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A Million Billion Pieces

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A MILLION BILLION PIECES

Written by David James Brock

Music by Gareth Williams

(Production Draft Updated: November 28, 2019)

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Written by David James Brock

Music by Gareth Williams

CHARACTERS

PRIA —16, she is layer upon layer. Maybe you find her.

THEO —16, he'd break if you really touch him.

PRIASOPRANO —a powerful soprano. All her lines are music.

EAGLE19 —a powerful eagle, the canary in a coalmine.

COMMENTS CHORUS —a comments section, multiple distinct voices

SETTING

A motel somewhere in the universe.

Online.

SET

Basic motel room. Some suggestion of a door.

A distinct playing area for online conversations, which will gradually encroach on the motel.

NOTES

Indented Text under a character name indicates a sung line associated with the included score. The following would indicate singing:

PRIASOPRANO

Kaboom

La Boheme English translations (scene 6) are indicated by quotes. All other libretto/lyrics by Brock and Williams.

All music can be recreated live with piano and loop station. Alternatively, pre-recorded instrumental tracks would suffice.

Text in Monda is suggested as typing/texting/the technology of the day, though it is indeed vocalized. Projections, images, either full or partial, make their online conversations easier to follow. Think Reddit, 4Chan...giving way to video.

// Overlapping dialogue on subsequent lines should begin at these marks.

The action is continuous with sounds and scenes resonating into each other, particularly where words are sung—there should be constant echoes between the scenes (*e.g.* PriaSoprano's voice resonating in the motel scenes, the Comments Chorus pervasive: supporting, liking, hating).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A Million Billion Pieces is an extension of *Breath Cycle*, an opera project for singers with cystic fibrosis created by Gareth Williams and David James Brock (www.breathcycle.co.uk). Thank you to Scottish Opera for the support at the project's genesis.

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A Million Billion Pieces was commissioned by Young People's Theatre, Toronto, Canada.

Prologue

Black. We hear PRIASOPRANO's vocal exercises building from somewhere far off, gradually getting closer.

SONG 1: VOCAL EXERCISE A

Sudden light reveals an excited EAGLE19, who interrupts the vocal exercise. He is an eagle in a NASA style astronaut suit. Through the following he is punching holes in a long strip of paper almost at random.

EAGLE19

Anyone out there tonight?

Beat.

My family treats me like a canary.

They think I'm...sensitive.

EAGLE19 calls up a photo of his Uncle Carlos.

I got an Uncle, Uncle Carlos, and I hardly know Uncle Carlos, and if you're anything like me, maybe you have an Uncle you don't know all that well and who doesn't know you all that well, and if you're reading this, Uncle Carlos, I don't care because—

Whatever. You ain't reading this.

Close photo of Uncle Carlos.

This one time, my fam is over at my house—family meal. Chicken. Me, my parents, Uncle Carlos. A dozen cousins. A dozen chickens. Everyone's gotta eat.

The whole place smells like family and chickens and it's hot as a star birth because the oven's been roasting chickens all day. Jam a family in a small space and things'll get star birth hot. And then...

THEO coughs through the following.

I cough and the entire family stops to watch me cough.

You all know how that goes, heh?

See, everyone knows I'm sick. Born sick. Knows about the coughing fits. I'm sensitive. A disease of the month. Somethin' you run a 10K to find a cure for.

The fit lasts a minute—sometimes coughing fits last a minute—and that's a long time to have a room stop and pay attention to you when your life goal is to ...blend.

Coughs stop.

After my fit, it's mad silent.

Fam is surprised I haven't fallen apart.

Cue Uncle Carlos who cuts the silence, yells to my mother, whose name is Rosa, "Crack a window, Rosa. Your boy's a canary in a coal mine, and soon we'll all be hacking up a lung."

Canary in a coal mine. It's a thing I've never heard. So later that night, house empty, Uncle Carlos has bounced, I look it up.

EAGLE19 types in "Canary in a Coal Mine" and gets millions and billions of hits.

Before technology, coal miners would bring a canary down into the mine with them.

Coal mining seems like the worst and most dangerous job in the history of the world.

There was something called black lung that the miners could get.

Go check out black lung later. Here's a link.

EAGLE19 gives a hyperlink to "Black Lung"

If you can't tell by the name "black lung"... black lung is a terrible thing to get as a result of your job.

There are two types of diseases, I guess. Ones you're born with (me), and ones you get (coal miners).

Beat.

'Cause the canaries are small right, sensitive to...um... sensitive to tiny-whatever, particles, so coal miners kept the canaries around to check the air. And if the canary got sick, dead meat usually, the miner knew the air was POISON.

So the miner would go get a mask or whatever before the poison could affect him.

So a canary in a coal mine is a warning. A canary in the coal mine lets us know if an uncertain thing is a safe thing, and all it takes is the death of a little 'ol canary.

It was like—remember my entry on Laika the Russian space dog a couple of weeks ago? The dog they sent up into space before they sent humans? That was a canary in a coal mine, except in that case, it was a dog...in space....here, check that one out later. One of my better posts.

He posts a photo of Laika in a spacesuit

I think the miner just dropped the dead canary on the coal mine floor when he was done with it or whatever.

Beat.

Human history is full of animals going to dangerous places before humans go there. They call these...animal sentinels. I'll tell you more about animal sentinels in future posts. Maybe. But check it out if you wanna check it out...

EAGLE19 puts up a link on "Animal Sentinels."

Anyone out there tonight?

He gets a "Like"

Hit me up in the comments.

Beat.

I gotta be somewhere tonight. Somewhere dangerous.

Somewhere I can't send a canary. Or Eagle19.

I gotta go as sensitive ol' me.

Until next time, all. If there is a next time. Wish me luck, all.

Eagle19 out!

A chorus of voices from off.

COMMENTS CHORUS

Good luck, homey!

You're insane. Total idiot!

Praying 4 u!

Rooting for you, bro! Game changer!

Let us know if you explode and die, Eagle19!

EAGLE19 stuffs the strip of paper into a backpack and exits into black the exact moment PRIASOPRANO appears and begins to sing.

PRIASOPRANO

Eagle19? Eagle19? Are you coming?

PRIASOPRANO continues her vocal exercises alternating with PRIA's countdown.

SONG 2: VOCAL EXERCISE B

PRIA

5...4...3...2...1...Kaboom.

PRIASOPRANO

Kaboom!

PRIASOPRANO's song echoes into the crossfade with the next scene even as she disappears—something that will happen throughout the play.

One

Motel room, initially only lit by a cell phone. PRIA's face appears over the phone. She texts. The motel room gradually comes into light.

PRIA wipes down the room meticulously with antibacterial liquid, but then begins to cough. The coughs cut PRIASOPRANO's song. PRIA wipes the spots she has coughed on.

A knock on the door. PRIA opens it, revealing THEO in a Hazmat suit, full mask.

PRIA
Theo?

THEO
Uh huh.

PRIA
Overdoing it, ya think?

THEO
You're Pria?

PRIA
You know what I look like, weirdo.

THEO
Pria. Hello.

PRIA
What's with the come-in-peace get up?

THEO
The what?

Beat.

PRIA
So you're here.

THEO
I'm here.

Beat.

PRIA

You've always just been a head on some shoulders. Before that, some lonely words on a screen. Before that, a dream I had.

THEO

Eh?

PRIA spins around.

PRIA

What'cha think?

Beat.

PRIA

That was stupid.

THEO

What was?

PRIA

Twirling. I'm not like that. I was pretending to be funny.

Beat.

THEO

Do I come in now?

All look at the motel bed.

PRIA

Take off the gear. You'll have to // eventually.

THEO

//I know.

PRIA

Where'd you get that? This... suit?

THEO

Hazmat suit. Hazardous materials.

PRIA

I'm hazardous, eh bubba?

THEO
We both are.

PRIA
Sexy...

THEO
Huh?

PRIA
Get it off, and get on in.

THEO doesn't move.

THEO
We're still cool for this?

PRIA
You've been cautious your whole life, right? Avoiding people like ourselves because of a theory...our whole lives...leading up to this moment have been mired in precautions.

THEO
Informed by precautions.

PRIA
Mired.

THEO
Sure, mired. Mired.

PRIA
And where's that got us?

THEO
Here.

PRIA
Right.

THEO
Livin'.

PRIA
Whoopdee for Livin'.

THEO
Still breathin'

PRIA
Livin' the dream. Breathin'

THEO
In one piece.

PRIA starts to disrobe a bit.

PRIA
Take that off and get in. Feel like I'm about to lose my virginity to a robot.

THEO
Just...slow down.

PRIA
What, you're not horny anymore?

THEO enters but still does not take off the suit.

PRIA
The suit.

THEO doesn't take off the suit.

You don't think in your entire...you've never accidentally been in an elevator or a grocery store or something with someone like us....

THEO
Probs. I don't know.

PRIA
And did you explode then? In the elevator? In the dairy aisle? Just by being close?

THEO
Obviously not.

PRIA
So you're not gonna explode just by being in the room. Our superbugs aren't laser beams, right?

THEO
No, but—

PRIA

And if we're gonna cause each other to explode into a million billion pieces, we can at least have some fun on our last night on the planet, heh?

THEO

This is some real shit.

PRIA

What did you expect?

THEO

I got no imagination.

PRIA

This was about not being fragile dolls on a glass shelf, right?

THEO

Right.

PRIA

This was the idea...this moment. Rebels. Together. Right?

THEO

Together.

PRIA

So let's get at it, stud.

Snap transition to next scene.

Two

EAGLE19 appears.

EAGLE19

Anyone out there in the great big...universe? I'm having a bad day. Lonely day. I feel like the first dog in space. Anyone know that story?

Pause. He begins to type "First Dog in Space," but PRIASOPRANO appears in a separate area. She has PM'd him.

SONG 3: VOCAL EXERCISE C floats within the scene (PRIA) providing a backing for PRIASOPRANO's line where indicated.

PRIASOPRANO

Hey, Eagle19. Cool pic. You're a sickie too, heh?

EAGLE19

Yeah.

PRIASOPRANO

I read your posts in here sometimes.

EAGLE19

Least someone does.

We hear PRIA's vocal exercise.

PRIASOPRANO

Loved the one about Pluto not being a planet anymore...like it's some outcast.

EAGLE19

Nice to meet.

PRIASOPRANO

You know a lot.

EAGLE19

I dunno, I just look stuff up mostly.

We hear PRIA's vocal exercise.

PRIASOPRANO

What's your name mean?

EAGLE19

I dig eagles. What about you?

PRIASOPRANO

I am PriaSoprano...the greatest singer in the universe!

EAGLE19

The universe is pretty big.

PRIASOPRANO

Duh. I'm not stupid.

EAGLE19

Sorry. Didn't mean it like that. I just like that sort of stuff.

PRIASOPRANO

What sort of stuff?

EAGLE19

Universe stuff.

We hear PRIA's vocal exercise.

PRIASOPRANO

Haha. "Universe stuff." So like...you like EVERYTHING?

EAGLE19

Yeah, I know.

PRIASOPRANO

Building to a vocal flourish on "big."

The universe is pretty big 😊

PRIA/PRIASOPRANO share a vocal exercise.

Snap transition back to the motel.

Three

PRIA goes into her bag and pulls out a large plastic drop cloth. She covers the bed with it.

PRIA

There, just in case. Save the maid some trouble. Respect.

THEO

People call me tragic. I ain't.

PRIA

Okay.

THEO

But people think—

PRIA

People are the worst. So what?

THEO

I just want you to know...I plan on walking out of here in one piece.

PRIA

You think?

THEO

I hope.

PRIA

Okay. Whatever, we're not Romeo and Juliet, I get it.

THEO

They die in the end.

PRIA

Lucky them.

THEO

You're really okay with the idea that this might be the last thing we ever do before we blow up into **a million billion pieces**? On the wall and the bed and the plastic sheet—

PRIA

And so what if we did? Explode. Die. So what? What's the big deal?

THEO

I think I'm gonna bounce.

PRIA

Chicken shit. No wonder all your stories are about how lonely you are.

THEO

They're not really stories—

PRIA

You're scared to *not* be lonely. So here I am!

THEO

Later, Pria.

But he doesn't move. She sees this.

PRIA

You need to chill. I didn't mean it like—like no one remembers that Romeo and Juliet died. They remember their love.

THEO

Their love?

PRIA

Yeah, the love part is the reason we take it in school, right? To learn how to love, or what love is...

THEO

Love, though?

PRIA

Though maybe they just teach it as a big old sex warning. Like, Romeo and Juliet died. And people been telling us that we can't be together or we'll explode into a million billion pieces. Like—it's all nonsense. Parents and teachers gotta have something better to do, right? I mean it's not just sickies. It's everyone our age. Pregnancy. Sex. AIDS. Sex. Sex. And okay, us...Kaboom—sex. Scary scary sex!

THEO

Scary.

PRIA

And I don't care what you say, Theo—in Romeo and Juliet, love meant sex. No waiting around. They boned for sure. And then they died, and good for them for getting sex out of the way before they bit it.

Pause.

THEO
You keep saying love.

PRIA
Yeah, their love, dingdong.

THEO
Is that what this is about 'cause I didn't think—uh—we—

PRIA
We don't have to be in love for this to be meaningful.

THEO
Okay.

PRIA
And anyways, Romeo and Juliet were only thirteen or fourteen. We're ancient compared to them.

Snap.

Four

EAGLE19 appears.

PRIASOPRANO appears. We hear SONG 4: VOCAL EXERCISE D with both PRIA & PRIASOPRANO contributing. As in Scene 2, we hear PRIA float within the scene providing a backing for PRIASOPRANO's lines where indicated. However, the music starts to gain in volume/urgency.

EAGLE19

You came back.

PRIASOPRANO

Of course I did.

EAGLE19

Some chicks get scared.

We hear PRIA's vocal exercise.

PRIASOPRANO

Maybe 'cause you call them chicks, dude.

EAGLE19

I'm sorry. I'm bad at this.

PRIASOPRANO

Not a big Casanova eh?

EAGLE19

Who's that?

PRIASOPRANO links him "Casanova"

PRIASOPRANO

Oh....I've stumped the great mind of Eagle19!

We hear PRIA's vocal exercise.

Casanova was just some guy who was with lots of chicks a few hundred years ago.

EAGLE19

Seems sort of gross.

PRIASOPRANO

You think so?

EAGLE19

What do I know?

PRIASOPRANO

You're not like other boys.

EAGLE19

Yeah...duh. Been told that like since birth.

THEO coughs.

PRIASOPRANO

Chill dude. This is a compliment.

EAGLE19

Sorry. I told you, I'm bad at this. I'm no...Casa Loma.

PRIASOPRANO

Nova.

EAGLE19

Like Supernova.

We hear PRIA's vocal exercise.

PRIASOPRANO

What's a Supernova?

EAGLE19 links her "Supernova."

EAGLE19

Like when a star dies...it explodes....it gets really bright....and...

PRIASOPRANO
Kaboom?

EAGLE19
Then it's gone.

Beat.

PRIASOPRANO
Kaboom.

Beat.

EAGLE19
My heart was racing all day at school... thinking about us chatting tonight.

PRIASOPRANO
And now?

EAGLE19
Heart feels like it's gonna kaboom out of my body...

PRIASOPRANO
Kaboom!

EAGLE19
I've never felt this all over the place.

PRIASOPRANO
Danger!

EAGLE19
Circling danger.

PRIASOPRANO
Ya never been close to dying.

EAGLE19
Like not...*dangerously* close.

PRIASOPRANO

What kind of sickie are you? 🤒

EAGLE19

You've been close?

PRIASOPRANO

Just a supernova waiting to happen.

Pause. From the motel...

THEO

My name is Theo...IRL

PRIA

I'm Pria. IRL. Obvs.

Pause. Will they go on?

EAGLE19

So, Pria...do anything dangerous today?

We hear the power of PRIASOPRANO's vocal exercise.

Snap.

Five

The Motel. As before.

THEO
You think it's happened?

PRIA
What?

THEO
Think we've given each other superbugs?

PRIA
Well, if it happens, I want the end to come fast. That it's not this...slow...we've lived with all our lives. I hope it's quick... big. KABOOM!

THEO
Come on...

Beat.

PRIA
Maybe you should take off the space suit...let your superbugs go for a spin, big boy.

THEO
Pria?

PRIA
Don't do that.

THEO
Do what?

PRIA
Say my name as a question and just my name and nothing else while you wait for me to say 'what' so that you can just say what you wanna say. Just say what you wanna say and don't feel like you have to tee me up about it with my name in the form of a question.

THEO
Sorry.

PRIA
We need to be more efficient about this. I'm sick, Theo.

THEO
Uh, duh—

PRIA
No. I mean...whether I explode tonight or not...the clock is ticking on this bod.

Beat.

So take your space-pants off.

THEO
This isn't a real hazmat suit. It's just like...a Halloween costume.

THEO takes off the mask revealing his face for the first time. Rest of the suit stays on.

PRIA
Nice to meet you, Theo.

They shake hands. First touch, but through a glove.

PRIA
Theo?

THEO
What?

PRIA
Annoying, isn't it?

THEO pulls his hand back.

THEO
I got you something.

PRIA
Like a present?

THEO
Yeah.

THEO goes into his backpack and pull out the strip of paper he had been making holes in as EAGLE19. He hands her the paper.

PRIA
Uh...cool? What is it?

THEO

I know you like music. It's music. Here...

THEO goes back into his bag and pulls out a hand cranked music box. He puts the paper in. Music Box Note: The paper strip must be hand-punched prior to this scene. A C major arpeggio, similar to the loops and exercises, sounds when the hand crank is turned.

THEO

Turn the crank.

PRIA does and pretty music escapes. The sound grows from the instrument and fills the space, with a slowed down recording of the music box. It washes over them for a moment and continue as the music plays.

PRIA

It's beautiful. Thank you.

THEO

I thought you'd like it.

Beat.

PRIA

Haven't exploded yet. What do the dumb doctors know, huh?

THEO

Is that true? The clock ticking thing you said—like, you're sick...like, for real... close—

PRIA

Don't ya ever think about...what a relief it would be....

The music stops. They are face to face.

That if I just kiss you....if my spit and your spit touch...maybe and finally...

Kaboom.

Snap.

Six

EAGLE19 appears.

EAGLE19

How was your day today, PriaSoprano?

Silence.

EAGLE19

How was your day today, PriaSoprano?

Silence.

PRIASOPRANO appears. She's been listening to sad opera all day. La Boheme.

PRIASOPRANO

Do you think we're special?

EAGLE19

What do you mean?

PRIASOPRANO

Do you think sickies are special?

EAGLE19

I dunno.

PRIASOPRANO

Do you know La Boheme? It's an opera.

EAGLE19

No. I'll listen to it tonight. For sure. Link me?

She links him La Boheme. It continues to play softly throughout the following.

PRIASOPRANO

There's this character Mimi. Everyone loves her. But she's dying right from the very beginning of the opera. It makes people love her more. Do you think that's real?

Beat.

Like, okay...how about this. Do you know anything about genetics?

EAGLE19

Obvs.

PRIASOPRANO

Like how if a kid gets blue eyes and his parents don't have blue eyes...

EAGLE19

Yeah, I know. Recessive genes. His parents carry the gene but don't show it...like our OK-Parents who didn't explode, but did it and made us...

PRIASOPRANO

Okay, know-it-all...

EAGLE19

Sorry...

PRIASOPRANO

The one thing I don't like about you is how much you apologize.

SONG 5: PUNNETT SQUARE MUSIC into LA BOHEME EXCERPT (Arranged by Williams).

A Punnett square projection starts to take shape through the following, PRIASOPRANO creating them, piece by piece, with each block filling in at her command (and eventually EAGLE19's) until the letters become emojis:

PRIASOPRANO

So our parents weren't like us. They were ok.

C c
C
c

The odds of them meeting was like one in a million.

	C	c
C	CC	Cc
c	Cc	cc

Then the odds of them having us were one in four.

	C	c
C	OK	OK
c	OK	cc

Then the odds of us meeting was another...like...one in a billion.

	C	c
C	😞	😞
c	😞	“us”

PRIASOPRANO

Okay, so maybe that only makes us...rare.

EAGLE19

We're unique. Lucky us. Like the odds of winning the lottery.

😞 + 😞 = 😞😞

PRIASOPRANO

This is a pretty crappy prize.

EAGLE19

But like...imagine two sickies had a baby? Like if sickies could even touch....

Another Punnett square projection starts to take shape through the following...

I mean, think about it....

	c	c
c		
c		

We'd know exactly what would happen.

	c	c
c	cc	cc
c	cc	cc

When's the last time you were certain about anything?

	c	c
c	🙄	🙄
c	🙄	🙄

Aren't you tired of the mystery? Of nothing being in our control?



PRIASOPRANO

You got us going from virgins to parents crazy-quick.

EAGLE19

Hey, who said I was a virgin?!

PRIASOPRANO

It's okay, Eagle19. I am too! 🙄

PriaSoprano sings.

PRIASOPRANO

'They speak to me of love'

EAGLE 19

What's that?

It's La Boheme...listen.

'Of fancies and visions bright they tell me
such as poets and only poets know. Do you hear me?'

It's the moment in the opera where Mimi and
Rodolpho meet for the first time
and they instantly fall in love...

'Spring's first sweet fragrant kiss is mine.
It's mine'

Can I meet you?

I've never done this.

Will you meet me?

I've never done this!

Snap.

Seven

They are still close.

THEO
I've never...done this.

PRIA
I know.

THEO
Like...

PRIA
It's called sex, Theo.

THEO giggles and if there was a spell, it's broken.

And if you can't say it, you're not supposed to have it.

THEO
I can say it.

Pause. Then weirdly...

Sex.

PRIA
You got a condom?

THEO finally takes off the Hazmat suit and digs into his pockets.

THEO
Uh huh. My dad gave me three.

PRIA
Three. You cowboy.

THEO
Said that if a superbug was gonna get me, it was gonna be the ones I was born with,
not the ones I got on my pecker.

PRIA
Hey! I'm not like that.

THEO
I know. I know.

PRIA
He said pecker?

THEO
Uh huh.

PRIA
Weird. Pecker. And weird. Them letting you meet me when they knew that if we...
did *this*...we might both shatter into a....

THEO
What'd your mom say?

PRIA
Evading.
We should kiss now.

THEO
You're psyched to explode, heh?

PRIA
So you *really* believe it, then? That eventually, by some magic, you and I will cause
each other to explode?

THEO
Maybe.

PRIA
Me too.

THEO
Yeah.

PRIA
But still, you came here.

THEO
So did you.

PRIA
But now...

THEO

No one else has ever tried this. We're the first.

PRIA

So then? Rebels!

THEO

Sorry. I'm just—

PRIA

Playful turn.

Don't be sorry, I'm hot A F—you wanted some of dis!

Beat.

You were gonna risk your life for me.

Beat.

Until you got here.

Beat.

Am I too pale?

THEO

Are you pale?

PRIA

Too sick looking?

THEO

We're both sick *looking*.

PRIA

But I'm closer to the end—

THEO

Don't say that.

PRIA

And you're different than I thought too, bud. Like, I didn't even know your height...

THEO

Sorry. Am I disappointing?

PRIA
No.

THEO
Okay, I'm not sorry then.

Beat.

Say we don't explode—

PRIA
Meh.

THEO
If we don't explode, I believe things can get better.

PRIA
Everyone believes their life will get better. Almost never happens. You get a best day, then everything after that is a giant let down.

THEO
What was your best day?

PRIA
This was supposed to be. Sex. Explode. Die.

THEO
You don't think they can cure us?

PRIA
It.

THEO
It. Whatever.

PRIA
There's no cure//for it.

THEO
//I don't think that. All sorts of things that used to kill people don't. Chicken pox.

PRIA
And you'd just as easily//find...

THEO
//The bubonic plague—

PRIA
...a cure for being too tall.

Beat.

THEO
A hacksaw.

PRIA
Say what?

THEO
A hacksaw would cure height. Like, say someone was too tall. You could hacksaw yourself down...maybe at the ankles. The shins. The knees. All problems got a solution. Eventually.

PRIA
You're stupid.

THEO
So are you.

PRIA
So what—if we don't explode, you're asking me on a second date?

THEO
Yes.

PRIA
Kiss my mouth.

THEO
Pria?

PRIA
Theo?

THEO
Don't do that.

PRIA
I'm tired.

THEO
I know. Me too.

PRIA
Kill me?

THEO
What?

PRIA
Please kill me before I die.

She goes to kiss him.

He steps back.

Snap.

Eight

PRIASOPRANO and EAGLE19. Through following, we hear PRIA struggling through her vocal warmups.

SONG 6: PRIA'S HOSPITAL SONG

PRIASOPRANO

I like you. You make me laugh.
You make me look forward.
You make me afraid.
I fear the day we meet face to face
I fear the day we're in the same place.
I fear the day you wish we never met.
I have never known anyone for a very long time,
and it breaks my heart in two.
I believe this. One day we'll meet.
And then we'll kiss, and explode into pieces.
A million billion pieces.
I have never known anyone for a very long time.

But I'll sign off now.
I'll go offline. Leave this chat behind.
And live in the real world.

EAGLE19

Wait, where are you going?

PRIASOPRANO

I believe this.
If I get through the next few days,
You will count the ways I'm coming for you.
We're just getting started.
We're just getting started.
We're just getting started.

We're just getting started.

PRIA shows herself to EAGLE19.

PRIA

I'm going into the hospital for a while. Thanks for the dope year, Theo.

PRIA coughs into black. And disappears.

EAGLE19

PriaSoprano? You still there? Hello?

Beat.

We were just getting started.

A slow transition this time.

Nine

As before. THEO doesn't move in.

PRIA

Okay, if you're not gonna do this—I'll find someone else.

THEO

What do you mean *someone else*?

PRIA

Some other sickie.

THEO

You talk to sickies other than me?

PRIA

Maybe.

THEO

I can't leave you like this.

PRIA

Like what?

THEO

All like...suicidal.

PRIA

It's not suicide if it's gonna happen anyway. It's power.

THEO

Your mom would be mad pissed.

PRIA

Two weeks ago, my mom was saying goodbye-forever to me in a hospital.

THEO

Where did you tell her you were going tonight?

PRIA

Out.

THEO

That's so cold.

PRIA

Well, not all our parents are as perfect as yours, dude.

THEO

She's gotta be worried about you...

PRIA

Knock it off.

THEO

It's selfish.

PRIA

Save the crap.

THEO

People worry about us because they love us.

PRIA

If only we were all as strong as you...

THEO hoarks into his hand. It's blood.

THEO

That look strong to you?

Beat.

PRIA

You worried about me, Romeo?

THEO

Yeah.

PRIA tenderly wipes his hand of the blood.

PRIA

Every time I've ever coughed in my entire life. Every sniffle. Comes with a gasp from my mom. I cough. She gasps. I cough three times. You can practically hear it. Gasp-gasp-gasp...She never got used to this broken thing she got saddled with. My older sister is OK. She's the good one. I'm the porcelain doll on the glass shelf. And we said, that tonight, we were gonna come here and be rebels—to be our own astronauts.

THEO

Pilot our own ships.

PRIA

And now you're looking at me like she looks at me, you asshole.

THEO

My ma cried when I told her I was coming here. She believes...kaboom. My dad shook my hand. He believes...I might. They asked if they could pick me up after. I told them I didn't know how long we'd be. I'd take a taxi or a bus or hitch a ride on the back of an eagle or a rocket ship....

I get it, Pria.

I feel—I know that their lives will be easier when I'm gone. Whether it's a year from now or at some point tonight...

PRIA

Kaboom.

THEO

Kaboom.

PRIA

Some OK-parents get kids who might explode, and some OK parents get kids who like, sleep with everyone on the basketball team.

THEO

Yeah.

Wait. What?

PRIA

Nothing. Rumour at my high school.

Silence. THEO pulls out two cigarettes.

THEO

Oh, hey—my Dad also gave me these.

PRIA

Maybe they really do want you dead.

THEO

It's just a couple of smokes. A couple of smokes never killed anyone, even a couple of sickies like us. I see sickies smoking outside the hospital all the time. Ever smoked?

PRIA

I've been to parties, you know. I'm not a kid.

THEO
So you've drank, too?

PRIA
I like the taste of gin in my mouth and how it feels in my throat and stomach and when my fingers tingle. When they...fingle.

THEO
Drugs?

PRIA
Weed. Yeah.

THEO
You've done it all then.

PRIA
Hardly call that "it all" ...

THEO
More than me.

PRIA
What, you don't have a list of things to do before the end?

THEO
No. Why do you?

PRIA
Sure.

THEO
Like bungee jumping?

PRIA
Go see the Maria Callas sculpture.

THEO
That's...an opera thing...

PRIA
Singer.

THEO
An opera singer?

PRIA

She's *the* opera singer. And there's this sculpture of her in Athens. Greece. I wanted to travel to see it.

THEO

Greece. Warm there.

PRIA

Really warm.

THEO

They got Greeks there.

PRIA

Sure. But I basically did none of the things.

Awkward pause. THEO is examining her inquisitively.

PRIA

What is *this* you're doing?

THEO

Huh?

PRIA

It's not hot.

THEO

I don't follow....

PRIA

You're stalling. Engaged. Trying to keep me talking. Did you see this on some show where a cop tries to keep a nutcase from jumping off a bridge or something?

THEO

'Scuse me if I can't ask questions of the girl I'm supposed to make love to—

PRIA

Blech. Make love.

THEO

Who is asking me to kill her by making love to her—

PRIA

Don't say make love.

THEO
And perhaps myself in the process of *making love*...

PRIA
Dude.

THEO
Explode into...

Pause.

THEO
Why me?

PRIA
Because...you're my boyfriend.

THEO
Monumental for him.
I am?

PRIA
Aren't you? We've known each other a year. Told each other stuff. You do that with any other bitches?

THEO
Nah.

Beat.

PRIA
Romantic, eh Romeo?

THEO
You want a cigarette or what?

PRIA
It's a no smoking room.

THEO
Never heard of a rebel who let a little no-smoking sticker tell her what to do.

PRIA
Give me one then, jerk.

THEO gives her a cigarette. They light them. A fire burns.

Both begin coughing fits after an inhale. They cough on the room, on each other. They put the cigs out quickly.

THEO

Well, the place is crawling with superbugs now.

PRIA

Your saliva is definitely in my mouth.

Pause. They wait. No explosion.

THEO

Still in one piece.

THEO reaches out. Takes PRIA's hand. Skin on skin contact. Big moment.

Snap.

Ten

EAGLE19.

EAGLE19

Anyone out there tonight?

Beat.

Anyone out there in the big ol' universe?

COMMENTS CHORUS

She's probably dead, dude.

EAGLE19

I was reading about the first dog sent into space. Her name was Laika.
Here's a picture.

EAGLE19 shares the Laika picture.

This was in the 1950s. Russians. They found Laika on the streets of
Moscow.

1950s Moscow looked like a rough place to be for people and dogs. Take a
look at some of these.

EAGLE19 shows a bunch of old Moscow photos.

The Russians were in a race with the U.S. to send a person to space, but
they couldn't send a person at that point, too dangerous, so they sent Laika
on November 3, 1957...up on a ship called Sputnik 2.

The day before they sent Laika into orbit, one of the Sputnik 2 scientists
took her home so that Laika could play with his kids. He said, "I wanted to
do something nice for her, she had so little time left to live," but he said it
in Russian.

When I was born, Doctors said I wouldn't live past my teens.

COMMENTS CHORUS

Join the club, man.

EAGLE19

That my life expectancy was 19. So...Eagle19. Get it? No one thinks I'll survive the journey.

But Laika didn't survive the journey.

She died within a few hours.

But the Russians learned a lot by sending up Laika.

Not how to bring her back alive or anything, but they learned something that would help keep humans safe because in 1961, the Russians put the first man up there. A man named Yuri Gagarin.

I bet some of ya thought it was an American or something.

But Yuri Gagarin was in space for just under two hours and orbited Earth once.

He came home, unharmed, and got his own Russian holiday and Russian statues and buildings with his name on them.

Fifty years later, they built a statue of Laika in Moscow. So that's pretty good.

Picture of the Laika statue.

Picture Laika all alone on that spaceship. Maybe knowing she was taking her last breath. Thinking about how yesterday, she was playing with those kids. It all makes me pretty sad.

The saddest stories always involve someone being alone, don't you think?

Anyone ever feel like that?

PriaSoprano...I need to know you're out there.

Beat. Nothing.

COMMENTS CHORUS

She'll pull through, man.

If she's dead, she's lucky, dude!

Hey Eagle19, check your DM!

EAGLE19 opens a photo. It's a photo of a dog skeleton labeled "Laika Now."

EAGLE19 quickly closes it. Shuts off his computer.

Some LOL's from the COMMENTS CHORUS.

Snap.

Eleven

As before. Touching hands.

THEO

You said there were other sickies you coulda done this with. Really?

PRIA

No. Not really.

THEO

So you couldn't have done this with anyone else?

PRIA

What kill myself?

THEO

No. Sex in motel rooms.

PRIA

That I could obviously do.

THEO

Who?

PRIA

No one you know.

THEO

Obvs, but tell me about one of them.

PRIA

A math boy was kissing my neck at a party once.

THEO

Okay.

PRIA

He started to feel me up.

THEO

Okay.

PRIA

Are you enjoying this?

THEO
If I said yes, would you think I was a pervert?

PRIA
Yes.

THEO
I like it.

PRIA
Pervert.

THEO
Keep going.

PRIA
He freaked out 'cause I tasted like lemons and batteries.

THEO
That's funny.

PRIA
But you're not laughing.

THEO
I mean, I get it. Like...I'm sour too. Like people don't know anything about how people like us are sour, so it'd be weird to taste our sour.

THEO licks his own sour arm.

Yep. Lemons.

PRIA
You sour...?

Nodding down.

THEO
Pervert.

PRIA
Math dude didn't know how I would possibly not break if he got on top of me.

THEO
I know you won't break.

PRIA

Then why are you so afraid to get on with this? Are you *obsessed* with living?

THEO

I'm not obsessed, I just don't want to die.

PRIA

Dude, why did you//even come here?

THEO

//I don't wanna die a virgin!

PRIA

Well, you're doing a terrible job at fulfilling your life goals—!

THEO

Do you think I'm good looking?

PRIA

I'm here, aren't I?

THEO

Rank me. One to ten.

PRIA

That's stupid.

THEO

So under five?

PRIA

No, listen. You're beautiful. I like that I see in you what people see in me. Like...that fragility.

THEO

Great.

PRIA

Like, you could crush a butterfly, but still think it's beautiful, right?

THEO

What about me is beautiful?

PRIA

Don't be needy.

THEO

Get me in the mood. I need to know that you actually like me if I'm gonna do this.

PRIA

Your face.

THEO

What about it?

PRIA

It's got a nice shape.

THEO

Which shape?

PRIA

I like how your neck is like, this long rectangle. And your head is oval. And they are two completely separate shapes. The oval just sits on the rectangle, like an egg on top of a like...paper towel roll.

THEO

So I'm skinny.

PRIA

And you have a pointy chin.

THEO

I always wanted muscles.

PRIA

You're fragile and beautiful now shut the hell up.

Beat.

The way your shoulders hunch forward a bit. Like mine. I think it's ugly that boys are raised to stand with their shoulders back as though everyone is Superman or on the basketball team.

Beat.

So, what about me, then? Put *me* in the mood. You think I'm good looking?

THEO

I think so.

PRIA

You are so bad at this.

THEO

I wouldn't ogle you on the street.

PRIA

You don't think I'm ogle-able?

THEO

You wanna be?

PRIA

Sometimes, but like—respectably. My sister is ogle-able. Total babe.

PRIA shows THEO a phone photo of her sister.

THEO

She's okay.

PRIA

You have bad taste.

THEO

If I focus on it, on your prettiness, I see it. But that's not why I love—why I'm here.

PRIA

Overall, I like the way I look.

THEO

I look forward to the time we have together when I can learn you more.

PRIA

We don't have time.

THEO

I want to know you for a very long time, Pria.

PRIA

Deflecting the attempt at romance.

I wish I was a little fatter.

THEO

I'm not saying this right. Why is this so hard?

PRIA

Come over here. Let me help you.

THEO begins approaching PRIA, a magnet between them.

PRIA

I dreamed us. Before I found you. Together. In this exact moment.

THEO

You have?

PRIA

There's a little countdown. There's some music. The ceiling disappears and then a white fire. And it doesn't hurt. In the white fire.

THEO

Really?

PRIA

And it doesn't hurt.

THEO

A supernova...

PRIA

And if it does, not for long. And not worse than anything I'm not already feeling—or anything you've already felt—only this time. Kaboom.

THEO

Kaboom.

PRIA

Kaboom.

They are as close as they've ever been.

PRIA

Kiss me.

THEO

Okay.

THEO kisses her. It's happening!

Snap.

Twelve

EAGLE19 alone. The Chorus starts slow, then becomes a cacophony—chaotic as star birth—some of these lines can be repeated—before they trail off again.

COMMENTS CHORUS

Face it, dude, she's gone.

What's it been, like two weeks?

Stop crying. None of us are happy.

Maybe she met another dude in here and they tried to meet up and THEY exploded!

I'll chat with ya, Eagle19.

I have a project on Saturn's moons due tomorrow. Can you help me out?

Cutie.

It's not like you were ever gonna meet her for real.

Hottie.

Check your DM, Eagle19.

Don't waste what little time you have worrying. Go for a walk. See a sunset.

God will take care of us.

Check your DM, Eagle19.

I'd say check the obituaries, but you don't even know her last name.

My sister didn't even make it to ten. Grow up.

My brother didn't even make it to eight.

Six! Five! Four!

Two!

My brother was aborted!

Kaboom!

Check your DM, Eagle19.

EAGLE19 opens his DM folder. It's the Laika-skeleton photo again, only now, someone has written "PriaSoprano Now" under it.

EAGLE19 & THEO

Rage.

If I ever see any of you, I'll fucking kill you!

Comments scatter, and then...a lone voice.

COMMENTS CHORUS

If you ever see any of us—we'd explode into a million billion pieces.

The COMMENTS CHORUS laughs.

Snap.

Thirteen

They are still kissing as the lights come up. She stops.

THEO

Why are you stopping?

PRIA

Shit. It didn't work. Should've known.

THEO

What you only kissed me because—

PRIA

Don't be stupid.

She kisses him again. She barely moves away from him during the following.

PRIA

This is Carla-the-Soprano-in-a-Starbucks all over again.

THEO

The what?

PRIA

I swear I told you this story.

THEO

We haven't told each other everything. We still got some places to go.

PRIA

It's nothing.

THEO

Okay.

PRIA

That's not true. It's not nothing.

Beat.

THEO

So...take me there?

Through the following, SONG 7: PRIA TAKES US TO THE OPERA, five years earlier. The motel becomes the opera's set.

PRIA

She was this opera singer I saw...when I was in Junior High, my mom took me to the opera at the Four Seasons. You know it?

THEO

Like...I know the building.

PRIA

And it was old timey but it was in English. And until then I thought all opera had to be Italian or German.

THEO

I always thought my coughs sounded a bit German. You know. Hard. And everyone else coughed politely in like...English or French.

PRIA

Sneezes are definitely French.

PRIASOPRANO is in the bed, a young woman dreaming.

PRIA

And I can't remember what it was called, but I remember this part near the end...the orchestra just rocked back and forward, and the woman, she was having this dream. About someone she liked. A lot. Like a lover. ~~His name was...~~ Armando or something.

PRIASOPRANO's beautiful humming "Armando."

PRIA

But then it was interrupted.

THE FATHER enters (same actor as EAGLE19). He vocalizes lines in bold, stealing the lines from PRIA.

PRIA

It was her father. And he wakes her up and says, "**Today is the day you will marry.**"

THEO

Married to the guy she loves in the dream? Armando?

PRIA

Of course not. It's opera, dude. She says,

PRIASOPRANO

Singing.

No. No, no, no, no. I love another.

PRIA

But he says, "**You will do this. You will not shame this family. You will be his wife.**" And she shrinks in front of him. Like a tiny pebble. Right there on the bed.

And the way that man was making her feel...I knew that feeling exactly. I felt it all the time. Powerless. Absolutely powerless. And I couldn't look away from her.

THEO

So what happened?

PRIASOPRANO

Okay. Okay. I will marry him.

Okay. Okay, I will do as you say.

Okay, okay, I'll marry him.

FATHER relents and is happy.

PRIA

So later that day....he proposes "**a toast.**" He has won and she will do as he says. As she always has. And she goes to pour him a drink.

What he doesn't see though...is that she puts poison into the wine bottle.

PRIASOPRANO spikes the bottle of wine with poison.

THEO

No way.

PRIA's narration carries the action of the following opera scene.

PRIA

Soooo opera. And she brings him his drink.

And he says, "**To my daughter on her wedding day. To doing your duty. And may you do the next man's bidding better than you did mine.**"

He takes a gulp! But then he pours her a glass in return. She pauses for a second...and then...drains the glass and smiles.

Her father is happy. He has won...for the moment. Until...

FATHER falls to his knees, the poison taking its effect.

PRIASOPRANO

Triumphant.

You think I am small and weak.
You think that I am shy and meek.
I have known the love of dreams.
I have known the roar of lions.
I've known the heat of a thousand suns
that burn! That burn!
That burn while you sleep.
Sleep now, father. Sleep now.
And may you burn.

PRIA

The father dies.

PRIASOPRANO begins to feel the poison. She gets herself back into bed to end as she began, in her beautiful dream (humming Armando).

PRIA

Then she starts to feel the poison. She goes back to the bed. Back to a dream. Back to her lover.

PRIASOPRANO

Soft.

Soft and sweetly. You will be
there waiting, waiting for me.
Strong and silent. You will be there
with me. I know the love of dreams,
and now I dream forever.

PRIA

Her last beautiful breath escaped, changed the whole world around her.

PRIASOPRANO & PRIA

Whisper.

Kaboom.

PRIASOPRANO dies comfortably in bed.

THEO

Holy shit.

A silence.

PRIA

I went home that night and cried into my pillow. Decided I would take singing lessons.

THEO

And...

PRIA

I'll never sing opera.

Beat.

THEO

So what's the soprano Starbucks thing then.

PRIA

I saw her there. The singer. The daughter.. Like...a week after or something. She was cool. She looked different on stage than she did at Starbucks.

THEO

Was she too short?

PRIASOPRANO and PRIA in the Starbucks. They play out the following flashback not regarding THEO.

PRIA

I recognize you. You're a beautiful singer.

PRIASOPRANO hugs PRIA.

PRIASOPRANO

Speaking.

Thank you.

The hug holds. Then PRIASOPRANO exits.

THEO

Very cool. So then a happy ending?

PRIA

No, because it 100% confirmed that she was nothing like me. Because I thought that if she could touch me, and we didn't explode....

THEO

She wasn't one of us.

PRIA

I was young. I believed the dumb doctors even more than I do now. Like, I believed maybe you coming here...

THEO

Dumb Doctors.

THEO goes to kiss PRIA. She stops him with—

PRIA

That was the worst day of my life.

THEO

Oh.

PRIA

I think about that all the time. Because she was special. And if I could touch her...it means someone like me...wasn't special.

PRIASOPRANO's song is miles from the room.

THEO

Sing for me.

PRIA

No.

THEO

I bet you're great.

PRIA

I don't have the power.

THEO

You have mega power.

PRIA

Shut up.

THEO

Sing for me.

PRIA

No. I'm not going to do that.

THEO
Please?

PRIA
No!

THEO
Why not?

PRIA
Abrupt.
Fly for me, Eagle19.

Beat.

PRIA
Life was supposed to be shorter than this. But life just keeps happening. And the longer it goes on... I don't know what to do with this time—like when you came in, I was ready to die. And then we start talking...and you have me believing that I could know you for a long time. And I hate that...because it's not the way things were supposed to be for us.

THEO
You're scared.

PRIA
Of course, you asshole. Death sucks ass.

THEO
We're making progress. A few minutes ago, you were ready to explode. Now... you're afraid to go...that's good. 'Cause now, we get to hang out longer.

Long pause.

Yeah...we're constantly going so much farther than we thought we could.

At this rate, we'll end up in outer space.

Beat.

PRIA
Let's go to Pluto.

THEO
Cool.

PRIA

We're not getting out of this room, are we?

THEO

I don't know.

PRIA

I'm afraid. Super afraid. To leave you now.

Snap.

Fourteen

EAGLE19 as before. Alone-bored-sad.

He receives a DM, but hesitates to open it. He does anyway.

It's a video: PRIA from a hospital bed.

PRIA

Hey Eagle19. It's me. Again. PriaSoprano. But like...actually...sorry for the way I look. This is me at my very worst. Sorry. But Hi. Sorry I haven't been in touch. Almost died a few times in the past couple weeks. Was kinda busy almost dying again.

Think I'm getting outta here soon.

Let's meet. In person. Whatta ya think? Tick tock.

Bye. xo. Pria.

PRIA disappears.

EAGLE19 plays the message again...

Snap.

Fifteen

The Motel.

THEO
So what now?

PRIA
I didn't think this far ahead.

THEO
I convinced myself I was okay with it, you know—coming here. Okay with exploding like everyone said we would. I wasn't really that ready for it.

PRIA
You were brave, Theo.

THEO
I think bravery is just stupidity that didn't get busted. Like, people who jump outta planes, that's stupid. Bungee jumpers, that's stupid. Guy jumps off a bridge tied to a rope. Dumb. Sometimes the rope breaks. And when it breaks, people go, that guy is stupid. And when it doesn't break, it's the rope doing the work, and they go, *Ohhhh, what a hero*. The rope is doing everything all the time!

PRIA musters a smile.

PRIA
Good one.

THEO
When I was little, I used to think God put me into the hospital for being bad.

PRIA
You never said you believed in God. Do I know *anything* about you?

THEO
And I'd act really good. I'd be nice to my ma, help around the house, try to hold in my coughs so I wouldn't bother her, try to pray the sickness from my blood and lungs and stomach.

PRIA
Sounds like you believe in god, dude.

THEO
I believe that after this, you get something way better.

PRIA

I'm coming back as a lion.

THEO

And like when praying didn't work, or when I started puking even worse, or having to go to hospitals, no matter what I asked for or did—no, that was my proof. Ain't no god looking at me. Peace out, god.

Things are heavy. Lighten it up. A playful few beats here.

PRIA

This is a hell of a first date, Theo.

THEO

I'm having fun, how about you? Tell me about yourself, Pria.

PRIA

Well, I want to be a doctor someday.

THEO

Me too!

PRIA

What's your specialty?

THEO

Dying kids.

PRIA

You gotta have goals.

THEO

And where do you see yourself in five years?

PRIA is instantly back to heavy. THEO takes a few lines to catch up.

PRIA

Everyone used to tell me I needed goals.

THEO

Right. Your bucket list. Travel to that statue in Greece.

PRIA

Yeah, but I never called it a bucket list. The whole kicking-the-bucket thing felt too jokey. So I called it my Scintilla List.

THEO
Scintilla. Why?

PRIA
I liked the word. It sounded like the exact opposite of the word bucket. Soft. Pretty. Singable.

THEO
I like it.

Joke opera sings.
Scintilla!

PRIA
And okay, I put all those dumb things on it like bungee jumping, sky diving, flying to the moon—

THEO
Meetin' a guy in a hotel room for sex?

PRIA
I was eleven, dude. Bones didn't make the list.

THEO
Singing?

PRIA
Yeah. That was there.

THEO
So let's hear it.

Silence.

THEO
Okay, then. I guess...we've got nothing left to talk about. Better get to it....

THEO begins taking his pants off. He stops.

THEO
You know, Pria. You put this all on me...it wasn't fair.

Pause.

PRIA
You're right.

THEO

Shit. I didn't mean—I'm sorry. I just mean...if you really believed this was gonna work, you were killing me too.

PRIA

I know.

THEO

So then...

PRIA

Are you mad?

THEO

No. I'm not mad.

PRIA

Maybe this is just about sex.

THEO

I don't think that.

Beat.

PRIA

It was my sister that dated the entire basketball team.

THEO

What?

PRIA

I'm telling you 'cause I think that's really exciting. Not gross.

THEO

Alright.

PRIA

She would sneak out.

THEO

Like you're sneaking out.

PRIA

Like I'm sneaking out. Yeah.

And I always knew how important the dude was by the lipstick colour she was wearing. Pink in the Afternoon. That was the one.

With the other guys, she'd just slap on any old sex-bomb red, but with Anthony, it was Pink in the Afternoon. And she didn't even need to tell me this. I just knew by watching her get ready. It was special.

And my mom couldn't see it, just like she couldn't see me sneaking out to meet you tonight.

Beat.

So do you like it?

THEO
Like what?

PRIA
Pouting her lips.
Pink in the afternoon.

THEO
It's perfect.

PRIA
And I didn't let on that I knew when she was sneaking out. Like Jackie thought because my body is weak, my mind must be weak. You know how that happens? People talk a little slower at us? Little softer...

THEO
My friggin' Uncle Carlos, yeah.

PRIA
And I heard all the rumours about Jackie, but she should get to live the way she wants to live with her sick little sister who hogged all the attention and my mom not noticing her and she was in control of the whole situation, in control of those dudes. She was the rope. They were the idiots jumping...

I wanted to tell Jackie about tonight. Call her and tell her. But she might think this is childish. Maybe she'd rat me out. But I never ratted her out.

Sometimes, I would go into her bedroom and get under the covers so if my mom came in to check on her, she'd see a body in the bed and think Jackie was home.

I'd do that for her. Pretend to be her.

And just lie there, hoping I wouldn't cough. That I could hold it in... just... long...enough....

I wonder if she ever came home in the middle of the night after probably going all the way with Anthony. Felt my warmth still in her bed. Tasted my sour on her pillow. Privately thanked me for being so cool. 'Cause she was so cool.

THEO
Cool.

PRIA
I miss being useful to someone, you know.

THEO
I could...use you—

PRIA
Dude, stop that sentence right there.

THEO
You know what I mean—

PRIA
Just...shhhhhhh....

She coughs.

She stops.

He coughs.

He stops.

PRIA
Okay, cowboy. We're gonna die of old age in here. So I'm gonna sing for you 'cause my sister would've sang for Anthony, and then we're gonna do it.

THEO
You still wanna?

PRIA
Don't you?

THEO
I do.

PRIA
No backing out.

THEO
Pria—

PRIA
And if you laugh, I'll kill you for real.

THEO
Why would I laugh?

PRIA
Just shut up. Okay. I've never done this in front of anyone. Jumped off the bridge.
That means something. Okay?

THEO
What does it mean?

PRIA
What do you think?

SONG 8: THE EXPLOSION ARIA. PRIA begins to sing. PRIASOPRANO joins, turning the Music Box.

PRIA
Soft and silent. You will be there.
Soft and silent. You will be there waiting. Waiting for me.

PRIA/PRIASOPRANO
Strong and silent, you will be there...

PRIA
Waiting.

PRIASOPRANO
...Waiting.
Here's my secret. You will be there. Waiting for me.
I know the love of dreams.
And now I dream with you.
Forever I dream.
Ah...

THEO kisses PRIA. PRIASOPRANO continues.

Everything escalates between THEO and PRIA.

There is an explosion.

A white crescendo, then black.

Quiet.

When the lights come back up, EAGLE19 and PRIASOPRANO are in the hotel room, a different atmosphere. PRIA and THEO are not there. The music box sits on the bed.

EAGLE19

What happened?

PRIASOPRANO speaks, doesn't sing.

PRIASOPRANO

Kaboom.

PRIASOPRANO is laughing.

EAGLE19 begins laughing too.

Slow fade on the entire universe as...

COMMENTS CHORUS

What happened, you guys?

Is it safe for us to hook up?

Tell us what happened?

Is it safe? Is it safe? Is it...?

A canary flies across the stars.

End.

Song 1 - Vocal Exercise A

Gareth Williams

♩=110

Pria Soprano *p*

Mmm Oh Ah

Piano *p*

Eagle 19 - Spoken:
Is there anyone out there?

7

Pria Soprano *mf*

Ah Ah Ah

Pno. *mf*

Song 2 - Vocal Exercise B

♩=90

Pria - Spoken: 5! 4! 3!

11

Pria Soprano

Ah Ah

Pno.

Audio: Door knock

17

Pria Soprano

Ah Ah Ka-boom!

Ka - boom!!!

Pno.

Song 3 - Vocal Exercise C

Gareth Williams

♩=100

(Each entry is marked in the script)

Pria

p

Ah

Piano

p

Ped.

6

P.

Ah

Pno1

Ped.

11

P.

Ah

Pno1

Ped.

2

16

P.

Pno1

Red.

This entry should arrive with the spoken line:
 "The greatest singer in the universe."

21

f

P.

Ah

Pno1

Red.

p

Red.

26

P.

p

Ah

Pno1

Red.

END OF SCENE:
 Both Voices together.

Pria Soprano - Sopken
 : The Universe is pretty... *f*

30

P.

big!

Ah

Pno1

Song 4 - Vocal Exercise D

Gareth Williams

♩=100 Pria Soprano sings this entry
at the top of the scene:

Pria/
Pria Soprano

p

Aa - Ee - I - Ah - Ooh

Piano

p

4 Pria sings these entries at marked points in the script:

P./P.S.

p

Aa - Ee - I - Ah - Ooh

Pno1

7

P./P.S.

Aa - Ee - Ie - Ah -

Pno1

10

P./P.S.

Ooh

Pno1


13

P./P.S.

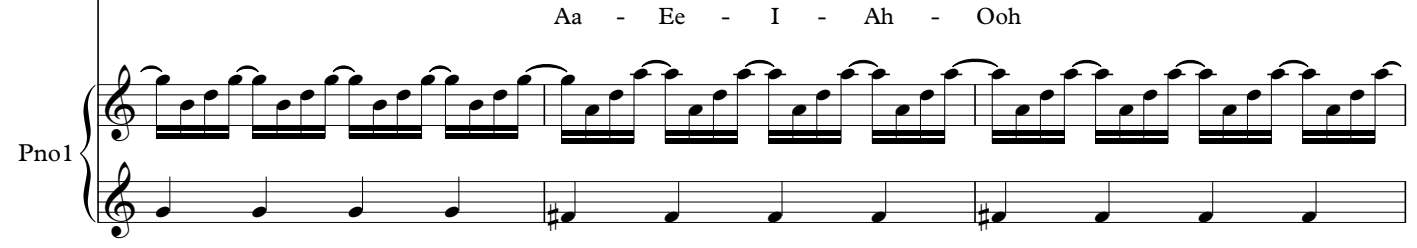
Aa - Ee - I - Ah - Ooh

Pno1

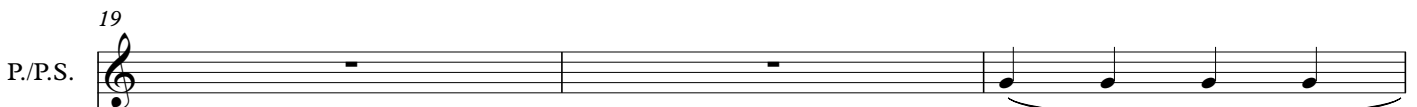
2 16

P./P.S. 

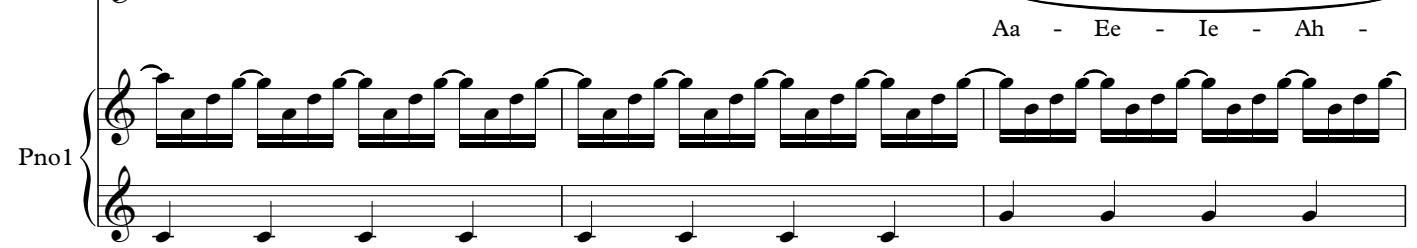
Aa - Ee - I - Ah - Ooh

Pno1 

19

P./P.S. 

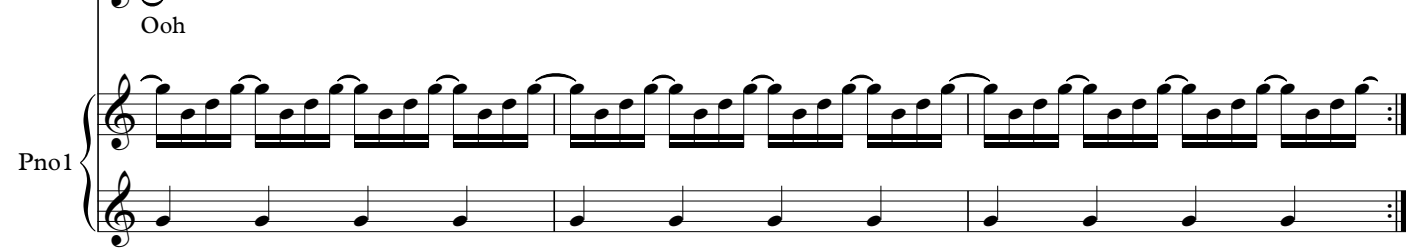
Aa - Ee - Ie - Ah -

Pno1 

22 Loop until end of scene

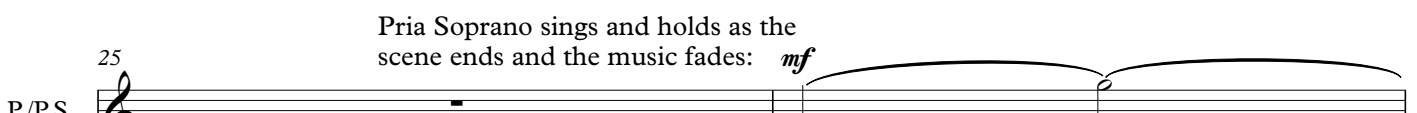
P./P.S. 


Ooh

Pno1 

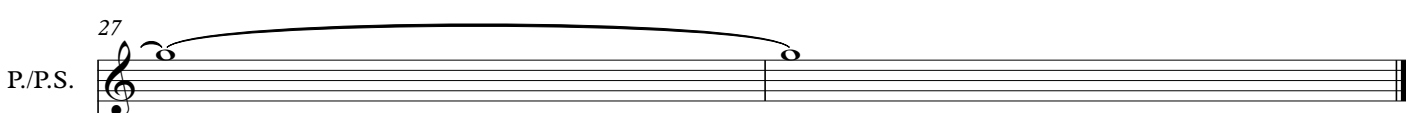
25

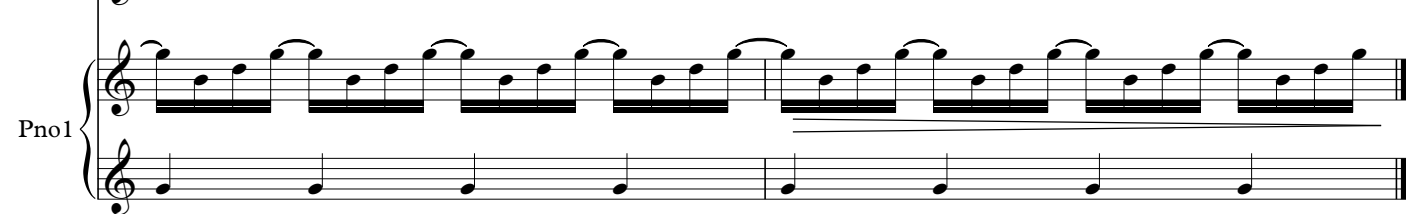
Pria Soprano sings and holds as the scene ends and the music fades: *mf*

P./P.S. 

Pno1 

27

P./P.S. 


Pno1 

Song 5 - Punnet Square Music into La Boheme Excerpt (arranged by Williams)


These loop build underneath the scene,
moving to the arrangement of La Boheme.

♩=100

Piano Loop 1



Piano Loop 5



8va

Detailed description: This block contains the first two piano loops. Piano Loop 1 is a treble clef staff with a whole rest for the first four measures and an eighth-note arpeggiated pattern in the fifth measure, marked with an 8va. Piano Loop 5 is a treble clef staff with a continuous eighth-note arpeggiated pattern across all five measures.



Pno.2



Pno.4



Pno.6



Detailed description: This block contains the second piano arrangement. Pno.2 is a treble clef staff with a continuous eighth-note arpeggiated pattern, marked with a 6 and an 8va. Pno.4 is a treble clef staff with a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes. Pno.6 is a treble clef staff with a continuous eighth-note arpeggiated pattern.



Pno.2



Pno.4



Pno.5



Pno.6



11

Detailed description: This block contains the third piano arrangement. Pno.2 is a treble clef staff with a continuous eighth-note arpeggiated pattern, marked with an 11 and an 8va. Pno.4 is a treble clef staff with a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes. Pno.5 is a treble clef staff with a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes. Pno.6 is a treble clef staff with a continuous eighth-note arpeggiated pattern.

⑧

16

Pno.2

Pno.3

Pno.4

Pno.5

Pno.6



⑧

21

Pno.2

Pno.3

Pno.4

Pno.5

Pno.6



⑧

26

Pno.2

Pno.3

Pno.4

Pno.5

Pno.6

Cue to move into song

Pria Soprano - Spoken:

It's ok, Eagle 19.
I am too.

31



(The loops continue underneath)

Eagle 19: Pria Sop:
What's that? It's La Boheme - Listen...

35

Pria Soprano

They talk to me of love. Of fan - cies and vis -

Pno 1

mf

Ped. Ped. Ped.

41

Pria Soprano

ions bright they tell me such as po - ets and on -

Pno 1

Ped.



46

Pria Soprano

ly po - ets know.

Pno 1

Ped.



Pria Sop: It's the moment in the opera where Mimi and Rodolpho first meet and they instantly fall in love...

49

Pria Soprano

Do you hear me?

Pno 1

f

Ped.



55

Pria Soprano

Spring's first sweet fra - grant kiss is mine

Pno 1

Ped.

60

Pria Soprano

it's mine

Pno 1

Ped.



Eagle 19: I've never done this!

Eagle 19: I've never done this!

64

Pria Soprano

Can I meet you? Will you meet me?_

(Loops stop with the piano)

Pno 1

ff

Ped.

Song 6 - Pria's Hospital Aria

David James Brock

Gareth Williams

$\text{♩} = 100$

Pria Soprano

Pria

Piano

pp

Ah

p

Ped.

7

P.

Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo - Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa

Pno.

Ped.

11

P.

pp

Ah

Pno.

Ped.

Ped.

16

P.S. *p* I like you..

P. *pp* Ah

Pno. *p* *pp*

Red.

21

P.S. You make me_ laugh. You make me look for - ward. You make me a -

Pno. *pp*

Red.

25

P.S. fraid.

P. *pp* Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo - Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo -

Pno. *f* *pp*

Red.

29

P.S. I fear the day we meet face to face.

P. *pp* Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo

Pno.

33

P.S. I fear the day we're in the same place.

P. Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo- *pp* Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo

Pno. Ped.

37

P.S. I fear the day you wish we ne-ver

P. Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo-Aa-Oo -

Pno.

40

P.S. *mf*
did. I have ne - ver known

P. *pp*
Aa - Oo - Aa - Oo - Aa - Oo - Aa - Oo - Aa - Oo - Aa - Oo - Aa - Oo -

Pno. *p* *mf*
Ped.

43

P.S.
an - y - one for a ve - ry long time.

Pno.
Ped.

45

P.S.
and it breaks my heart in

Pno.
Ped.

48 $\text{♩} = 110$

P.S. 
two. I be-lieve this.


Pno. 
Ped. 



52

P.S. 
One day we'll meet. And then we'll kiss. and ex-

Pno. 
Ped. 

56

P.S. 
plode in-to pie-ces. a mill-ion bill - ion pie-ces.

Pno. 
Ped. 

60

P.S. I have ne-ver known an-y-one for a long time. But I'll sign off now.

Pno.

Ped.

64

P.S. I'll go off - line. Leave this chat be-

Pno.

Ped.

EAGLE 19 - spoken:

Wait? Where are you going?!?

68

P.S. hind, and live in the real world.

Pno.

Ped.

72 *f*

P.S. I be-lieve this. If I get through

Pno. *f*

Ped.

76

P.S. the next few days.

Pno.

Ped.

79

P.S. You will count the ways— I'm co-ming for

Pno.

Ped.

81

P.S. *you. We're just get - ting star - ted.*

Pno.

Red.

85

P.S. *We're just get - ting star - ted.*

P. *pp* *Ah*

Pno.

pp

Red.

89

P.S. *We're just get - ting star - ted.*

P. *pp* *Ah*

Pno.

Red.

93 9

P.S. *pp*
 We're just get-ting star - ted.

P. *pp*
 Ah

Pno.

Ped. Ped.

Pria - Spoken:
 I'm going into the hospital for a while.
 Thanks for a dope year. Theo.

97

P.

Pno.

Ped. Ped.

100

P. *pp* COUGH...
 Ah

Pno.

Ped.

Song 7 - Pria Takes Us To The Opera

David James Brock

Gareth Williams

**Boxed text is spoken over the music.*

Pria: She was this opera singer I saw... when I was in Junior High, my mom took me to the opera at the Four Seasons. You know it?

Theo: Like... I know the building.

♩=95

Piano

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

Pria: And it was old timey but it was in English. And until then I thought all opera had to be Italian or German.

Theo: I always thought my coughs sounded a bit German. You know. Hard.

6

Pno.

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

Theo: And everyone else coughed politely in like ... English or French.

Pria: Sneezes are definitely French.

10

Pria Soprano

Pno.

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

Pria: And, I can't remember what it was called, but I remember this part near the end...

13 *pp*

Pria Soprano

port.

mmm

Pno.

Ped.

The orchestra just rocked back and forward, and the woman - she was having this dream. About someone she liked. A lot. like a lover.

18

Pria Soprano

port.

mmm

mmm

Pno.

Ped.

Armando...or something... But then it was interrupted

21

Pria Soprano

port.

Pno.

Ped.

It was her father. He wakes her up and says, "Today is the day you will marry."

24

Pno.

pp

Ped. _____ Ped. _____

Theo: Married to the guy shye loves in the dream? Armando?

Pria: Of course not, it's opera, dude... She says...

26

Pno.

mf

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

29

Pria Soprano

mf

No. No, no, no, no. _____ *port.*

Pno.

mf

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

32 Pria: But he says,

Pria Soprano *p*

I love an - oth - - - er.

Pno.

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

"You will do this!" You will not shame this family. You will be his wife."

35

Pno. *f*

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

And she shrinks in front of him - like a tiny pebble, right there on the bed

39

Pno. *f*

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

And the way that man was making her feel - I knew that feeling exactly. I felt it all the time.

42

Pno. *mp*

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

Powerless. Absolutely powerless. And I couldn't look away from her.

46

Pno.

pp

Ped. _____

Theo: So what happened?

50

Pria Soprano

mf

O-kay, O-kay, I will mar-ry him! O-kay, O-kay,

mf

Ped. _____

54

Pria Soprano

p

I will do as you say. O - kay, O - kay, I'll mar-ry him.

pp

Ped. _____

Pria: So later, that day...

57

Pria Soprano

Pno.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

He proposes "a toast!" He has won and she will do as he says. As she always has. She goes to pour him a drink.

61

Pno.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

Pria: What he doesn't see though, is that she puts poison into the wine bottle.

65

Pno.

Ped. Ped.

Theo: No way!

Pria: Soo opera.... and she brings him his drink

67

Pno.

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

And he says: "To my daughter on her wedding day! To doing
your duty.
And may you do the next man's bidding better than you did
mine."

Pno.

71 *mf*

Ped. _____

Pria: He take a gulp! But... then he pours her a glass in return! She pauses for a second...

Pno.

75

Ped. _____

Pria: And then... drains the glass, and smiles.

Pno.

79 *p* *f* *pp*

Ped. _____

Pria: And her father is happy. He has won.... for the moment. Until...

83

Pno.

Red. _____

86 *f*

Pria Soprano

You think that I am small__ and weak. You think that I am shy_

Pno.

Red. _____

89

Pria Soprano

__ and meek. I have known the love of dreams.

Pno.

Red. _____

92

Pria Soprano

I have known the roar of li - ons. I've known the heat of a thou - sand

Pno.

ff

Ped.

96

Pria Soprano

suns that burn! that

Pno.

Ped.

99

Pria Soprano

burn! that burn while you sleep.

Pno.

Ped.

102

Pria Soprano

Sleep now fa-ther, Sleep now. And may you

p

Pno.

f *pp*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

Pria: She starts to feel the poison. She goes back to the bed.

107

Pria Soprano

burn.

rall.

Pno.

rall.

111

Pria Soprano

Back to a dream. Back to her lover.

pp

Soft and

Pno.

pp

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

118

Pria Soprano

sweet - ly. — you will be there wai-ting.

Pno.

Ped. ————— Ped. ————— Ped. ————— Ped. —————

125

Pria Soprano

wai-ting ————— for me.

accel. ♩=75

Pno.

accel.

f *p* *p*

Ped. ————— Ped. ————— Ped. —————

132

Pria Soprano

Strong and si - - - lent. you will be

Pno.

p *p* *p*

Ped. ————— Ped. ————— Ped. —————

139

Pria Soprano

there _____ with me. _____ I _____

mp

Pno.

f *sf*

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

144

Pria Soprano

know _____ the love _____ of dreams. _____ And now _____

f

Pno.

f sf f sf f sf f sf

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

148

Pria Soprano

I _____ dream _____ For -

ff

Pno.

f sf f sf f ff

Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____ Ped. _____

152 ♩=75 13

Pria Soprano

ev - - er. Ah!

Pno.

fff *pp* *sf*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

157 *pp* Her last beautiful breath escaped...

Pria Soprano

Oh Ooh-a ooh-a ooh a ooh.

Pno.

pp *sf* *pp* *sf* *pp*

Ped. Ped. Ped.

161 ...changed the whole world around her.

Pria Soprano

Aah

Pno.

sf *pp* *sf* *pp*

Ped. Ped.

Pria whispers:
Kaboom.

Theo: Holy shit.

166

Pria Soprano

Kaboom.

sf *pp*

Pno.

Ped.

Pria: I went home that night, cried into my pillow. Decided I would take singing lessons.

Theo: And...?

Pria: I'll never sing opera.

170

Pno.

Song 8 - The Explosion Aria

David James Brock

Gareth Williams

♩=70

*Pria turns the crank on the music box
and starts to sing very quietly - the sound
of a C Major Arpeggio repeats until
the piano loop takes over.*

freely

Pria

Soft and si - lent.

Piano Loop 1

pp
Ped.

Piano

7

P.

You will be there

Pno.L - 1

Ped.

Pno.

12

P.

Soft and si - - lent. You will

Pno.L - 1

Ped.

Pno.

p

17

P. be there wai - ting,

Pno.L-1 Ped.

Pno. *p* Ped.

22

P. wai - ting for me.

Pno.L-1 Ped.

Pno. Ped.

27

P. Strong and si - - lent.

P.S. Strong, si - - lent.

Pno.L-1 Ped.

Pno. Ped.

32

P. You will be there

P.S. You will be there *mf* wai - ting.

Pno.L-1 *Ped.*

Pno.L-2 *Ped.*

Pno. *mf* With Delay

37

P.S.

Pno.L-1 *Ped.*

Pno.L-2 *Ped.*

Pno.

40 *f*

P.S. Here's my sec - - - ret.

Pno.L - 1 *Ped.*

Pno.L - 2 *Ped.*

Pno. *f* *Ped.*

43

P.S. You will be there.

Pno.L - 1 *Ped.*

Pno.L - 2 *Ped.*

Pno. *Ped.*

46

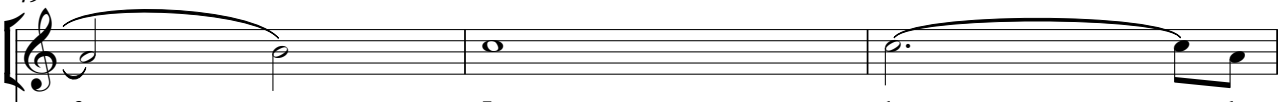
P.S. 
Wai - ting


Pno.L - 1 
Ped.


Pno.L - 2 
Ped.

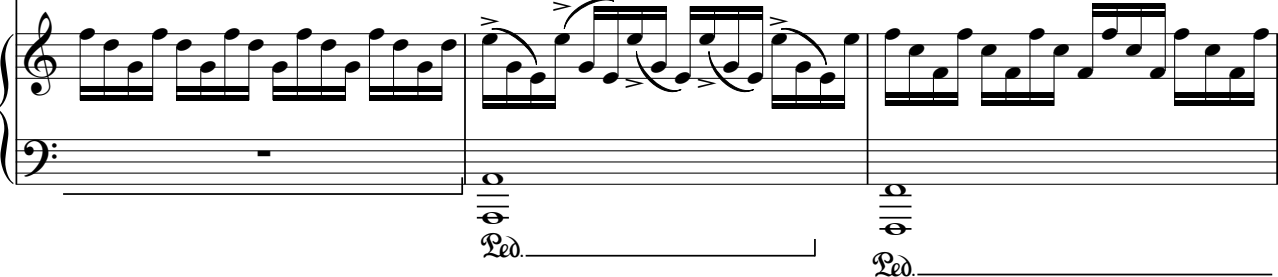
Pno. 
Ped.

49

P.S. 
for me. I know the

Pno.L - 1 
Ped.

Pno.L - 2 
Ped.

Pno. 
Ped.

52

P.S. love dreams And now I

Pno.L-1

Pno.L-2

Pno.

55

P.S. dream for - - ev - er with you.

Pno.L-1

Pno.L-2

Pno.

58 *ff*

P.S. oo - ah - oo - ah - oo - ah - oo - ah

Pno.L-1 *Ped.*

Pno.L-2 *Ped.*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

61 *ff*

P.S. oo - ah oo - ah oo - ah oo - ah

Pno.L-1 *Ped.*

Pno.L-2 *Ped.*

Pno. *mf* *ff*

64

P.S. *oo - ah oo - ah*

Pno.L-1 *Ped.*

Pno.L-2 *Ped.*

Pno. *mf*

67

P.S. *oo - ah oo - ah AH!* ***ff***

Pno.L-1 *ff*

Pno.L-2 *ff*

Pno. *ff*

70

Pno.L-1 *p*

73

Pno.L-1 *Loop until lights out.*