

"THE MYSTERIES is worthy of the gods. Its brilliant cadences of words and song, streaming from the mind and soul of Ann Mortifee's genius, and its sheer gifts of originality and surprise, grant us wildly creative breakthroughs into what musical theatre can be. It is a revelation, an epiphany, and a grand good time."

JEAN HOUSTON, Ph.D., Author, Philosopher

# THE MYSTERIES

BY ANN MORTIFEE

BOOK IN COLLABORATION WITH  
DAVID FEINSTEIN

MUSIC IN COLLABORATION WITH  
EDWARD HENDERSON

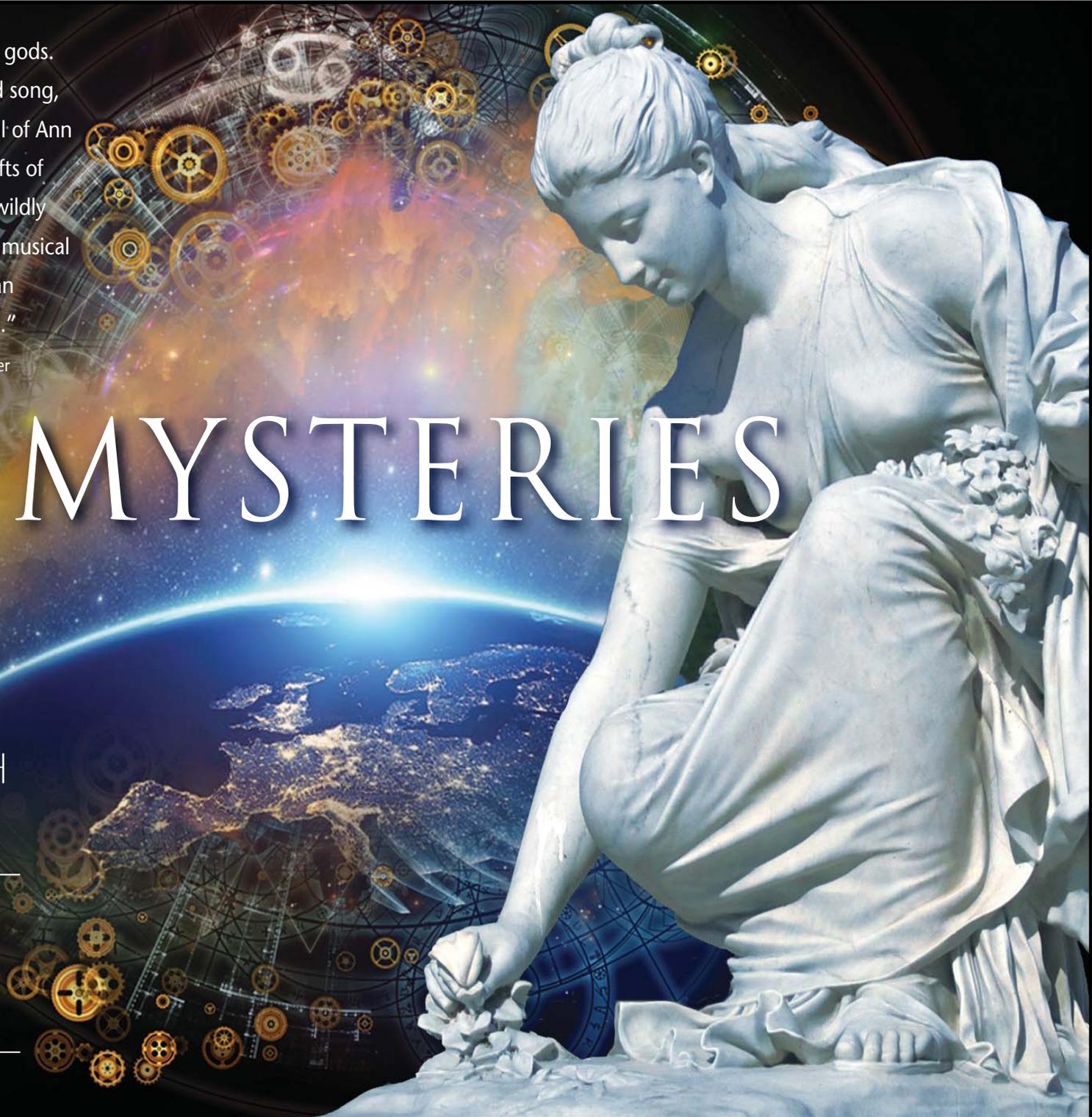
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mysteriesmusical.com



**THE MYSTERIES**, set in both classical and modern times, is based on a myth that transfixed ancient Greek society for over 2000 years. The story created some troubling legacies: female subjugation, male expectations of superiority, and societal and environmental disasters. **THE MYSTERIES** challenges us to change the story.

### SET UP

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Driven by greed, Zeus, king of the gods, sells his daughter in a shady backroom deal. The young woman is then abducted, raped, and forced to live with her abductor in the underworld.

Her powerful mother, Demeter, who is unaware of Zeus's complicity, begs him to help to bring Persephone back. Arrogant Zeus, convinced that he is above accountability, dismisses Demeter's despair. Her anguish turns to rage and she withholds her life-giving powers. The earth begins to wither and die. In contemporary terms – she accelerates global warming.

### THE ENDING

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Crops are failing, animals are starving and people are dying. When it's pointed out to Zeus that *"The way things are going there will be no one left to worship you"*, he finally concedes that Demeter's power is equal to his own.

Before Zeus can undo the damage he created, Persephone gives up waiting to be rescued. She discovers a depth of strength within and announces to Hades, her captor, that she is heading home. Hades begins to understand that he can no longer get and keep what he wants by force.

**Mother and daughter are reunited, and the earth flourishes again. As the centuries dissolve and the story is brought forward to the present, we understand the wisdom and warning in this ancient myth.**

