

Two Lapels and a Pocket (Suite No.1 from the opera 'The Overcoat' after Gogol) (2002)

Two Lapels and a Pocket constitutes various sections of material from Act One of my opera **The Overcoat**. It is a combination of interludes, shorter scene links and various recompositions based on material elsewhere in the first act. The ordering of material is not chronological however; the opening bars from the beginning of the opera is followed by the first interlude, a frigid scene depicting the main protagonist, Akaky Akakievich, making his way back to his lodging after work. This is followed by a connecting link from earlier in the first act to a scene in the middle. Interlude two follows leading to a ribald and riotous party scene. The final full orchestral punctuation is derived from the music accompanying the last words of Petrovich the tailor as he measures the hapless protagonist for a new overcoat. I thought it fitting that such a titled piece should give the tailor the last word.

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