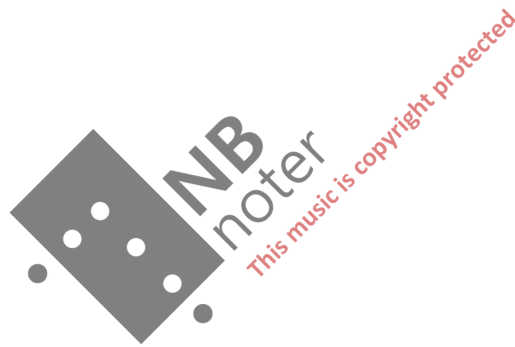


TZE YEUNG HO

Xerxine, Wendelle and Myrtyl

Voices, Percussion and piano





Xerxine, Wendelle and Myrtyl

an operetta scene

MUSIC: Tze Yeung Ho (b. 1992)

LIBRETTO: Chris Gilmore



NB
noter

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Xerxine, Wendelle and Myrtyl

an operetta scene

Libretto: Chris Gilmore

Music: Tze Yeung Ho

2014

Duration: approx. 17'

Roles:

Xerxine - Soprano (*maintain a Slavic accent where possible)

Wendelle - Soprano

Myrtyl - Soprano

Instruments:

Percussion: Coffin and Bass Drum

Piano

Composer's Notes:

I intended to write a dark comedy staged piece in the autumn of 2013. However, even though I had a vision, I did not have the ability to write my own libretto. I then approached Chris Gilmore, a talented writer of screenplays and fiction who happened to study at the school I was attending. The idea germinated from a conversation with a dear friend of mine; we were discussing what 'awfully ugly names one could possibly give to their daughters'. From that, I came up with Xerxine, Wendelle and Myrtyl. The concept is quite reliant on the Parisian absurdist traditions as I then gave each character a different elaborate back story.

'Most people argue that 'where there's a will, there's a way'. I disagree, however. I say 'where there's a will, I'd like my name on it because I like money and free things.'

Xerxine, Wendelle and Myrtyl

an operetta scene

LIBRETTO: Chris Gilmore

MUSIC: Tze Yeung Ho

Introduction: Procession

Serious ♩ = c. 50

XERXINE

WENDELLE

MYRTYL

Percussion

l.v. throughout
hit near the rim of drum
fff strong

Piano

Serious ♩ = c. 50
fff rough

4

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

hit centre of drum; drier than previous phrase but still l.v.
f strong, as before **fff** abrasive

Pno.

mf expr.

fff

Red

7

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

hit near rim of drum
pp distant, ringing

hit near centre of drum
fff abrasive

pp gentle

fff abrasive

Red

10

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

mp plain

p solemn

Red

13

XER. 

WEN. 

MYR. 

Perc. 

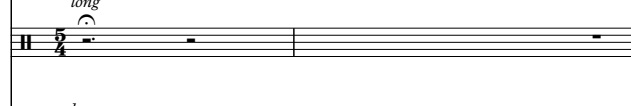
Pno. 

16 *long*

XER. 

WEN. 

MYR. 

Perc. 

Pno. 

19 *Xerxine and Wendelle enter stage.*

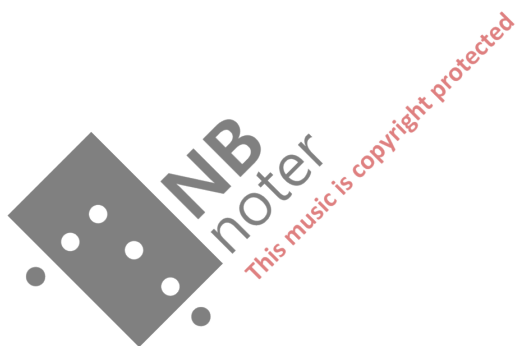
XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc. *hit near centre of drum dampen* *hit near rim of drum l.v.*
pp echo, dry *ppp*

Pno. *mp solemn* *f* *mp* *p echo*



Duet: Xerxine and Wendelle
With Verve, but Not Too Quickly ♩ = 100

XER.

WEN.

Perc.

With Verve, but Not Too Quickly ♩ = 100

Pno.

XER.

WEN.

Perc.

Pno.

7

XER. *mf casually*
You have - n't aged a day. O -

WEN.
you. Oh, stop!

Perc.

Pno. *pp playful* *p* *mf*



10 *Sip drink.* *f sprechstimme*
XER. kay. Dead, if I am luc - ky.

WEN. *mf sung* 3
Where's Vla - di - mir?

Perc.

Pno.

13

XER. *sung; with disdain* *mf* low pitched; almost like grunting

Or chat - ting up Myr - tyl. Slut.

WEN. *mf* with disdain *mf* casually

Bas - tard. They de

Perc. *strike coffin* *mp*

Pno. *f* *sffz* *p*



17

XER. *mf* sung

Where's En - ri - que?

WEN. *mp* plain

serve each o - ther. Dead. Gun fight.

Perc.

Pno. *p*

20 *f* laugh

XER.

WEN.

mf grave

I am se - ri - ous!

Perc.

Pno.



23 *mp* with sass

XER.

Oh, I'm sor - ry.

mf casually

I'm hap - py.

Perc.

Pno.

26

XER.

WEN.

Perc.

Pno.

Clink glass.
mf lyrical

Cheers. Are you still sing - - - ing at the ho - tel?

29

XER.

WEN.

Perc.

Pno.

mf casually No, it closed. Vlad could-n't pay the u - ti - li - ty bills. *f lyrical* Are you still sing -

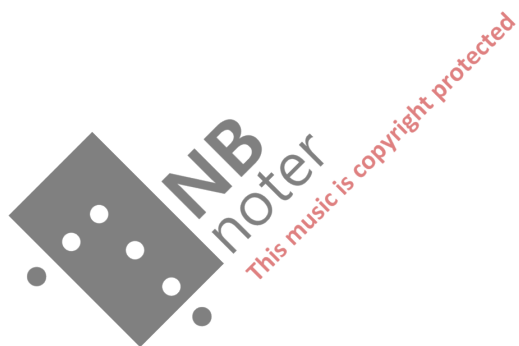
32

XER. *dry*
- - - ing on the side - walk?

WEN. *mf casually*
No, —

Perc.

Pno. *f*
6



35

XER. *f proudly*
Me too. Some po-ten-tial pro-jects.

WEN. *f*
3
peo ple filed com-plaints. But I have some pro-mi-sing pro-spects.

Perc.

Pno. *mp*
3

38

XER. *f* Some plans. *mp plain* Well, good luck with yours.

WEN. *mf* Some pos-si-bi-li-ties. Some pla-ni-bi-li-ties.

Perc.

Pno. *sffz* *sffz* *mp*

41

XER. *mf slightly dramatic* Thank you.

WEN. *mp plain* And good luck with yours. *f very dramatic* Thank

Perc.

Pno. *sffz*

44

XER.

WEN.

Perc.

Pno.

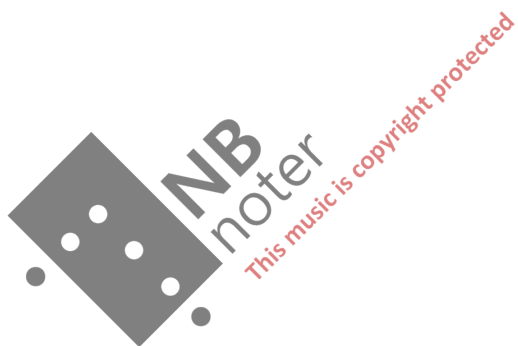
you

strike coffin

mp

f

3



47

XER.

WEN.

Perc.

Pno.

p *sprechstimme*

mf *casually*

Thank both of us. What would she say if she could

mp *lyrical* *mf* *p*

Thank Ruth

p *mp*

50

XER. see us now?

WEN. *f proudly* A - ma - - zing *flaunting* sing - er.

Perc.

Pno. *mf* *mf singing*

53 *f sung; offended* Sing - ers. *mf plain* Where we are.

WEN. *mf plain* With - out her where would we be? *mp passive-aggre* I

Perc.

Pno. *mp obnoxious* *p* *sf*

56

XER.

WEN.

mean, fi-gu-ra-tive-ly, where _____ would we be?

Perc.

B.D. *l.v.*
f not dry

Pno.

mp light *ff*

59

XER.

mf low pitched; almost like grunting
Dead.

mf plain
I mean, spi - ri - tual -

WEN.

Perc.

Pno.

f cresc. *ff*

62

XER. *ly.*

WEN. *mf flaunting*
She said I was a star in the ma - king.

Perc.

Pno.

65 *mf retorting*

XER. That's what she said to me. I won-der if she said it to

WEN. *f proudly*
Well, she meant it when she said it to me.

Perc.

Pno.

68 *dramatic; with disdain* *f* laugh

XER. Myr - tyl.

WEN. *f* laugh *mf* sprechstimme
Well, if she did, she

Perc. *strike coffin*
mp

Pno.

71 *mf* casually 3

XER. She ne - ver like Myr - tyl. She told me.

WEN. did - n't mean it. *mp* dry She called her a

Perc.

Pno. *p* *mp* *pp* *mp*

74 *mf* dry *f* *mf* lyrical, flaunting

XER. She called her a twat. Oh

WEN. *mf* *f* *ff* 3 bitch. She called her a screa-mer.

Perc.

Pno.

77 *f* mocking *p* casually

XER. Her thin lit - tle back!

WEN. *f* mocking *p* casually And be-hind her back! I won - der if she's in the

Perc.

Pno.

80 *f* *frustrated*

XER. She pro-ba - bly wants to be, that sel - fish cow!

WEN. will. That *f* *frustrated*

Perc. *near the centre*
p *f*

Pno. *ff* *p* *f* *6*



83 *sffz* *interjecting*

XER. She bet-ter not be. of our in-he - ri-tance.

WEN. gold - dig-ger! If she takes a pen-ny of my in-he - ri-tance I will

Perc.

Pno. *p* *mp*

86

XER. *ff strong*
I will pull out her throat and rip out her lungs._____

WEN.
chop off her lips and cut out her tongue.

Perc.

Pno. *f* *fffz* *f* *fffz* *fff*

89

XER.

WEN.

Perc. *ff* *centre of drum*

Pno. *6*

92

XER.

WEN.

Perc.

Pno.

p almost whispering

Look out. Here— she comes!

strike coffin

mp

pp

6

3

95

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

mf casually

3

accel.

Xerxine leaves stage.

without pause

I'm get-ting a drink.

Enter Myrtyl.

ff

fff

Duet: Wendelle and Myrtyl

Slightly Slower ♩ = 80

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

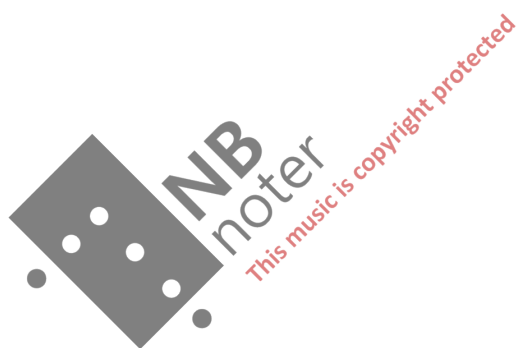
Slightly Slower ♩ = 80

mf light 5

ff strong

much pedal

fp



4

WEN.

f with pretense

Myr - tyl!

mf casually

I

MYR.

f with pretense

Wen-delle!

mf casually 3

You've ne-ver looked bet-ter.

Perc.

Pno.

p

pp

p

mf

7

WEN. *f* grunt; like Xerxine previously

hope not. I look like I am dead.

MYR. *f* proudly

True! But you

Perc.

Pno. *mp* 5 *p*

10

WEN. *mp* casually

I know. Poor girl. The

MYR. 3

still look bet - ter than Xer - xine!

Perc. *mf* strike coffin

Pno. *p* *mp*

13 *mf* 3 turn to look at coffin

WEN. years have been cruel.

MYR. *mf* 3 turn to look at coffin

In more ways than one.

Perc.

Pno. *mp* lyrical 3

16 *mp* lyrical ← = →

WEN. Such a shame a - bout Ruth.

MYR. *mf* almost interrupting

She _____ was my

Perc.

Pno. *p* *p* *mp*

19

WEN. *mf* *p*
A won-der - ful tea - - cher.

MYR. *3*
i - dol. A won-der - ful friend. We used to go *3*

Perc.

Pno. *pp*
3 *3*



22

WEN. *mf* *spoken; strangely* *3*
You used to go sai - ling?

MYR. *fp* *mp* *casually* *3*
sai - ling. E - ve - ry week - end. And

Perc.

Pno. *mp* *fluttering* *6* *6* *pp* *p*

25 *f* interrupting

WEN. We used to go ski - ing.

MYR. *f* obnoxious 3 3
we'd talk a-bout mu - sic and... We used to go fish - - ing.

Perc.

Pno. *f* *ff* dry

28 *mf* with snark

WEN. Are - n't you a - fraid of wa - ter?

MYR. *mf* imitate Wendelle
Are - n't

Perc.

Pno. *ff* *fp*

31 **poco accel.**

WEN.

MYR.

you a - fraid of the snow?

Perc.

strike coffin
mp

Pno.

p

f

poco accel.



34 **A Little Faster** ♩ = 92
mf casually, poised once again

WEN.

How are things at the bro-thel?

MYR.

mf casually
3
Can't com - plain. How are things at the

Perc.

A Little Faster ♩ = 92

Pno.

mf

p

mp

37

WEN. *mf casually* I would-n't know. I have-n't been by. *f retorting* Does your pimp still...

MYR. *mf taunting* side-walk? Does your daugh-ter still vi - sit? I

Perc.

Pno. *p* *mp* *pp* *sfz dry*

40

WEN. *awkward stare* *long* *mp spoken* I don't see the dis-tinc-tion.

MYR. *3* told you be - fore: he's my boy - friend. *long* *p passive-aggressively* I -

Perc. *long* *strike coffin* *mf*

Pno. *p* *pp* *pp*

43

WEN. *mf* sprechstimme 3
Can you still hit the high notes?

MYR. 3 *mp* spoken
ma - gine my sur - prise. Can you

Perc.

Pno. *mp* 3

46

WEN. *f* offended *ff* agitated
Yes, I can. Yes, I

MYR. *f* taunting
still hit the notes at all? No, you can't!

Perc. Bass Drum (near centre) *sffz*

Pno. *sffz*

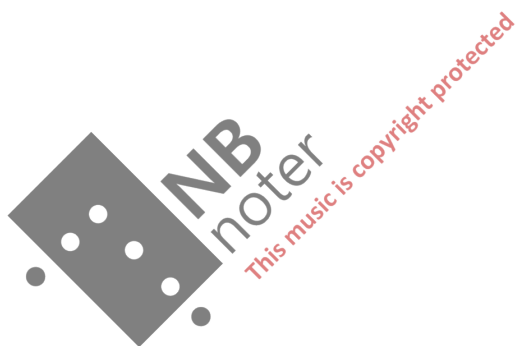
49

WEN. *can!*

MYR. *ff almost screaming*
No, you can't!

Perc. *p* *ff*

Pno. *ff*
without pedal



52

WEN. *long*
p spoken
Yes, I can.

MYR. *long*

Perc. *long*

Pno. *long*
p

55

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

mf

p lyrical

3

58

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

mf casually

f proudly

mp

pp

3

Oh what would she say if she could see us now?

A - ma - zing sing -

61

WEN. *mf* spoken, with attitude
gers. - Sing-ers. Plu-ral. Don't be

MYR. *f* imitate Wendelle
A - ma - zing sing - er, you mean.

Perc.

Pno. *mp* *f*



64

WEN. rude. *act offended*

MYR. *mf* spoken *3* *sung 3* *f* proudly
Sing - ers. Sin - gu - lar. Don't be in sane! She

Perc.

Pno. *sfz* *p* *3* *fp* *f* *p*

67

WEN. *f* *flustered*
She said it to me! She said it to me!

MYR. *mf* *agitated*
al-ways said I was a star in the ma-king. She could

Perc.

Pno. *fp* *f* *pp* *hushed*



70

WEN. *ff* *proudly*
Well, she meant it when she said it to me.

MYR. *f* *belligerent*
say it twice and only mean it once! And she meant it when she said it to

Perc.

Pno. *sfz* *sfz*

73 *f taunting* *ff* *mp spoken*

WEN. And she meant it when she said it to Xer - xine! Ac

MYR. me. *mp spoken* *sung* She said it to Xer - xine?

Perc. *centre of drum; dry* *f*

Pno. *f*



76 *sung* *f dramatic*

WEN. cor-ding to Xer-xine. E-ven Xer

MYR. *mf taunting* No one, no one would mean it if they said it to Xer - xine!

Perc.

Pno. *p* *mf*

79

WEN. *f* laugh *laugh*

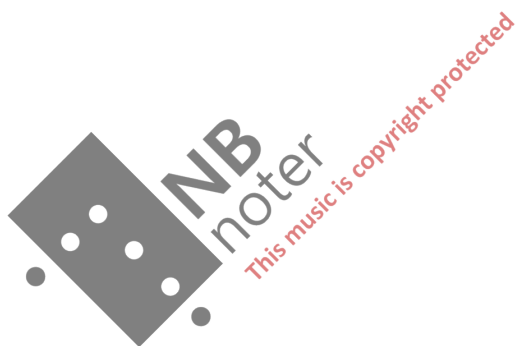
xine said it to Xer - xine!

MYR. *f* laugh *laugh* *mp* lyrical

Ruth ne - ver liked Xer -

Perc.

Pno. *fp* *pp*



82

WEN. *mp* with sass

She called her a bitch. And a whore. And a skank. And a

MYR. *f* with sass

xine! She told me her-self! Be-hind her back!

Perc.

Pno. *f* dry

85 *ff dramatic* *f giggle*

WEN. shou - ter!

MYR. *f giggle*

Perc. *Strike near the centre.*
f dry

Pno. *mp*



88 *mf spoken* *f casually* *f agitated*

WEN. She won-ders that too, I'm sure.

MYR. I won-der if she's in the will. That

Perc.

Pno. *sfz*

91 *f agitated* *3* *ff*

WEN. That gold dig-ging twat. You'll chop off her lips and cut out her tongue.

MYR. sel - fish cow. If she takes a pen- ny... *ff angrily* *3* I'll pull out her throat and

Perc.

Pno. *sfz* *mf* *3* *3* *3* *p*



94 *accel.*

WEN.

MYR. *fff almost screaming* rip out her lungs!

Perc.

Pno. *accel.* *ff cresc.* *6* *5*

97 **Faster** ♩ = 120 *f casually* *f taunting*

WEN. Look out. Here she comes. Best—

MYR. *f passive-aggressively* Oh Christ, here we go.

Perc.

Pno. *Faster* ♩ = 120 *mf light* 5 *fff strong* *much pedal*



100 *Enter Xerxine, Wendelle leaves.* *without a pause*

WEN. — of luck.

MYR.

Perc. *near rim, l.v.* *p*

Pno. *p* *pp*

8th

Duet: Myrtyl and Xerxine

Not Too Slow ♩ = 80

XER.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

Not Too Slow ♩ = 80

p light

2

4

XER. *mf with disdain* Ah, Myr - tyl! *mp casually* It's been a long

MYR. *mf passive-aggressively* Ah, Xer - xine!

Perc.

Pno.

2

pp

7

XER. *mf* casually
time. I could al - ways wait

MYR. *mf* with disdain
It has.

Perc.

Pno. *mp*
p



10 *f* dramatic
lon - - ger.

MYR. *mp* casually
You are not a -

Perc.

Pno. *fp*

13

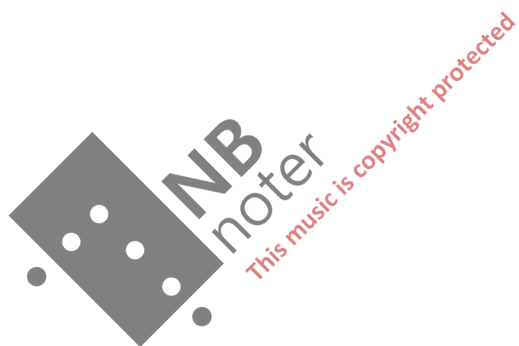
XER. *mf* interjecting

Un - like you with your pimp and your shoes.

MYR. lone, I pro - mise...

Perc.

Pno.



16

XER.

MYR. *act offended* *mp* spoken

Well, at least I'm not mar - ried to

Perc. *strike coffin* *mp*

Pno. *p*

19 *act offended*

XER.

MYR.

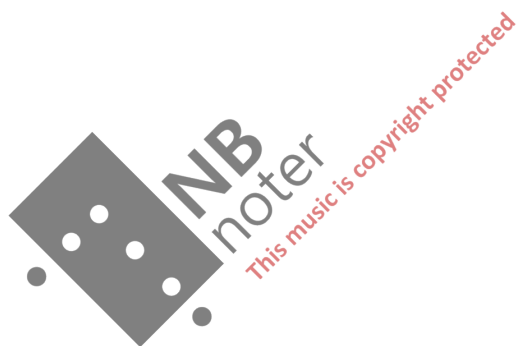
Pu - tin.

Perc.

Pno.

mp

p light



22

XER.

MYR.

mf poised

May I say you look bet - ter than

Perc.

Pno.

fp

25

XER. *mp* passive-aggressively; *sprechstimme* *sung*
 You _____ may not. It's a lie _____

MYR.
 e - ver.

Perc.

Pno.

28

XER. *p* casually
 On -

MYR. *mp* imitate Xerxine; slightly *sprechstimme*
 You must be ac - cus - tomed by now.

Perc.

Pno.

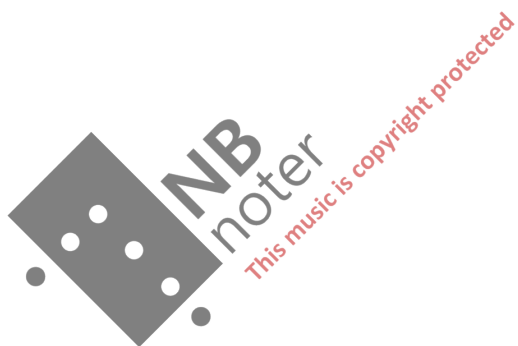
31

XER. *mp*
ly if - they are co - he - rent.

MYR. *mp casually*
May I say that you

Perc.

Pno. *f* *p*



34

XER. *mp passive-aggressively; sprechstimme*
You may not. My

MYR.
look bet - ter than e - ver?

Perc.

Pno. *f* *p*

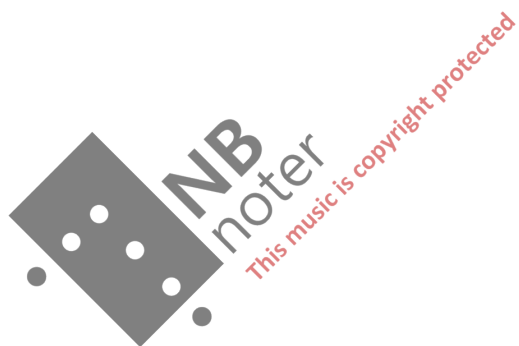
37

XER. *young self would be woun - - ded.*

MYR. *mf casually*
May I say you look good for your

Perc.

Pno. *mf* 4 *f* *p*



40

XER. *mf with affirmation*
Yes _____ you can. But I know it. Say

MYR. age?

Perc. *B.D. near the rim* 2 *mf let ring*

Pno. *p clear*

43

XER. some - thing of use.

MYR. *mf casually* May I say, you look bet - ter than

Perc.

Pno. *mp*

46

XER. *f flaunting* Yes, — you can. *mf spoken casually* But — it's

MYR. *mf spoken casually* me? But I won't.

Perc.

Pno. *mf* *pp lightly* *ffz*

49

XER. *mf* passive-aggressively
true. Is that

MYR. *mp* sung, mocking
From an u - gly point of view.

Perc. *strike coffin*
mp

Pno. *p*



52

XER. how your cli - ents see you?

MYR. *mf* offended
My cli - ents are hand -

Perc.

Pno. *fp*

55

XER. *mf casually*
And what do they

MYR.
some. I pick who I want.

Perc.

Pno.

58

XER.
ask you to do?

MYR. *mf spoken; casually*
The things your hus - band de - cides not to

Perc.

Pno.

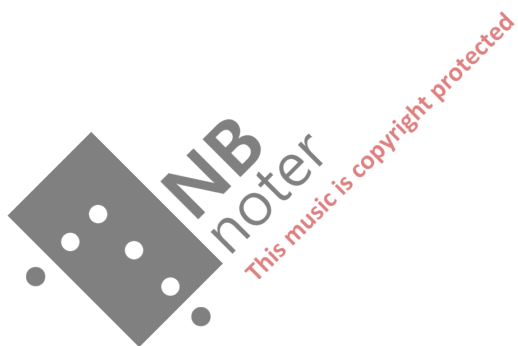
61

XER. *mf* lyrical
Like sing - ing?

MYR. ask you. *f* flaunting
Like sing -

Perc.

Pno. *p* *mf* lyrical *pp*



64

XER. *mp* lyrical *mf*
Cause you can't hold a tune

MYR. *offended*
- ing?

Perc.

Pno. *mp*

67

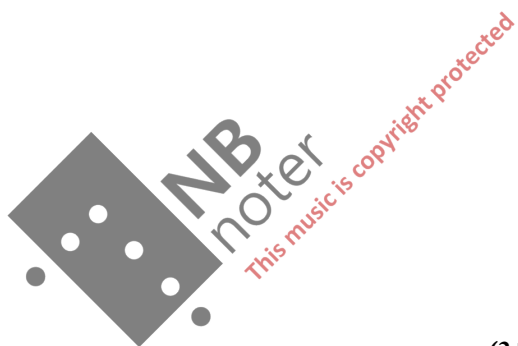
XER. *p*

MYR. *f spoken*

Perc.

Pno. *ff*

I can car - ry much_ much more than



70

XER. *f boastful*

MYR.

Perc. Bass Drum *hit near centre* *ff*

Pno. *ff* *p*

I can car - ry much_ much more than Ruth_

you.

(2+2+2)

(2+2+2)

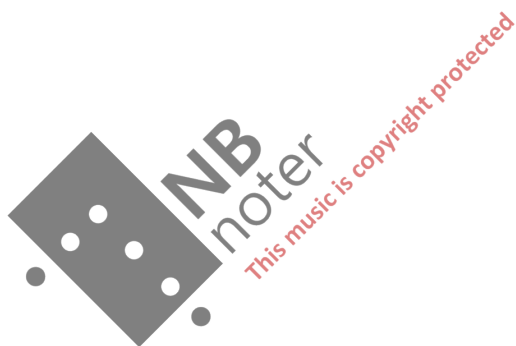
73 (3+3)

XER. *mf affirmative*
Yes, I am sure.

MYR. *Look at Xerxine strangely.* *mp inquisitive*
Are you sure?

Perc.

Pno. *(3+3)* *p* *pp* *ff*



76

XER.

MYR. *f mocking*
You sound un - sure.

Perc.

Pno. *mp*

79

XER. *mf* spoken 3
 God, what would she say if she could see us now?

MYR.

Perc.

Pno. *p*

82

XER. *f* confident
 Bri - li - ant. A - ma - zing

MYR. *f* confident
 Se - xy.

Perc.

Pno. *mp* light 2 *mp* light

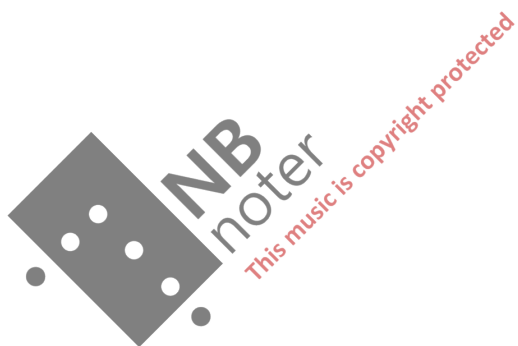
85

XER. *long*
hei - ress. *mf* passive-aggressively
Don't give me

MYR. *long* *mp* spoken
A - ma - zing what?

Perc. *long*

Pno. *long*
p *mp*



88

XER. *f*
that. I know you're af - ter a piece of pie.

MYR. *mf* offended
The pie is a

Perc.

Pno.

91

XER. *f* And the corpse is my friend. The pie is my

MYR. *ff* corpse. There - fore...

Perc.

Pno.

94

XER. *ff* friend. *mp* *sprech.* Why

MYR. *f strong* You're smar - ter than you look.

Perc. *mf* strike coffin

Pno. *f* *p* *mp* *p*

97

XER. *thank you, my dear.*

MYR. *mf casually*
Don't get ex - ci - ted. You look pret-ty

Perc.

Pno. *p*



100

XER. *f flaunting*
Dumb e - nough to get a slice of pie.

MYR. *f with disdain*
dumb. The pie did - n't like

Perc.

Pno. *ff*

103 *ff* confident

XER. The pie was my god - mo - ther!

MYR. you. *ff* inquisitive Real - ly?

Perc.

Pno.



106 *mf* spoken; casually *mf* flaunting

XER. Not tech - ni - cal - ly, no. I

MYR. Throw hands up.

Perc. Bass Drum near rim, l.v. *f*

Pno.

109

XER. *f*
was al - ways her star in the ma - king.

MYR. *mp* spoken; annoyed *3*
She said that to e - ve - ry - one.

Perc.

Pno. *f* *pp*



112

XER. *mf* sprech.; casually
She said it to me.

MYR. *mf* interjecting
And Wen - delle. And me. And a - ny - one who

Perc.

Pno. *mf*

115

XER. *Gasp.* *f flustered*
I can't be - lieve

MYR. *f* stepped through her door. *Gasp.*

Perc.

Pno. *ff harsh* *f bouncing*

118

XER. she said it to Wen - delle! And a

MYR. *f angrily* She called her a bitch.

Perc.

Pno. *ff*

121

XER. *twat.*

MYR. *ff*
And a screa - - - - mer.

Perc.

Pno.

124

XER. *f* *ff* *f disdainfully*
Be - hind her back. If that cow takes a

MYR. *f* *ff*
Be - hind her back.

Perc. *strike coffin*
f

Pno.

127

XER. pen- ny... I will pull out her

MYR. *f angrily* You'll chop off her lips and cut off her tongue.

Perc.

Pno.

130 *ff* tongue and rip... *fff with rage* out her lungs!

MYR.

Perc. *near rim; l.v.* *ff*

Pno.

133

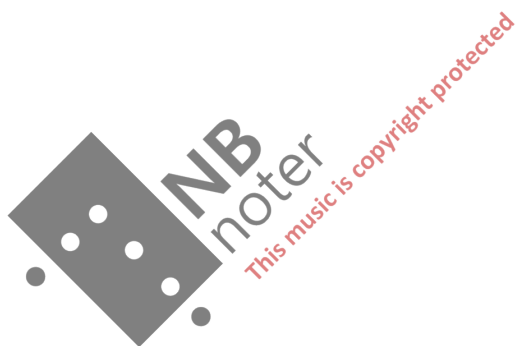
XER.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

fff harsh



136

XER.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

pp

With a short pause.

Finale: Ruth's Will

Moderately ♩ = 72

XER. *p casually*
Look out.

WEN. *Enter Wendelle.*

MYR. *p whispered*
Here — she comes.

Perc.

Pno. *ff spoken*
"All gather for the reading of the will!"
pp
fff rough
p

XER. *Settle down for the reading of the will.*

WEN. *mf casually*
Why are you two look-ing so glum?
Settle down for the reading of the will.

MYR. *Settle down for the reading of the will.*

Perc.

Pno. *pp*

7

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc. *l.v. throughout
hit near the rim of drum*
fff strong

Pno. *mp* *mf* *p* *p echo*

10

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc. *l.v.*
ff

Pno. *pp* *chorale-like* *mp*

13

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

pp

ppp dry

p dry

ppp (echo)

near the centre

16

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

mf spoken clearly

Strike coffin.

f dry

Serious ♩ = c. 50

Bewildered.

Bewildered.

Bewildered.

f strong

"To my beloved students, Xerxine, Wendelle and Myrtyl, I leave three coupons for a larygectomy. I am beyond the of your voices but those still living are not. For their sake, I hope you will be silenced forever."

19

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

22

XER. *f* *flustered* **molto accel.**

That bitch! That twat, whore and skank! I'll chop off her lips and

WEN. *f* *flustered*

That bitch! That twat, whore and skank! I'll chop off her lips and

MYR. *f* *flustered*

That bitch! That twat, whore and skank! I'll chop off her lips and

Perc.

Pno. *f* **molto accel.**

25

XER. *fff* *harsh*
cut out her tongue! I'll pull out her throat and_ rip out her lungs!

WEN. *fff* *harsh*
cut out her tongue! I'll pull out her throat and_ rip out her lungs!

MYR. *fff* *harsh*
cut out her tongue! I'll pull out her throat and_ rip out her lungs!

Perc.

Pno.

28

Quickly ♩ = 120

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc. *ff*
Quickly ♩ = 120
Whatck the casket

Pno. *f dry*
mp light
(f dry)

31

XER.

WEN.

MYR.

Perc.

Pno.

34

XER. *storm off stage*

WEN. *storm off stage* *f* yelling; from offstage
And tear up that will!

MYR. *storm off stage*

Perc. Bass Drum
hit near centre
pp

Pno. *pp* *fff* as harsh as possible

