

VESPA
AN OPERA IN FOUR ACTS

Music and Libretto by

Don DiNicola

VESPA
AN OPERA IN 4 ACTS
MUSIC AND LIBRETTO BY DON
DINICOLA

CAST - CHORUS AND DANCERS

CHORUS - 8 Singers will cover all roles:
3 Sopranos, 2 Mezzo-Sopranos, 2 Tenors, 1 Bass

VESPA - A 13 year old girl - SOPRANO

RAE - VESPA's little sister - MEZZO SOPRANO

JOEY - A neighborhood boy who befriends VESPA - TENOR

QUEENIE - The Wasp Queen - SOPRANO

OPPYLON - The Spider - BASS

BOO - The Purple Mantis - TENOR

THE 2 BOYS - Two neighborhood bullies who are also RAE's
acolytes - 2 TENORS

BABY SPIDERS - 2 babies - 2 SOPRANOS

CHICKADEE - MEZZO SOPRANO

THE SINGING TREE - BASS

**ASSORTED BEES, WASPS, MOSQUITOS, DRAGONFLIES, BEETLES, LADYBUGS
AND MANTITEES** - CHORUS and DANCERS (Number of Dancers-TBD)

THE ORCHESTRA - piano, guitars, banjo, harp, percussion, flute,
oboe, clarinet

PROLOGUE

NARRATION

Welcome to the world of Vespa. Our story unfolds in a vacant lot where the children play. Behind the lot is a rundown old factory, with sign that says, "DBP INDUSTRIES - NO TRESPASSING - KEEP OUT!"

In the darkness, a voice calls out ...

Narration: "In the darkness, a voice calls out ..."

Recitative 1

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Hauntingly, but lively. Rubato ♩ = 130

f minimal vibrato

Soprano [Queenie]

mf

p

Ves - pa! Ves - pa! Ves - pa! Ves - pa is thir - teen years old. She lives in a bad neigh - bor - hood

Piano

10

Queenie

Where she's of - ten bul-ried by the boys. As - tute, sharp, she loves the out - doors.

Pno

mp

13

19

Queenie

ff

mf

Ves - pa! Ves - pa! Ves - pa! One day...

Pno

f

Attacca

NARRATION "ACT 1 - SCENE 1
"Vespa is being taunted by two boys. Her sister Rae
is hiding behind a tree, listening."

Busy Buzzy Vespa

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Mezzo-soprano [Boy 1]

Sharp and nasty ♩ = 78

ff minimal vibrato

Bus - y buzz-y Ves - pa talk - in' to the bees, writ-in' sil - ly sto - ries hid-in' in the trees!

Tenor [Boy 2]

ff minimal vibrato

Bus - y buzz-y Ves - pa talk - in' to the bees, writ-in' sil - ly sto - ries hid-in' in the trees!

Piano

[Vamp under narration]

f

8^{ba}

Boy 1

Hav-in' con-ver-sa-tions with spi-ders in the air, ain't no-bod-y list-en-ing ain't no-bod-y there!!

Boy 2

Hav-in' con-ver-sa-tions with spi-ders in the air, ain't no-bod-y list-en-ing ain't no-bod-y there!!

Pno

(8)

LAUGHTER, HOOTS AND GUFFAWS.

BOY 1

I Guess ya just tooo good fa us Vespa!

BOY 2

Yeahhh, Teacha's pet, haha teacha's pet!

BOY 1

Where's ya made up friend? Ha!

BOY 2

I betcha she don't even haaave a real friend.

RAE

Puh! She's talking to her made up
friends again.

NARRATION:

We see Joey, a boy about Vespa's age, approach.

~ I DON'T UNDERSTAND ~

I Don't Understand

NARRATION: We see Joey, a boy about Vespa's age, approach.

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Heralding ♩ = 98 **Perturbed** ♩ = 106

6 Agitated ♩ = 96
f min. vib.

Soprano [Vespa]
Mezzo-soprano [Rae]
Tenor [Joey]

Piano

Vespa
Joey
Pno

I don't un-der-stand, what their prob-lem is!

I don't let an-y-one put words in my mouth. Some - times those guys aren't ver-y nice.____

I know what you mean and I a - gree.

15 19

Vespa Wan - na come o - ver and hang out some?

Rae Well! I'm glad! At least Ves - pa has one real friend! Hmph!

Joey Sure. Sounds like fun!_

Pno



24 27 A little spooky ♩ = 84 31

Vespa I _____ can show you,

Rae May - be_ he'll_ teach her some sense! Right.

Pno

33 *mp* $\text{♩} = 90$ **38**

Vespa but it has to be a se - cret, just be - tween us two.

Joey *f* Not a prob - lem for me! No - bod - y pays much at - ten - tion to me, an - y - way!

Pno *mp* *f*

42

Joey They all think I just make stuff up too.

Pno

They both laugh.

NARRATION**ACT 1 - SCENE 2**

Later that day in a backyard ... Vespa and Joey are standing next to a large tarantula wasp, with Joey gently petting the wasp's head. The wasp is humming softly. Rae is on the other side of the yard, watching the scene from behind another hedge.

VESPA

You need to be super gentle with her.

JOEY

I see what you mean ... Can I touch her
if I'm very gentle and careful?

Rae is clearly horrified yet transfixed. She leans forward,
straining to hear a little better. Vespa whispers,

VESPA

Yes, but very gently.

JOEY

Does she have a name?

Vespa replies in a soft whisper,

VESPA

I call her Queenie ... just remember, no sudden moves.

JOEY

Of course, of course. She's a real beauty. I can see why she's so
special.

Joey coos, and Vespa joins in the cooing and petting party. Queenie quivers
ever so slightly and emits a soft faint humming sound as Vespa softly rubs the
underside of her chin.

VESPA

Pet her right here.

JOEY

Ooooh, that's a good girl.

VESPA

Very nicely done Joey.

NARRATION (Music underneath)

Vespa and Joey marvel as Queenie rises up in splendor and performs a slow ceremonial dance.

~ QUEENIE ~

Queenie

from *Vespa*

Narration: "Vespa & Joey Marvel..."

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Regal but eerie ♩ = 103

Soprano [Queenie]

Piano

[under narration: "Vespa & Joey marvel..."]

f *light accents in RH* *mp*

7 *f* min. vibrato

Queenie

Queen - ie queen - ay, in your dream - ay, buzz do was you

Pno

mp *mf*

12

Queenie

in her dre - ah - - - may? You should be too!

Pno

f

Attacca

I Didn't Know

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Conversationally ♩ = 108

Soprano [Vespa]

mf minimal vibrato *mp* 7

Oh yes, and so much more. Watch, and fol-low us.

Tenor [Joey]

f minimal vibrato *mf*

I___ did-n't know that she could sing. So strange! What lan-guage is she speak-ing?

Piano

f *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vespa

12 *mf*

Yes, it's so won-der - ful._____ Don't you just love the sound_ of it?

Joey

It sounds fa-mil - i - ar but,

Rae (spoken): I'm gonna need some help with this

Pno.

Attacca

RAE
I'm gonna need some
help with this.

Recitative 2
from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

With a sense of anticipation ♩ = 154

f minimal vibrato

Soprano [Queenie]

Ves - pa and Jo - ey fol - low the Queen_ down a me - an - der - ing path,

Piano **mf**

Queenie

bring - ing them to_ a swamp like_ pond,_____ fer - tile and fe - cund,_____ full of life,_____ en - er - gy!!_____

Pno

Queenie

Queen-ie flies a - head and joins with a cou - ple of like_ mind - ed_ wasps,_____ who ap - pear to be friends!_____

Pno

ff more spoken **mp** **mf** A tempo **f**

rit. dim.

NARRATION

As the Wasps mingle, we see the reflection of a giant tree in the pond. The tree starts coughing and clearing its throat in a way that conveys that it would like our attention. The Wasps continue to hover.

TREE

Ahem, ahem . . .

JOEY

Who is that?

VESPA

That's the welcoming tree. He sounds a little scary but he's a good egg ... just veeery old.

JOEY

I can see that.

NARRATION

The Welcoming tree is huge and gnarly and magical. The Wasps start to circle the tree and join in with the tree on a very buzzy sounding song.

~ IN THE COVER OF MY SHADE ~ &

~ TREE DANCE ~ &

~ DO YOU LIVE HERE? ~

In the Cover of My Shade

from *Vespa*

Narration: "The Wasps start to circle..."

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Quietly majestic ♩ = 120

mp minimal vibrato

Vespa line: He always sings to the newcomers.

Bass
[The Tree]

Good day to____ ya, bare - ly knew_ ya. Do ya do____ ya got it made?

Piano

p



9

Tree

Did ya give____ ya, be ya see____ ya, don - ya tee - ya got it made?_____ In the cov - er of my____ shade.____

Pno

Attacca

Tree Dance

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Darkly mysterious ♩ = 116

Soprano
[Queenie]

Musical staff for Soprano [Queenie]. The staff is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a melody with triplet eighth notes and dotted quarter notes. The lyrics are: (Im) - pos - si - (ble) (Im) - pro - ba - (ble) all (un) - stop - pa - (ble) it's (in) - (ev) - i - ta - (ble). The staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Soprano

Musical staff for Soprano. The staff is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It contains whole rests for the duration of the piece.

Mezzo-soprano

Musical staff for Mezzo-soprano. The staff is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a melody with triplet eighth notes and dotted quarter notes. The lyrics are: (Im) - (pos) - (si) - ble so (Im) - (pro) - (ba) - ble all (un) - (stop) - (pa) ble it's (in) - (ev) - (i) - (ta) ble. The staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Tenor 1

Musical staff for Tenor 1. The staff is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a melody with triplet eighth notes and dotted quarter notes. The lyrics are: all (un) - stop - pa - ble (in) - (ev) - i - ta - ble. The staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Tenor 2

Musical staff for Tenor 2. The staff is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It contains whole rests for the duration of the piece.

Bass
[The Tree]

Musical staff for Bass [The Tree]. The staff is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a melody with triplet eighth notes and dotted quarter notes. The lyrics are: Im - (pos) - (si) - (ble) It's Im - (pro) - (ba) - (ble) though un - (stop) - (pa) - ble in - ev - (i) - (ta) - ble. The staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Piano

Musical staff for Piano. The staff is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a melody with triplet eighth notes and dotted quarter notes. The lyrics are: Im - (pos) - (si) - (ble) It's Im - (pro) - (ba) - (ble) though un - (stop) - (pa) - ble in - ev - (i) - (ta) - ble. The staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Tree Dance

11

Tree leads:

Queenie

Will - men Will - men Will - komm wel - come. Will - kom - men

Mezzo leads:

19

Queenie leads:

Ve - ry!_ See how____ they

Tree leads:

S.

Mezzo leads:

Queenie leads:

Ve - ry!_

Tree leads:

M.S.

Mezzo leads:

Queenie leads:

Will - kom Will - kom will - kom wel - come. A - - chra - ma - - cha - ma - ri._ See - - how

Tree leads:

T.1

Mezzo leads:

Queenie leads:

Will - kom - men Will - kom - men ma - - cha - mar - i._ See how____ they

Tree leads:

T.2

Mezzo leads:

Queenie leads:

Ve - ry!_ See how____ they

Tree leads:

Tree

Mezzo leads:

Queenie leads:

Will - - kom_ Will - kom - men. ma - - - mar - i._ See how they

Tree leads:

Pno

Mezzo leads:

Queenie leads:

Tree Dance

Queenie

21

Tree leads:

rit.....♩ = 102

28

Queenie leads:

fly!_____ Ah - - - - - night._____ Here are_____ three,_____

S.

Tree leads:

Queenie leads:

Here____ are____ three._ Here are three.

M-S.

Tree leads:

Queenie leads:

fly!_____ of__ light_____ run through the night._____ Here are three._____ Please,

T.1

Tree leads:

Queenie leads:

fly!_____ Cir - cles of light, run night._____ Here are three, here are three, here are three.

T.2

Tree leads:

Queenie leads:

fly!_____ light, run night._____ Three are these.

Tree

Tree leads:

Queenie leads:

fly!_____ Cir - cles of light,_____ they run through the night._____ Here_____ are three._____

Pno

Tree leads:

Queenie leads:

8ba

Tree Dance

36

rit.....

Queenie

32

let_____ them_____ be. Trou - - - bled_____ are these_____ The_____

S.

Let them be, let them be, let them be free. Woe_____ oft - en,

M-S.

Let_____ them_____ be___ free. Trou - bled_ these._____

T.1

8

Let them be, let them be, let them be free. not of - ten

T.2

8

Let these three be___ free. not of - ten

Tree

Let them be, Let them be. not of - ten

Pno

(8)

Tenor 2 leads:

41

Queenie

Bass leads:

Queenie leads:

45 ♩ = 90 *mf*

queen. But be - ware of Man - tes and Me - phi - ti - dae.

S.

Bass leads:

Queenie leads:

p

seen in the land of Oh. Oh. Oh.

M-S.

Bass leads:

Queenie leads:

p

queen. Oh. Oh. Oh.

T.1

Bass leads:

Queenie leads:

p

seen land queen. Oh. Oh. Oh.

T.2

Bass leads:

Queenie leads:

seen in the land queen. Oh. Oh.

Tree

Bass leads:

Queenie leads:

p

seen land of the queen. Oh. Oh. Oh.

Pno

Bass leads:

Queenie leads:

p

Sost. Attacca

Do You Live Here?

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Conversationally ♩ = 100

mf 6

Soprano [Vespa]

Tenor [Joey]

Piano

Wow! This is a su - per int' - rest - ing place. Do you live here, or back there?

My pa - rents, have a house back there and I'm ex - pec - ted to ad -

8

Vespa

Pno

-just to life there. My fa - ther works night and day, he has no time for me or Rae, to him we're noth - ing more than a dis - trac - tion. And

Red.

13

Vespa

Pno

mo - ther _____ takes whis - key in her morn - ing tea, ex - pects us to be qui - et and look pret - ty. And o - bey all of their rules. _____ But Queen - ie, _____

very lightly

mf

3

29

Vespa

al - ways try - ing _____ to find a way to get the bee's _____ ho - ney. _____ We, I mean, the wasps need the pro - tein. _____

Pno

The image shows a musical score for a song titled "The Bee". It features two parts: a vocal line for "Vespa" and a piano accompaniment for "Pno". The Vespa part is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "al - ways try - ing _____ to find a way to get the bee's _____ ho - ney. _____ We, I mean, the wasps need the pro - tein. _____". The piano accompaniment is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp. The music includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals. The score is numbered 29 in the top left corner.

In the near distance, we hear a faint march-like rhythm. We can see a swarm of bees heading towards them. Vespa starts to suddenly display wasp-like characteristics. As soon as we become aware of it, so does she, and quickly moves to shake off the manifestation. Joey sees this and dismisses it without comment. Meanwhile the bees and wasps gather, then approach each other in a kind of standoff.

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Animated & Combative ♩ = 124

Soprano 1

ff [>] minimal vibrato

Out! Get out! Bad bees be gone. Pol - is - tes will not back down. Fly!_____

Soprano 2

Tenor

ff minimal vibrato

Not a chance! Bees_____ will fight! Bees en - dure!

Bass

Piano

ff

Bee Wasp Standoff

13

S. 1

Ves - - - pu - la nev - - er___ give ground! Out! Get out! Bad

S. 2

Bees, we'll

T.

Ap - - - i - dae nev - - er___ give ground. We will

Bass

Flee be gone or

Pno

17

19

S. 1

bees be___ gone! Out, out___ be - gone and nev - er___ re - turn!

S. 2

tear you___ a - part! Bees get___ thee hence, nev - er - more___ to___ re - turn not ev - er more!

T.

not play___ nice! Bas - - - ta!

Bass

pay the___ price! Out! Be gone! Nev - er___ re - turn!

Pno

minimal vibrato

Vespa Libretto & Score 5/24/25

Bee Wasp Standoff

37

S. 1

S. 2

T.

Bass

Pno

We a - rise and at - tack, ne - ver show them mer - cy! Hold the line!

Bees a - rise and at - - - tack them! Bees ne - ver stop for we must kill them!

Bees a - rise and at - tack we must hold the line!

42

S. 1

S. 2

T.

Bass

Pno

ff Sound re - treat our - on - ly op - tion!

We re-treat, dab-n-it! Live to fight an - oth - er day!

There will be more next time! *ff* Live to fight an - oth - er day!

Run them out! And make it sting! Make it hurt, don't let them off!

48 VAMP

Pno

f

NARRATION

The wasps back down as they are clearly out-numbered. The bees leave toward one side, and the wasps to the other. They are interrupted by a voice in the distance . . .

RAE

Vespa ... Joey ... Where are you guys!

NARRATION

Two lovely Dragonflies float into the scene.

VESPA

Oh, hello Draggies!

JOEY

Are they friendly?

VESPA

Oh yes! Just a little single minded. They're probably on their way to Mexico for the winter.

JOEY

Oh.

Joey responds, clearly clueless as to the life cycle of Dragonflies. He scratches his head, thinking, and posits a question.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Maybe we could hitch a ride with them for a while. What do you think?

VESPA

Excellent idea!

[Music starts]

NARRATION

Vespa and Joey are invited to climb aboard the backs of the Dragonflies.

~ THE JOURNEY ~

VESPA: "Excellent idea!"

The Journey

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Soaring with energy & life ♩ = 140

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Mezzo-soprano 1

Mezzo-soprano 2

Tenor

[under narration]

Piano

f

ff

7 *f* minimal vibrato

S. 1

Take me on a jour - ney. To *f* the bur - ney sun - shine.

S. 2

Da da da da da da da.

T.

ff minimal vibrato

High out in the o - pen sky! Fly nev - er to be de - nied. It's all im - por - tant.

Pno

15

21

S. 1

S. 2

M-S. 1

M-S. 2

T.

Pno

Slight - ly flick - ers, thick - er quick - er be my pick - er.

Night - ly flick - ers thick - er quick be my up.

flick - ers be my up.

my

It's all im - por - tant.

Fly by

mf

f

ff



22

S. 1

T.

Pno

Way o - ver the moun - tain side.

So hap - py to be a - live, it's all im - port - ant.

night the day be.

You can see night through me.

f

Vespa Libretto & Score 5/24/25

35

Narration: "They fly off... fade to black." END ACT ONE

NARRATION**ACT 2 - SCENE 1**

Deep in the bog, Rae and the boys inch their way through the muck, following the trail of where Vespa and Joey entered the woods earlier.

RAE

Vespa! Vespa! I have no idea what
Vespa is thinking.

THE BOYS

No idea ... no idea.

RAE

Vespa!!!

~ BEYOND BELIEF ~

Beyond Belief

from *Vespa*

Rae: "Vespa!!!"

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Irritated ♩ = 100
f minimal vibrato

Mezzo-soprano [Rae]

Piano

4

Ves-pa is real-ly be-yond be-lief! I can't im-ag-ine what she's think-ing. Is - n't it bad e-nough that she bare-ly par-tic-i-pates in school? And has no

7

11

Rae

Pno

in - ter-est_ in play-ing with an - y - bod - y else. Is she think-ing she's bet - ter than us in some way? She needs to get with the pro-gram!

13

19

Rae

Pno

And now mak-ing mat-ters worse, she's tak - en with that strange boy___ Jo - ey! He's just like her. Things are go-ing from bad to worse!

RAE (CONT'D)

We have to get her and bring her
back to reality before it's too late and we lose her forever!

THE BOYS

Forever . . . forever.

RAE

Vespa!!!

NARRATION

As if in response, an over-sized purple mantis leaps up and lands
beside them. He is dressed nattily in a top hat, tails and shiny boots
replete with black spats.

~Rae & the Mantis Meet~

Narration: "...replete with black straps."

Rae & The Mantis Meet

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

They are at odds with each other ♩ = 112

Mezzo-soprano [Rae]

Tenor [The Mantis]

Piano

ff min. vib. *f* insect-like *f* min. vib.

Good - ly marn - in! Where is your care? In there? izz-it izz-it izz-it izz-it?

And just who might you be?

7

Rae

Mantis

Pno

9

This is just the kind of crea-ture that Ves - pa would be - friend. This is real - ly the lim-it!

f

What-zit what-zit what-zit? Name is Boo, You?

18

 f

22

Not that it's an-y of__ your bus'-ness! I'm Rae,__ and this is Dick-y and Rick-y. I'm prob-a-bly the pret-ti - est girl you've ev-er seen!_

RAE (spoken): And, my family
owns the big factory,
DBP Enterprises! 🤖

Attacca

Rae & The Mantis Meet

18

f

Rae

Mantis

Pno



25

Rae

Mantis

Pno

The Boys (after):
Harumph...Harumph!

Attacca

Narration: "And in a single leap, Boo disappears into the bushes."

NARRATION

[MUSIC VAMP UNDERNEATH Chomp Chomp]

ACT 2 - SCENE 2

Joey and Vespa fly, riding aboard the dragonflies.

JOEY

Yeowch!!

VESPA

What's wrong Joey?

Joey shouts back,

JOEY

There's a bug in my ear!!

NARRATION

A swarm of mosquitos are rapidly approaching. Vespa and Joey madly slap at themselves to deter the biting frenzy. The dragonflies suddenly turn and reverse course heading straight into the swarm of mosquitos.

JOEY

Why are they turning around?

Vespa winks.

VESPA

Dinner time!

NARRATION

The dragonflies become like small vacuum cleaners sucking, chomping and swallowing as they eat their way through the swarm.

~ CHOMP CHOMP ~

Chomp Chomp

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

CUE: "...eat their way through the swarm."

Ominous ♩ = 96

f minimal vib.

8

Soprano

We're so hun - - - - - gry. We're

Mezzo-soprano

We're so hun - - - - - gry. We're

Tenor

Bass

[Vamp under]

Piano

f

14

10

S.

so hun - - - gry! Oh we're starv - - - ing,

M-S.

so hun - - - gry! Oh we're starv - - - ing

ff

T.

Chomp chomp slurp slurp! Miz-zum Biz-zum Buz-zum Wuz-zum! Swal - low sal - i - vate, re - peat en - er - vate!

Pno

[Continue & segue, fade]

JOEY

Vespa shrugs,

VESPA

It happens ...

NARRATION

The dragonflies speed up leaving the mosquitos behind.

~ THE QUEEN'S ISLAND ~

Narration: "...leaving the mosquitoes behind."

Queen's Island Recit

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Light and soaring ♩ = 140

f minimal vibrato

Soprano [Vespa]

Piano

Ped. as necessary

Fly - ing a - bove an o - ver grown swamp - land, the Dra - gon - flies veer_____ to the left.

12 13 21

Vespa

Pno

Duck - weed, Cat - tails and Rose - mal - low min - gle with Horse - tail, Bull - rush and Sedge_____ The re - flec - tion in the wa -

22 29

Vespa

Pno

- ter_____ re - veals in - sect chan - ges, wasp - ish in ev' - ry as - pect._____ Jo - ey es - pies the dark chang - es and

32

37

Vespa

ques - tions the ul - ti - mate aim of the trek._____ As I look down at the mir - rored re - flec - tion and Jo - ey's re -

Pno

42

45

Vespa

- ac - tion un - hid - den. I shake off the as - pect be - cause it's her code_ to re - veal true self is for - bid - den.

Pno

53

61

Vespa

O - ver the pond by a dense stand of pop - lars, in a cir - cle of_ stones stands the Queen._____ In all of her glo - ry, by all man - ner of_

Pno

64

69

Vespa

spe - cies she's sur - round - ed by__ great ex - pec-tan - cy. They a - wait her ev' - ry or - der with ea - ger a - ban - don and hang on her

Pno

74

77

Vespa

e-ver - y thought._____ For all of them know that to - ge-ther in this world sur - vi - val and un - cer-tain - ty walk.

Pno

NARRATION
Vespa, Joey, and the dragonflies land on the island, Queenie is at the center of the frenetic activity. She turns to and fro, giving instructions to the different species around her.

~Queen's Island Hive~

Queen's Island Hive

from *Vespa*

NARRATION: "...species around her."

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Lively, buzzy ♩ = 140

5

f minimal vibrato

Soprano

Mezzo-Soprano

Tenor

Bass

Piano

Queen be sweet - ly nes - tle of tric - kle. She's free from

10

S.

sea bream, fun - nel. Flic - kle! Dream - y free me, mov - ing me - nu.

M-S.

Free to

T.

Dream - y free me mov - - ing me - nu. Free to

Pno

f minimal vibrato

f minimal vibrato

25

29

32

S. *f* Give some mean - ing to your seem - ing

M-S. *f* Live.

T. *f* Give some mean - ing to your seem - ing

B. *ff* Get a - long get a - long! Live.

Pno *f*

37

S. flee - ing scream - ing sense of being! Be.

M-S. *f* Scream. Be.

T. *f* flee - ing scream - ing sense of being! Twid - dle twad - dle did - dle daw - dle

B. *f* Scream. Be.

Pno *8va* *mf* *f*

Queen's Island Hive

42 *f*

S. Twid - dle twad - dle did - dle daw - dle

M-S. *f* 3 3 3 3 3
Fid - dle me did - dle me wat - tle me blue You and me seem to be hap - pi - ly flew!

Pno



45 *f* *ff*

S. We can't be - lieve you if you can't be true!

M-S. 3 3 3 *ff*
You and me seem to be hap - pi - ly flew if you can't be true!

T. *f* 3 3 3 *f* *ff*
Fid - dle me did - dle me wat - tle me blue We can't be - lieve you if you can't be true!

B. *ff*
if you can't be true!

Pno *f* *ff*

Buzzy and jaunty ♩ = 162

49 *f*

S. Be a lit - tle tit - tle tat - tle lit - tle boy blue. On by set - tle fie win - dow cry too. In an old si - lo from Tim - buk - tu, can you be buzz - y can you be true?

M-S. *f* In an old si - lo from Tim - buk - tu, can you be buzz - y can you be true?

Pno *f*

57 61

S. Can you be buzz - y, say can you be true?___ Be a lit - tle tit - tle tat - tle lit - tle boy blue. On by set - tle fie win - dow cry too.

M-S. Can you be buzz - y, say can you be true?___

T. *f* Can you be buzz - y, say can you be true?___ Be a lit - tle tit - tle tat - tle lit - tle boy blue. On by set - tle fie win - dow cry too.

B. *f* Can you be buzz - y, say can you be true?___

Pno *f*

The spritely waltz continues as Vespa greets the Queen. Joey watches from the sidelines. Queenie lifts her head slightly in acknowledgement of Vespa's approach. She hums and thrums gently. Vespa says to Joey with admiration,

Joey demurs, as Vespa is welcomed by the Queen. Their conversation is a bit unusual in that neither Vespa or the Queen are actually speaking. Joey responds although neither of them seem to be listening.

NARRATION [Music underneath]

~ CANOODLING MANTISES ~

Canoodling Mantes

Narration: "A pair of mantises..."

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Playful & sinister all at once ♩. = 72

Soprano

Tenor

[under narration]

Piano

6

S. *mp* min. vib.

T. *mp* min. vib.

Pno

Why, tell me why, Do do it don't do it. Don't cry, don't cry, flah - ha - hy but don't cry.

Why tell me why, Do do it don't do it. Flah - ha - hy but don't cry.

Canoodling Mantes

11

S.

Mai - tai me fly,tra - ha - ha high.Mai - tai me fly un - der - neath braille eyes.

T.

Tra - ha - ha - high.Mai - tai me fly way high.

Pno



16

S.

Be on - to be on - to ties. Wise eyes, wise eyes

T.

Whis - per to me.Be on - to be on - to ties.Eyes, wise eyes à bien - tôt.

Pno

Watch Yourself

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

With Growing Concern ♩ = 120

Vespa jolts Joey away from the alluring dance of the mantises.

The female mantis rips the head of the male clean off.

f min. vib. *mf*

Soprano [Vespa]

You real - ly have to watch your-self here_ Joe - y. If you don't... That's the way it bees, some-times. Yum - my yum - my!

Tenor [Joey]

Yikes! Good gra - vy!_

f min. vib.

Piano

f Red. Red.



9

S.

mf

Def - i - nite - ly! I'm in-trigued! Neat trick.

T.

p *mf* *mp* *f*

Wan - na see some-thing? I'd like to show you._ I've nev-er shared this with an-y - one be - fore.

Pno

p *mp* *mf* Red. Red.

Joey claps his hands, and disappears.

18

S.

T.

Pno

mf

f

mp

Red.

I in-vent - ed it at home. Some - times... when things get cra - zy at home, this real - ly helps. Not that I would show them!

32

27

S.

T.

Pno

f

mf

Red.

We see eye to eye on that. And now?

I just make sure, when the fur flies, I'm no - where to be seen. Ov - er here.

NARRATION:

His voice is coming from behind a bush. Vespa heads toward the voice, and is followed by a tribe of Katydids.

Knock Knock

from *Vespa*

Words & Music by Don DiNicola

Sweet but off kilter ♩ = 162 *f* 9 min. vib.

Soprano Knock knock who's not there? Knock knock who's not there? Where_____ oh where_____ has he

Mezzo-soprano *f* Knock knock who's not there? Knock knock who's not there?

Tenor *f* Knock knock who's not there? Knock knock who's not there?

Bass

Piano *stacc. very short f* *mp* *mf*

== 17

S. ¹³ gone_____ to hide?_____ Chang - - - ing col - - - ors ver - - - y

M-S. min. vib. Ver - - - y

Pno

25

35

45

Vespa Libretto & Score 5/24/25

Knock Knock

69

S. be _____ my _____ friend. _____

M-S. be, _____ be my friend!

T. be _____ my _____ Knock knock who's not there!

B. be _____ be my friend! Knock knock who's not there!

Pno

Black out.

END OF ACT 2