

I. THE SONG REHEARSAL

A. E. STALLINGS

LIBBY LARSEN
2015

$\text{♩} = 54 - 58$

Slowly, with space and flexibility

Piano introduction in 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody with a triplet of eighth notes. The left hand provides a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

5 $\text{♩} = 76$
(conversationally)

1 It seems fa-mil-iar some-how, though it's

Vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (grand staff) for the first line of the song. The tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 76$ and the style is '(conversationally)'. The lyrics are 'It seems fa-mil-iar some-how, though it's'. The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

8

1 set in a par-lor in New Or-leans an - oth-er age.—

bar room noodling

Vocal line (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (grand staff) for the second line of the song. The lyrics are 'set in a par-lor in New Or-leans an - oth-er age.—'. The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte).

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11

1

It's sum - mer the fur - ni - ture is draped in

sub. mp

14

1

white. A Shad-owed man looks

quasi ragtime

16

1

up from the pi - a - no. Two wo - men

2

Two wo-men

mf

18

1 — are re-hears-ing a du-et — One is strid - ing down an im -

2 — are re-hears-ing a du-et —

legato, fluid

mp

20

1 ag - ined stage — in full — throat-ed ar - i-a, —

2 — — — — — Ah —

sempre p

sub.p

23

1 the oth-er, turn-ing her face a-way, holds up her

2 — — — — —

(mf)

R.H.

L.H.

3

26

1 right hand _____ a-against the blast _____ of the shrill _____ so-

(non cresc.)

2 Ah _____

tr

29

1 pran - o. _____

2 Ah _____ Ah _____

sub. *f*

9

rit. Tempo I

32

1 But read-ing the lit-tle plaque, I un-der -

quasi recitative

3

sub. *p*

4

35 *quasi recitative, conversationally*

1 stand The cas-u - al scene from — life be-gins to change to gen - re. The

p

p

mf

38 **accel.**

1 wo-man — with the lift-ed hand, turn-ing a-way as if half - ter - ri-fied, — with a

mf

mf

42 **subito Tempo I**

1 loose, — high waist - ed skirt,

mf

mf

45 **free of time, slowly** **a tempo**

1 will be a moth - er. —

p *mp*

48 (as a herald trumpet)

1 The sing-er bear-ing down on her, mouth

p sempre

2 Ah —

51

1 wide, — is the an - gel trum-pet-ing the news. —

2 Ah —

53

1 *so strange, so*

2

pp *mf*

55

1 *or - di - nar - y, it's dif - fi - cult to be - lieve - and*

2 *mp* *Ah*

poco

57

1 *great - er than an - y - thing she could con - ceive.*

2 *Ah*

rit.

quasi ragtime

II. PREGNANT

CHERYL STRAYED
ADAPTED BY LIBBY LARSEN

LIBBY LARSEN
2015

$\text{♩} = 54$ *keeping a secret, blissful* *

My hus - band — was out of town, — but he'd be

*vamp until ready
gently, serene*
mp

pedal throughout

3

home that ev - 'ning. I'd be pick-ing him up — at the air - port, but

5

I would-n't tell him ... there. — The news — was too mo-men - tous, too

*Breath marks are provided to help clarify the text.

7

beau - ti - ful ————— to be de - liv - ered at an air - port ————— or an au - to - mo - bile. —

9

I ————— would lead him ————— in - to our

11

lit - tle red cot - tage by the pond ————— where I'd

12

o-pen a bot-tle of non - al-cho-hol-ic spark-ling some - thing_____ and

14

say the word I'd been want - ing to say to him_____ for a

16

slowly, savoring

quasi whisper [3]

year. preg - nant,

18

preg-nant, preg-nant

21

When I drove to the air - port he was

23

there al-read - y... shrieking

"I'M PREGNANT!"

25 **out of time**
quasi recitative

I shrieked cra-zi-ly the min-ute his eyes met mine. Peo-ple looked at us in a-larm.

28 **tempo primo**

I've—

30 **rit.**

al-ways been ter-ri-ble— at keep-ing se-crets.

III. ULTRASOUND

A. E. STALLINGS

quietly, freely

in quiet wonder

What but - ter-fly - brain, soul or both - un -

delicately

p

ped.

3

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 72$

furls here, pal-lid as a moth?

delicate flutter

pp

pp

mp

accel.

(Lis - ten, here's an-oth - er tick - er, count - ing un - der mine,)

sim.

pp

mp

pp

10 *subito* ♩ = c. 72

— and quick-er.) — In this cave what flick-ers fall, —

mp *mp to the end*

pp

14

ad - um - brat - ed — on the wall? — Spine — like beads strung on a wire,

16 *float* *rit.* *a tempo*

Ab - a - cus of our de - sire. —

still, patient, suspended *(mp)*

20

Moon-face where two shad-ows rhyme, — Two ³ mov-ing hands that tell the time. —

24

I — am the room — the fu - ture owns, the

28

dark-ness where it grows — its bones. —

IV. DUE DATE

LAUREN GROFF

ADAPTED BY LIBBY LARSEN

$\text{♩} = 125$

At my

four month check-up, I weighed twen-ty pounds more than

"W h o a,"

u-su-al. said the mid-wife soft - ly, then

mf *p*

10

2

wrote the num-ber in the fold - er.

pp *p* *mp*

13

2

Af-ter sev-en _____ months, _____ I was fort-y pounds

sempre *pp* *mp*

16

2

hea-vi - er ... By my

19

2

due date, I was el - e - phan - tine,

port.

3

22

1

It was a ver - y hot Au-gust...

2

sev - en - ty pounds ov - er - weight.

mp

mf

3

25

p

mf *p*

3

28

2

The due date passed.

pp *mp* *mf*

31

2

My moth - er, _____ who had come to take

p *sub. mf*

34

2

care of us ... _____ be - gan mut-ter-ing to her - self ...

p *mf* *p*

37

2

My fa-ther and sis-ter came a few days

mp *mf* *p*

40

2

la - ter...

f *p*

43

2

On the sev-enth day past my due date, _____ I

mf

47

1

which was

2

went for a three mile run, _____

f

50

1

more like a three mile wad-dle...

p

54

2

Noth-ing.

mf *sub.p*

58

f

sub.p

62

65

1

Word of cau-tion: Hav-ing a full stom - ach dur-ing

68

1

la - bor can con-tri-bute to heart - burn, nau - sea and

71

1

vom - it - ing and cause fur - ther com - pli - ca - tions if an - es - the - sia is

74

1

2

nec - es - sar - y. On the tenth day, I

77

2

start-ed feel-ing quea-sy af-ter lunch... and re-al-ized the quea-si-ness— was

80

1

2

That night was long and

la - bor—— that night.

84

1

sweat-y.——

87

2

My hus-band's face was

90

2

taut with fear. Pai - n eh

sub.p

93

2

ev - 'ry - where. . .

96

ff

98

2

I did-n't know how to fight some-thing that was

p

102

2

ev - 'ry - where . . .

p

V. ALONE

AKIKO YOSANO
ADAPTED BY M. K. DEAN

♩ = 60, distanced by pain

translucent

p
ped.

Wa - ta - shi wa kyō un - sa - ri

3

1

2

p

3

I am sick to-day

mf
ped.

p

5

mf

pp

Me o - mi - hi - ra - i - te

Su - i - ren - to

mf

pp

eyes wide o - pen

si - lent

pp

7 accelerando

quasi whisper

1 Shu - shan Fu - ru - e - ru

2 *mf* child - birth *f* trem - ble

f

9 ritard. to

1 Kyo - fu

2 dread

p

tempo primo

11 *p* I - sha Wa-ta-shi o ma-gu-sa-me-ru

2 *p* Doc - tor tried to com - fort me

20

1 *p* I - chi Shin - jit - su - e

2 *p* one truth

pp

22 *accel.* -----

1 Tan - jo Ko - do - mo Jin - tsu

2 birth child la - bor

mp

24

1 Jin - tsu Jin - tsu Wa - ta - shi wa hi - to - ri

2 I am a - lone. I am a -

26

1 Wa - ta - shi wa hi - to - ri

2 lone. I am a -

3

27

1 Wa - ta - shi wa hi - to - ri - de - a - ru

2 lone. A -

28

1

2 lone is what I am.

VI. MIA

GINA ZUCKER

♩ = 88

1 *mf* said the mid-wife. For half an hour.

2 *mf* "Let's do stairs,"

1 *f* *p* *p* *f* *mf*

4 I — marched up and down — sev-er-al flights of stairs, Ah,— Ah,— Ah,— Ah,—

7 Ah — Ah,— Ah,— Ah,— sev-er-al flights of stairs

mf *p*

10

1 wear-ing my hos - pi - tal gown, and socks ...

2

"Drink

mp

mf

rit. -----

13

1 said the mid - wife, — pre - sent - ing me with a

2 this, " —

mf

mp

a tempo (♩ = 88)

16

1

cup — of tinc - ture,

f

19

1

We — did laps a - round — the hall-ways. I downed a cup of black — co-hosh.

mf

23

poco a poco accel. to 4/4

1

More — stairs. More — laps.

f

35 quasi recitative

1 Ad - mit - ting my fears a - bout Mi - a . . . — I knew

2 "Are you wor - ried a - bout Mi - a?"

mp *p*

Slowly

quasi recitative

1 ev - 'ry - thing was go - ing to work out. said the mid - wife

2 "Let's break your wat - er,"

p

39 a tempo (♩ = 88)

1 I said . . . "Do it."

f *p*

VII. FIRST MIRACLE

A. E. STALLINGS

$\text{♩} = 132$

mp

4

7

molto accel. -----

-----, *a tempo*

9 *ferocious*

f

37

12 *p* *sub.mf* *sub.p* *sub.mf*

sempre p

16 *sub. p* *mp*

19

attacca

VIII. SUPERHERO (BIRTH ONE)

PHOEBE DAMROSCH

LIBBY LARSEN

$\text{♩} = 132$

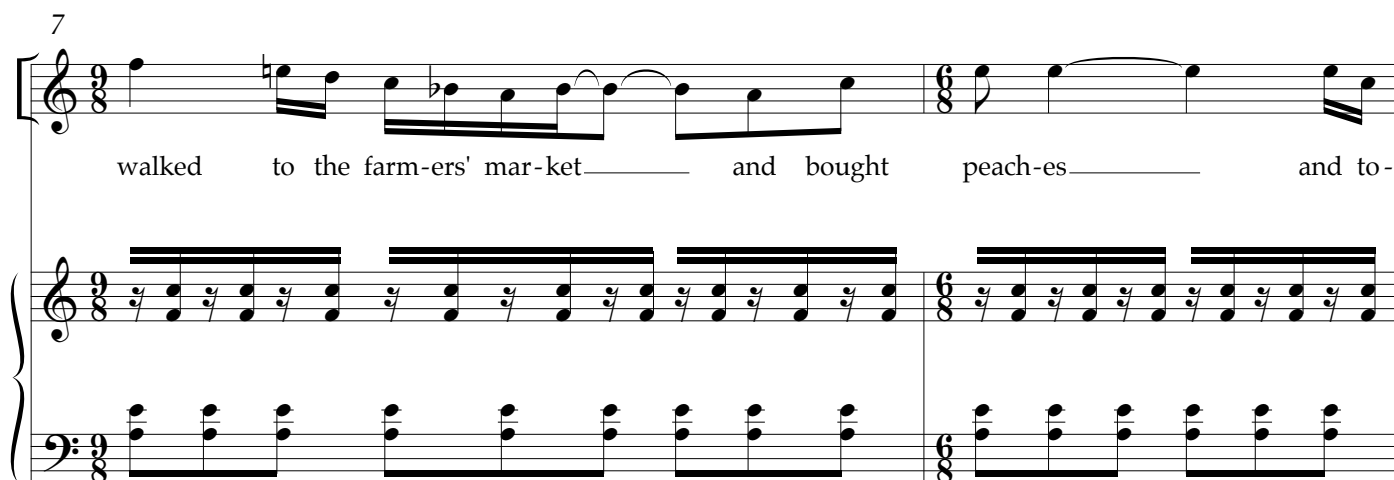
When the day fin-al-ly ar-



4
rived two weeks af-ter my due date,— my hus-band, An-dré, and I



7
walked to the farm-ers' mar-ket—and bought peach-es—and to-



9

ma - toes, ——— stop-ping to lean on bench-es a - long the

12

way. ——— Con - trac-tions came and went ...

15

I be-gan to think— this whole birth-ing thing ——— would be no sweat ... I would

18

hand - le this. Ah Ah My

21

bo - dy was made for birth - ing.

23

My ba - by knew how to come out... My

sub.p

25

first son was born on a Sat-ur-day night, _____ and

p.

28

Mon - day morn - ing I was feel-ing ec - sta - tic and

f *sub.mp*

30

ca-pa-ble of an - y-thing ... I _____ was a su - per-he-ro.

f

attacca

IX. FROM THE START (BIRTH TWO)

LIBBY LARSEN

♩ = 54

At four - oh - sev - en, in the dark of morn - ing,

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a dotted quarter note C5. This is followed by another quarter rest, then a quarter note D5, an eighth note E5, a quarter note F5, and a dotted quarter note G5. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) consists of two measures. The first measure has a piano (*p*) dynamic and contains a chord of Bb3, Db4, and Fb4. The second measure contains a chord of Bb3, D4, and F4.

for - ty three hours af - ter my first con - trac - tion, my son was born.

The second system continues the vocal line. It starts with a measure rest, followed by a triplet of eighth notes D4, E4, and F4. This is followed by a triplet of eighth notes G4, A4, and B4, then a quarter note C5, an eighth note B4, a quarter note A4, and a dotted quarter note G4. The system concludes with a quarter rest, an eighth note F4, and a half note E4. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords. The first measure has a chord of Bb3, Db4, and Fb4. The second measure has a chord of Bb3, D4, and F4. The third measure has a chord of Bb3, D4, and F4.

He was dark and gi - gan - tic ... His eyes were an - cient, go - ing to me and to his fa - ther and

The third system continues the vocal line. It begins with a measure rest, followed by a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a dotted quarter note C5. This is followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note D5, an eighth note E5, a quarter note F5, and a dotted quarter note G5. The system concludes with a quarter note G5, an eighth note F5, a quarter note E5, and a dotted quarter note D5. The piano accompaniment consists of three measures, each with a chord of Bb3, D4, and F4.

9

back a - gain. He looked at me

11

— like he knew ev - 'ry-thing al - read - y. Like he loved me from the

13

start, the start.

attacca

X. FIVE DAYS (BIRTH THREE)

HEIDI PITLOR

ADAPTED BY LIBBY LARSEN

♩ = 60-63

The first system of the musical score is in 3/4 time. It features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G3-B2, F#3-A2, E3-G2, and D3-F#2. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano).

accel. -----

The second system of the musical score is in 3/4 time. It features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G3-B2, F#3-A2, E3-G2, and D3-F#2. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The tempo is marked *accel.* (accelerando). The system includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand.

♩ = 104

The third system of the musical score is in 3/4 time. It features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G3-B2, F#3-A2, E3-G2, and D3-F#2. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano). The system includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand.

8

A week of near-ly no sleep,

11

A week of fear, fear, hor - ri - ble cramp-ing, pain . . .

f *sub.p* *sub.f*

13

Ah

fiercely *(f)* *p* *sub.mf*

tempo primo (♩ = 60-63)

15

And then — one morn-ing,—

gently *hollow* *mf* *p* *mp*

20 **a tempo**

noth-ing. No pain. No burps

pp *p*

24

or kicks from with-in, no move-ment at all...

(*p*) *mp*

27 **quasi recitative** **a bit faster, quasi recitative**

"Strange," I thought, but at least the pain had gone. "It's gone,"

(spoken) *mf*

30 *rit.* *tempo primo* (♩ = 60-63) *gently*

said the doc - tor and the mid - wife took my hand. So for

33

five more days I would car - ry this ba-by boy with me. ... five — days, —

38

— while heart-break - ing, — were al - so a gift. I had the

40 *an ancient lull*

poco

chance to hold him in-side me just a lit-tle while— long - er,

mp

44

just me and him, _____ a

48 *rit.* *(ossia)* *tie, ossia*

five - day - long— good - bye. _____

XI. I DID IT! (BIRTH FOUR)

HEIDI PITLOR

♩ = 144

1 My ba - by girl,

2 My ba - by

f

sub. mp

4

1 born at four-four - teen a. - m., was

2 girl, born at four-four-teen a. - m.,

mf

8

1

cleaned and wrapped in a blank-et

2

and placed on my chest.

f

12

1

"I've nev-er been so glad to meet an-y-one."

2

I said, -an-y-one.

sub.mp

17

1

She looked pleased to meet me too... My

2

She looked pleased to meet me too...

mf

poco rit.

21

1

hus - band took her. . . — and it was time to get my son out.

mp

recitative, out of tempo

25

1

said the mid - wife. . . "I can't"... she de-mand - ed.

"Cough," "Just cough, and he'll come out." "Try."

a tempo (♩ = 144)

27

1

Some - how, in

Some - how,

mp

31

1 some way, my son — was born

2 some way, my son — was born

35

1 thir - ty - one min - utes af - ter his sis - ter . .

2 thir - ty - one min - utes af - ter his sis - ter . . The

39

1 The ba - bies spent part of the night in the nurse - ry.

2 ba - bies — spent part of the night in the nurse - ry and were re -

42

1 That morn-ing, we were sent off.

2 turned to me washed and coifed.

46

1 Check. Check off their wrist-bands.

2 Car seats? Ba-bies that are yours?

mf *f* *p* *f*

51

1 my clothes, bot - tles,

2 Breast pump, their clothes, book-sized max - i - pads,

sub. p *f* *mf*

55

1 blank-ets, flow-ers, toys... check, check,

2 blank-ets, flow-ers, toys... check, check,

f

59

1 check.

2 check.

p *mp* *mf* *f*

63

1 I wait-ed in the

2 I wait-ed in the lob-by with the twins...

sub. mp

67

1 lob - by with the twins... my daught - er fast a -

2 my son wail - ing, —

p

71

1 sleep... I smiled at the peo - ple who walked

2 I smiled at the peo - ple who walked by me, —

mf p mf p mf

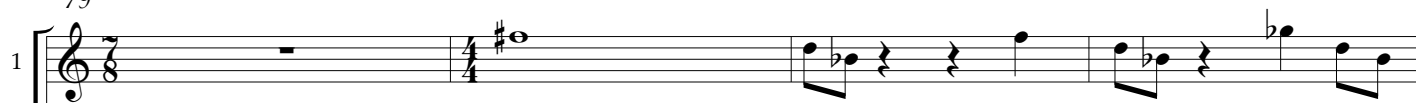
75

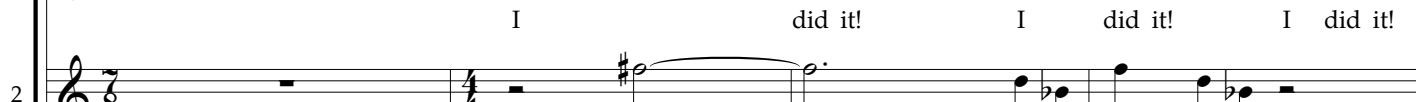
1 by me, their eyes wide. —

2 their eyes wide. —

mp cresc. f

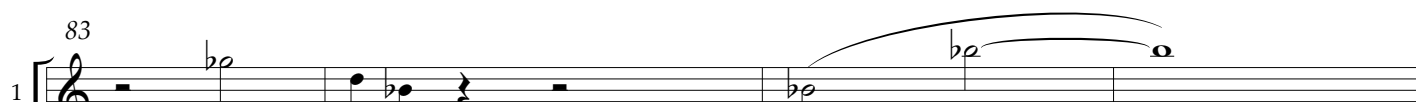
79

1  I did it! I did it! I did it!

2  I did it! I did it!



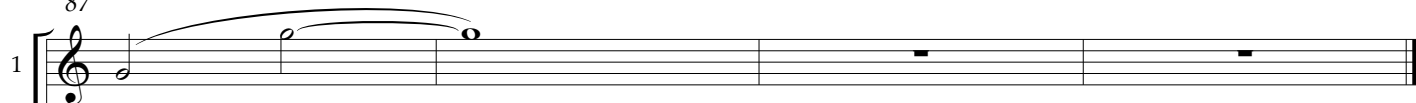
83

1  I did it! Twins!

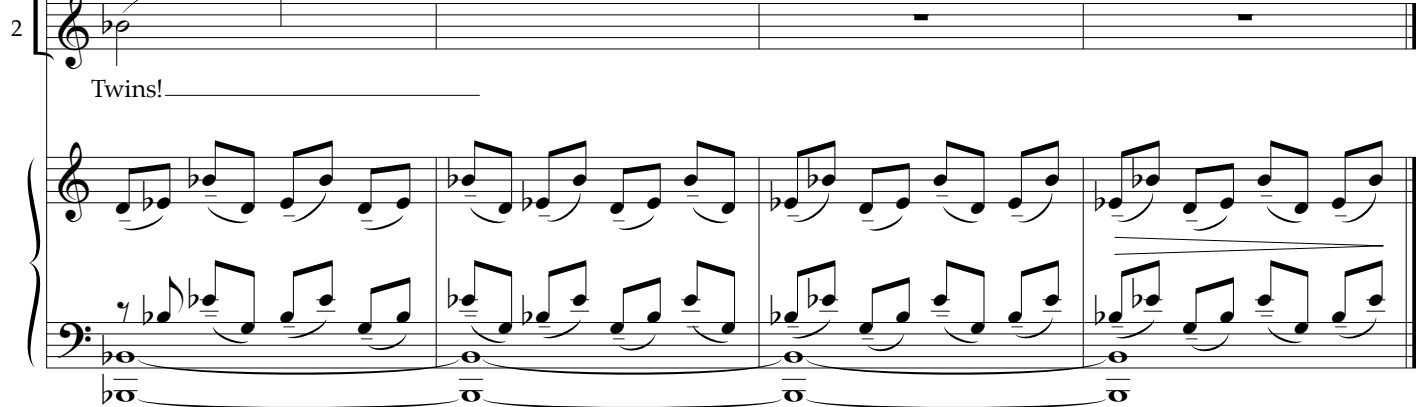
2  I did it! Twins!



87

1  Twins!

2  Twins!



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