones

THE ONE

As faithful around the world gather in expectation of a catastrophic comet collision, THE ONE arrives on earth with a hopeful message for mankind.

<i>Vocals</i>	Chorus, Angels 1 and 2, Priest, THE ONE
<i>Instruments</i>	Part 1: Bass, horns, timpani, jungle drums, synth, pianos, lead guitar, guitar effects, samples Part 2: Orchestra, bass, drums, rhythm guitar Part 3: Orchestra, drums, bass, piano Part 4: Orchestra, bass, drums, rhythm guitar

ACT TWO

Peace on Earth

It's a new day: a happy group spreads the word of love, peace and harmony.

<i>Vocals</i>	Singer 1 and 2, Chorus
<i>Instruments</i>	Ukulele, drum program, bass, acoustic guitar, rhythm guitar, electric piano, drums, synths, lead guitar, church bells, pop horn section

The Eye in the Sky

As THE ONE consolidates power, Psi skills and delivers directives for the people of earth to follow.

<i>Vocals</i>	Psi, Backup Singers
<i>Instruments</i>	Strings, piano, drum program, loops, rhythm guitar, bass, motown horns, samples, synths, lead guitar

This is Not the Way

Thomas and Maggie are both stunned by recent events, but each reacts quite differently.

<i>Vocals</i>	Thomas, Maggie
<i>Instruments</i>	Intro: Piano, strings, baritone and tenor sax Main: Drums, bass, rhythm guitar, piano, synth strings, guitar effects

If the World Should End

After her argument with Thomas, Maggie takes stock and prepares herself for the end to come.

<i>Vocals</i>	Maggie
<i>Instruments</i>	Piano, acoustic guitar, oboe, harp, strings, percussion, horns

Tribulation

Thomas finds Peter and the anarchists and asks to join the resistance. It doesn't go well.

<i>Vocals</i>	Anarchist 1,2, and 3; Peter, Thomas, Marshall Law
<i>Instruments</i>	Main: Harmonica, acoustic guitar, foot stomps, hand drum, lead guitar, acoustic bass, rhythm guitar, drums, bass Reprise: <i>Tear It Down Part 2</i> + treated pianos and ghost synths Reprise: <i>Order, Order, Order!</i>

The Mark of the Beast

After his capture and interrogation, Thomas meets THE ONE, who makes him an offer he can't refuse.

<i>Vocals</i>	Brother John, THE ONE, Minions of THE ONE, Thomas
<i>Instruments</i>	Main: Strings, piano, drums, bass, rhythm guitar, synths, 808 drum machine, treated pianos, flute, guitar effects Interlude: Piano, cello, clarinet, accordion, tuba, trombone, violins, violas, drums

The Battle of Armageddon

As the end of days approaches, The Army of the Lord faces off against The Armies of the One in a final battle between good and evil.

<i>Vocals</i>	Bard, Peter, Maggie, The Armies of the One, The Army of the Lord, Marshall Law, Angel
<i>Instruments</i>	Part 1: Acoustic guitar, bass, cello, hi-hat, military snares, violins, finger cymbals, bagpipes, horns Part 2: Fuzz bass, drums, rhythm guitars, piano, strings, lead guitar, clavichord Part 3: Drums, rhythm guitar, synth, bass, piano, arpeggiator Part 4: Drums, bass, rhythm guitar Part 5: Rhythm guitar, bass, drums, piano, organ

Judgment Day

Thomas, now the last man on earth, reflects on all that has come before.

<i>Vocals</i>	Thomas, Chorus
<i>Instruments</i>	Horns, percussion, strings, drums, bass, rhythm guitar, anthem lead guitars, electric piano, synths, organ, arpeggiators, gospel choir sample, gospel vocal effects

The New Jerusalem

In the new world, mankind is ruled by Christ in peace and harmony for a thousand years.

<i>Vocals</i>	Chorus
<i>Instruments</i>	Harp