A Comparative Study of Wozzeck and Peter Grimes

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Abstract:

This project compares two operas—Wozzeck by Alban Berg, and Peter Grimes by Benjamin Britten—from an ecocritical approach. It identifies how the individual and social perceptions towards the environment are portrayed both musically and dramatically, uncovering new conclusions about the works themselves, while challenging audience members’ notions about how to perceive humans’ relationship with the world. This approach provides a platform that elevates viewers’ awareness of how one’s outlook towards the relationship of culture and the environment antecedes his or her action regarding a resolution of current concerns.