



Monte and Pinky

An opera in one act

by

Richard L. Rose

Choral Overture and Nine Scenes

Action takes place in a nursing home somewhere in Virginia.

Choral Overture

Monte & Pinky

Richard L. Rose

Monte is seated center stage working on a crossword puzzle. To her left are a basket on the floor for her puzzle books and dictionary and a quilt on a stand. To her right are a cane and a small table with a picture of Grady. Pinky's chair and table are to the right of this. Chairs for the chorus are behind them. Depending on the space available, other props could include two single beds and a sign visible through a window showing that this is a nursing home called "Shadow Hill At Foxglove: Your Health Care Management Village." Monte is seated during the choral entrance and overture. She takes notice of the Manager entering at the end of the Overture but continues to look up and down from her puzzle during their conversation as the Manager keeps checking her smart-phone.

$\text{♩} = 57-60$

In this tempo indication, and elsewhere in the score, the unit suggested for counting (here, half notes) is, of course, at the director's discretion.

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

Pno/Orch

mf

D.S. al Fine

D.C.

CHORUS ENTERS and sits down.

Overture Part A, p.2

19 Chorus stands. ♩ = 47-52

mf ALL

ritardando *mp*

22 THINGS COME FROM THEE, O LORD. AND OF THINE OWN WE

25 ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O LORD. ALL
GIVE TO THEE. ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O LORD. ALL

28 THINGS COME FROM THEE. *pp*
THINGS COME FROM THEE. *pp*

ritardando ma con senza pausa a la sezione prossima

Choral Overture, Part B

Monte & Pinky

Richard L. Rose

♩ = 72

Sop

Alt & Ten

TEN. AND ALT.

Bas

Pno/org *mp*

Cymbal

mf ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O LORD. GI VEN & UN BID DEN, FLOW ING FREE.

mf ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O LORD. GI VEN & UN BID DEN, FLOW ING FREE.

ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, LORD, GIV'N, UN BID DEN, FLOW ING FREE.

LIGHT AND LIFE WE HAVE IG NORED & CALLED OUR SEP A RA TION FREE

LIGHT AND LIFE WE HAVE IG NORED & CALLED OUR SEP A RA TION FREE

ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, LORD. GIV'N, UN BID DEN, FLOW ING FREE.

Overture, Part B, p. 2

8

WHILE YOUR RAINS UP ON US POURED STREAMS OF BE ING END LESS LY.

WHILE YOUR RAINS POURED END LESS LY.

WHILE YOUR RAINS POURED STREAMS OF BE ING END LESS LY

10

ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O LORD.

ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O

ALL THINGS COME FROM

11

GI VEN & UN BID DEN, ALL THINGS COME FROM

LORD. GI VEN & UN BID DEN, FLOW ING

THEE, O LORD. GI VEN & UN BID DEN,

Overture, Part B, p. 3

12

THEE

FREE, ALL COMES FROM THEE.

ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE.

AS A MIR ROR, SO THE WA TER
LIGHT AND LIFE WE HAVE IG NORED

14

EV ER FLOW ING DAY & NIGHT,
CAL LING SEP A RA TION FREE.

SHOWS THAT WE ARE ALL ONE BO DY
WHILE YOUR RAINS UP ON US POURED,

16

RE CON CILED & PURE AND BRIGHT.
STREAMS OF BE ING END LESS LY.

Overture, Part B, p. 4

17

ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O LORD.

ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O

ALL THINGS COME FROM

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 17 and 18. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O LORD.' for measure 17, and 'ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE, O' for measure 18. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

18

OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GI VEN THEE.

LORD. OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GI VEN

THEE, O LORD. OF THINE OWN WE

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 18 and 19. It continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics are: 'OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GI VEN THEE.' for measure 18, and 'LORD. OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GI VEN' for measure 19. The piano part continues with harmonic support.

19

THEE: ALL THINGS

THEE. WE GIVE TO THEE: ALL THINGS.

GIVE WE GIVE TO THEE: ALL THINGS

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the musical score, measures 19 and 20. It features a repeat sign at the beginning of measure 19. The lyrics are: 'THEE: ALL THINGS' for measure 19, and 'THEE. WE GIVE TO THEE: ALL THINGS.' for measure 20. The piano part continues with harmonic support.

Overture, Part B, p. 5

21

COME FROM THEE.

COME FROM THEE

COME FROM THEE

senza pausa a la sezione prossima

Monte & Pinky Scene 1

Richard L. Rose

Manager (Sop)

Monte (Alt)

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

Pno/Orch

♩=72

Choir is seated.

Spotlight on the Manager as she enters.

ppp ALL THINGS COME FROM THEE. Hmmm..

dolcemente pp

5

Second spotlight on Monte as she stands with the use of her cane, picks up a dictionary, and sits back down.

9

mf SO... MRS. TOWLES... I FOUND...

p 8 HMMM...

mp

13

MONTE! HAIN'T BEEN A MIS SUS FOR FOR - TY YEAR!

Monte drops her dictionary into the basket and raps her cane hard down on the table.

ALTOS HMMM...

MEN

sfz

16

NOW, MRS. TOWLES, YOU KNOW THAT MA

18

NAGED CARE IS NOT LIKE HOME, WHERE

20

AN Y ONE YOU WANT

Monte raps her cane again.

MONTE!! SINCE GRA DY'S GONE, I'M

AN Y ONE YOU WANT

22

Monte turns Grady's picture around to have a look at it.

NO ONE'S MIS SUS...

& NO BO DY'S BUS' NESS EI THER!

24

She looks back at the picture of Grady, as if talking to it.

FUN NY 'BOUT THAT!

TEX AS WAS A SKIL LET: HOT & FLAT!

27 $\text{♩} = 46$

legato
I want to

29

leave old Tex - as now. I've no more

32

Ooooh

use for the long horn cow.

35

WHEN GRA DY TOOK ME THERE FROM LI BER TY,

pp

38

MY FAM' LY BEEN LIKE SOME ONE DIED

42

$\text{♩} = 49$

WE LEFT MY COVES & HILLS, THE CA NEY FORK AND FARM.

f

46

LEFT THE CA NEY FORK & FARM.

48

OOH...

50

MY CHI NA, KET TLES, HOPE CHEST, MY

52.

TREA DLE SING ER, & GOOD LI NEN IN THE TRUNKS

IN THE TRUNKS

54.

OOH...

56.

WE DROVE DUE WEST TO TEX AS,

58

TO THE BUS'NESS FRANK & GRADY HAD IN CLEBURNE

ppp OOOH..

60

mf

mp Sopranos LA LA

62

Altos LA LA

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, and Piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three systems, each with a measure number (58, 60, 62) in the top left corner. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings include *ppp* (pianissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are also performance instructions like 'OOOH..' and 'LA LA'.

64

A STORE ON MAIN STREET WHERE THE DRO VERS TURN THEIR HERDS IN TO THE RAIL YARD

66

WAS NO PLACE TO SELL DRY GOODS.

OH

68

I KNEW IT THE FIRST DAY!

Oh

70

SIX OF US IN ONE HOUSE

pp

72

A BLOCK A WAY LIVED TWO YEARS

74 $\text{♩} = 68$

SERV ING MEALS & SAY ING GRACE IT WOULD NT GO.

mp

Monte picks up the picture and speaks to it. As she picks it up, Grady stands. The spot on him grows for several measures.

76

ad libitum I DONT THINK I WILLED IT.

78

STILL, I NE VER REAL LY WANT ED IT.

80

WE DROVE TO FORT WORTH AS FAST AS WE COULD GET!

*Still holding the picture, she looks
up at Grady, standing in the chorus.*

82

portamento Oh Gra dyl

senza pausa.

Monte & Pinky
Scene 2 : Grady's marching song

Richard L. Rose

Grady mf $\text{♩} = 90-104$

1. Now, Monte, you'll see that it will be all right.
2. Monte, think a head not what's be hind:

S,A

T,B

Pno,Orc mf *Marcato sempre*

And Cle - burne has a lodge. The bro thers there are bound to
Our own life, a new place, where we will find new space: A

help us, Frank says, And I swear We'll re - turn to Li ber
new Li ber ty if..you won't mind. Mer can tile will make us

Scene 2 p. 2

12

ty to vis it, And when the store makes good we'll get a place so Sis and Mom
a new liv ing. Not lives as signed!

p Hmmm_ So Sis and
Not lives as

16

And Frank & Grace Will find their own place! Think what's a - head!
That's all be hind! We'll make our own place.

Mom signed! Think what's a -

And Frank & Grace
That's all be hind!

1.

20

Think what's a head! Think what's a head, Not what's be - hind. Monte, thinka head!

head! Think what's a - head. Monte, think a -

Scene 2 p. 3

24

Think straight a head. Just think a head.. Don't set your mind.

2.

3.Monte, think a head____

head!

28

Not what's be hind. Our life's a head if you won't mind. Think straight a head.

Not what's be hind. If you won't mind.

Scene 2 p. 4

(Monte is slowly shaking her head and Grady is increasingly exasperated. The lights come down and the spot on Grady decreases as Monte is spotlighted.)

32

Leave cares be - hind. Monte, don't set your mind!

morendo

morendo Leave cares be - hind! Don't set your mind!

morendo

36

Grady disappears (sits). Monte returns the photograph to the table.

mp Just think a - head. *pp*

PPP *senza pausa*

Monte and Pinky

Scene 3: The Interrupted Message

Richard L. Rose

Lights up.

♩. = 82

Manager *mf* It's fixed.

Monte *portamento* *f* Fixed? Hmph!

SA *pp* Just think a - head. Monte raps her cane on the nightstand.

TB

Pno/Orch *mf*

rubato

Gra dy's store in Cle burne, the years of sel ling Corn Pro ducts,

rubato (Seguite la voce.)

Wait ing for the phone to ring, So li taire & sew ing

(The manager tries again - unsuccessfully - to interrupt Monte's monologue. Finally, she throws her hands up.)

It's

15 16 17

rit.

But ter rick's All gone

18 19 20 21

with old Tex as. I'm all that is left

$\text{♩} = 100$

22 23 24 25

mf Monte! I've found some one a room mate!

Law! I'm not deaf!

p Some one A room mate!

p Doo doo doo doo

Scene 3 p. 3

26 I've found some one, 27 a room mate. 28 29

Doo doo doo (etc.) *f* All things come from
 (etc.) Doo etc. Doo doo *mp*

30 31 32 33

thee O Lord, And of thine own we give to thee. Well,

(etc.)

34 35 36 37

does she beat the last one? Does she

38 39 40 41

still have sense? The last one's pas sing was a great re lief.

42 43 44 45

(Monte looks squarely at the Manager.)
rubato (ASIDE:) It's bad to say! She on ly hushed to smoke. *a tempo* Then

46 47 48 49

Monte returns to her crossword puzzle and begins to fill in a word—
 came the day she lit up and lit out! Why, "VA NI SHING" is five a

Scene 3 p. 5

50 But, Mu.. Monte, 51 we could n't find..... 52 53

cross! You ne ver mind now. I'm no

Hmm.....

54 55 56 57

lit tle prin cess. But do you have five let ters for "DUR RESS"? What?

58 59 60 61

I'd stay but I've a call! I'm forced to go. That's it!

Monte writes in the last word in the puzzle.

Scene 3 p. 6

62 63 64 65

The Manager keeps trying politely to take her phone call but Monte does not release her from her gaze. Still staring at the Manager, Monte throws her crossword puzzle into the basket.

"FORCE," six down, a lings with "HEA VEN." It fi nish es me off! You're the Man a ger!

66 67

This question compels the Manager, who had started to leave, to come back. She is clearly irritated.

So what is it you man age?

ritardando

Monte and Pinky,
Scene 4: Risk Management

Richard L. Rose

$\text{♩} = 110-120$ The Manager struggles to show restraint.

Manager/Pinky *f* It means we help. That's why I tried to find

Monte *f*

Pno/Orch *pp*

you.... Monte motions to the "Shadow Hill" sign. What?

So how are you man a ging, my dear? My

The Manager is bewildered & then alarmed.

care. I took some risks, you know. Oh,

When was that?

$\text{♩} = 100$

(Manager shows disgust.)

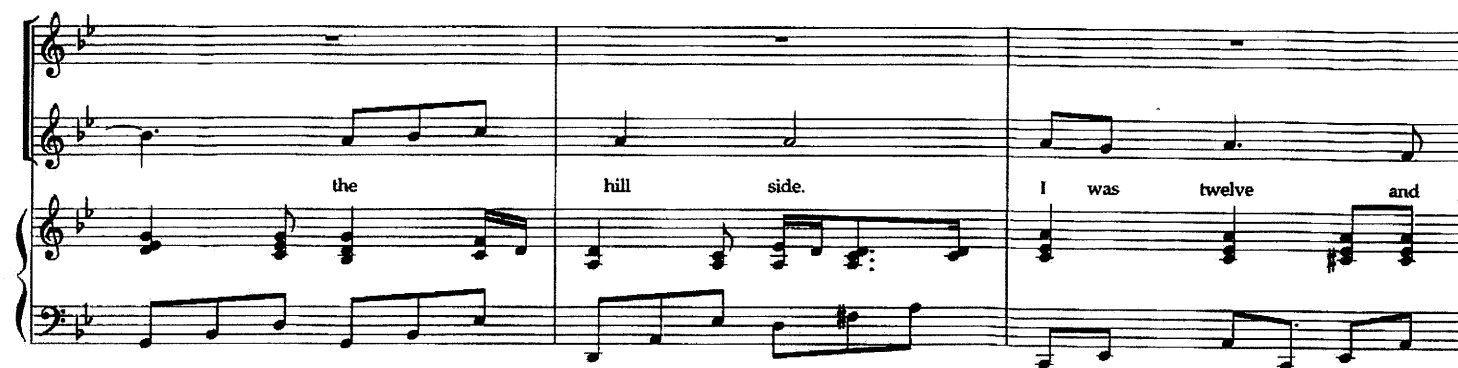
nine ty years a go. One time,





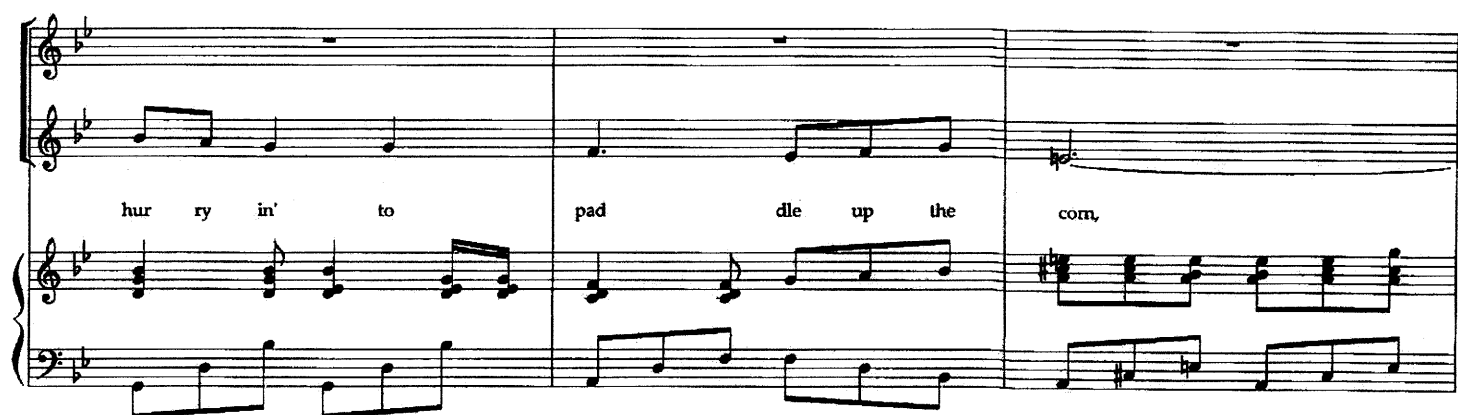
af ter it had rained, we plowed

This system contains the first three measures of the musical score. The vocal line begins with a half note 'af', followed by a quarter note 'ter', a quarter note 'it', and a half note 'had'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a series of chords in the right hand.



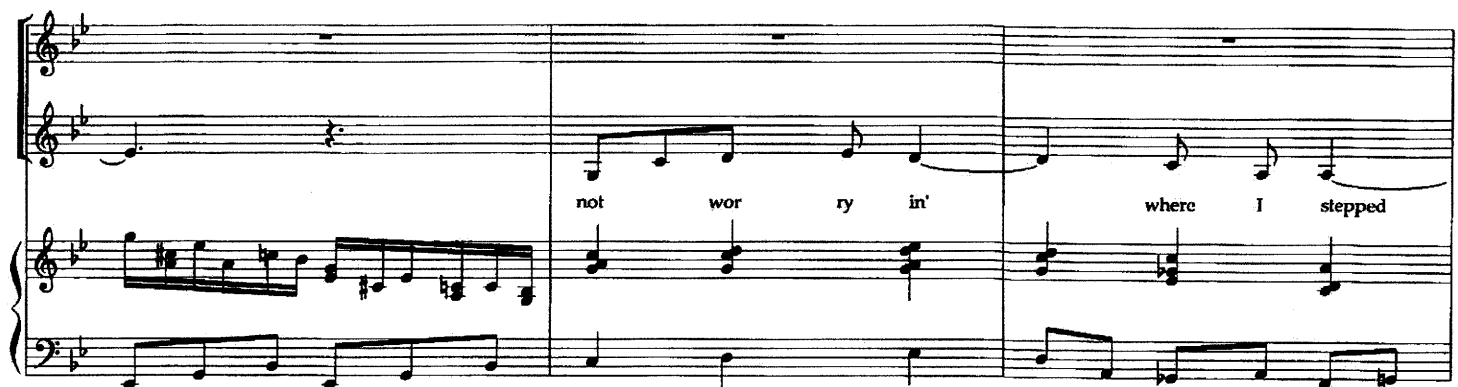
the hill side. I was twelve and

This system contains measures 4 through 6. The vocal line continues with a half note 'the', a quarter note 'hill', and a quarter note 'side.'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and chords.



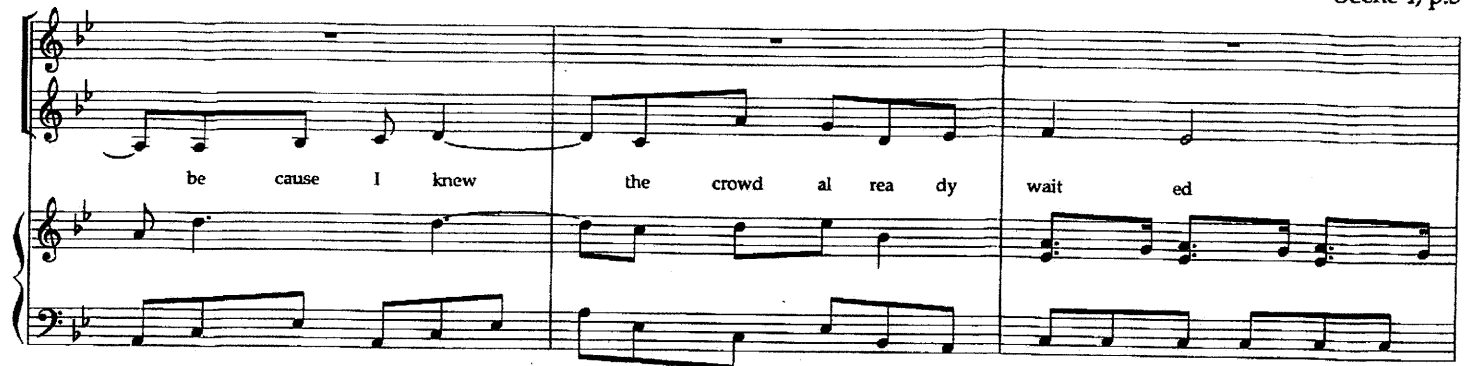
hur ry in' to pad dle up the corn,

This system contains measures 7 through 9. The vocal line has a half note 'hur', a quarter note 'ry', a quarter note 'in'', and a half note 'to'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and chords.



not wor ry in' where I stepped

This system contains measures 10 through 12. The vocal line begins with a half note 'not', followed by a quarter note 'wor', a quarter note 'ry', and a half note 'in''. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and chords.



be cause I knew the crowd al rea dy wait ed

This system contains the first three measures of the musical score. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'be cause I knew the crowd al rea dy wait ed'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.



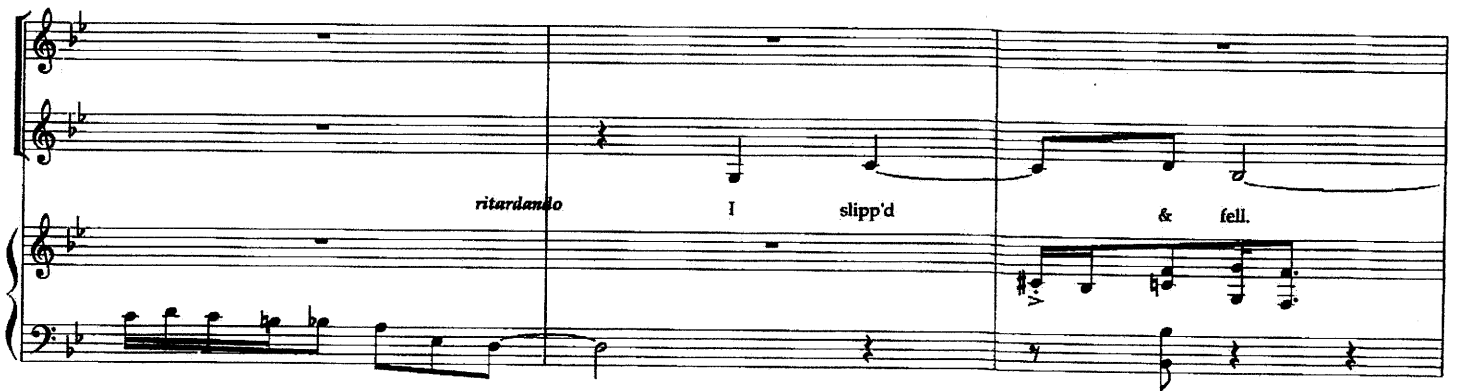
For the cir cus train, for the cir cus

This system contains the next three measures. The vocal line continues with 'For the cir cus train, for the cir cus'. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line and continues with its rhythmic accompaniment.



train.

This system contains the next three measures. The vocal line concludes the phrase with 'train.'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand.



ritardando I slipp'd & fell.

This system contains the final three measures of the page. The tempo marking *ritardando* is present. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics 'I slipp'd & fell.'. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand.



Bro ther turned the team and lost the row.

This system contains the first three measures of the piece. The vocal line begins with a half note 'Bro' and a quarter note 'ther'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line with eighth and quarter notes in the left hand.



a tempo All I could do

The second system continues the melody. The vocal line has a half note 'All', a quarter note 'I', and two eighth notes 'could do'. The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic pattern, with the right hand playing eighth notes and the left hand providing harmonic support with eighth and quarter notes.



was scream.

♩ = 100

The third system concludes the first phrase. The vocal line has a half note 'was' and a quarter note 'scream.'. A double bar line is followed by a new section marked with a tempo of 100 (♩ = 100) and a change to 2/4 time. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.



I near lost a foot

The fourth system begins the second phrase. The vocal line has a half note 'I', a quarter note 'near', and two eighth notes 'lost a foot'. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

$\text{♩} = 70$

The sid lin' plow tipped,

This system contains the first three measures of the piece. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a half note B4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a half-note chordal accompaniment in the right hand.

Tipped, don't you know. when the

This system contains measures 4 through 6. The vocal line continues with a half note C5, followed by a quarter note D5, and then a half note E5. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

off ox turned. In

This system contains measures 7 through 9. The vocal line has a half note F5, followed by a quarter note G5, and then a half note A5. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

rit al fine
f life, the test comes first and

This system contains measures 10 through 12. The vocal line begins with a half note B4, followed by a quarter note C5, and then a half note D5. The piano accompaniment features a crescendo leading to a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic in measure 11, followed by a final cadence in measure 12.

then the les - son's learned.

mf *mp*

This musical system consists of three measures. The vocal line (soprano) has a melodic line with lyrics. The piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs) provides harmonic support. Dynamics *mf* and *mp* are indicated.

The Manager, already impatient to be done with Monte,
is exasperated by this recital.

espressivo

And then the les son's learned.

This musical system consists of four measures. The vocal line (soprano) has a melodic line with lyrics. The piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs) provides harmonic support. The instruction *espressivo* is written above the first measure.

She takes her smartphone from her pocket and browses
through the unanswered messages.

Monte & Pinky,
Scene 5: Miss Evelyn

Richard L. Rose

$\text{♩} = 120-140$

Manager/Pinky Miss Eve - lyn doesn't smoke.

Monte Eve - lyn? I 'low, that's my nie - ce's

Sop/Alt

Ten/Bas

Pno/Orch

name. Don't need no chim ley to re mind me. I am shed of ci ga rettes.

Ting-sha

Don't need no chim ley to re mind me. Don't guess a bo dy's free till it for gets.

At the director's discretion, the choral section may be taken at the lower end of the tempo range or at the same pace as the previous section.

mp All things come of thee, O Lord Of thine own we give to thee *mp*

f 1

give up Tar rey tons when I was eigh ty. My lit tle neph ew brought them from the store.

p All things from thee, O Lord

I don't need no chim ley to re mind me.

15

He grew up. No one buys them any more.

ritardando

17

Now I'm shed of cigarettes. Don't guess a body's free

a tempo

19

'til it for gets. Eve - lyn

21

It's E ve lyn White. No smo ker. Does n't stay up nights

What's her gi - ven name?

24

and she says she plays ca nas ta.

Don't say!

Well, I guess you've matched up and ma naged

27

Right pert well this time.

Monte points to the basket.

f Reich me that pack of

30

cards.

She's wait ing now.

The Manager takes the deck from the basket and gives it to her. As they speak, Monte removes the cards, cuts the deck, and puts half the deck in the middle of the table, turning over the top card for discards and laying the other half of the deck on Evelyn's side of the table.

p Of thine

32

And us a talk in' on and on fer no how! Come in! Don't
own *pp* we give to thee.

35

tar ry in this day and time!

mp

38

During measures 38-49 Pinky makes a very slow entrance, using a cane and carrying a picture. The Manager brings her potted plant & sets it on Pinky's table. Pinky moves the cards and puts her picture of T.C. Walker on Monte's table beside the picture of Grady. The Manager studies the two women, apprehensive of what Monte will say.

Doo Doo Doo (simile)

41

All things come of thee oh Lord. Of thine own we

Doo Doo etc. Doo... thine own we

44

give to thee. give to thee

47

Pinky is startled when she sees Monte. Monte pauses and looks at the Black woman who is to be her new room-mate. The Manager raises her eyebrows.

50

So you are E ve lyn.

53

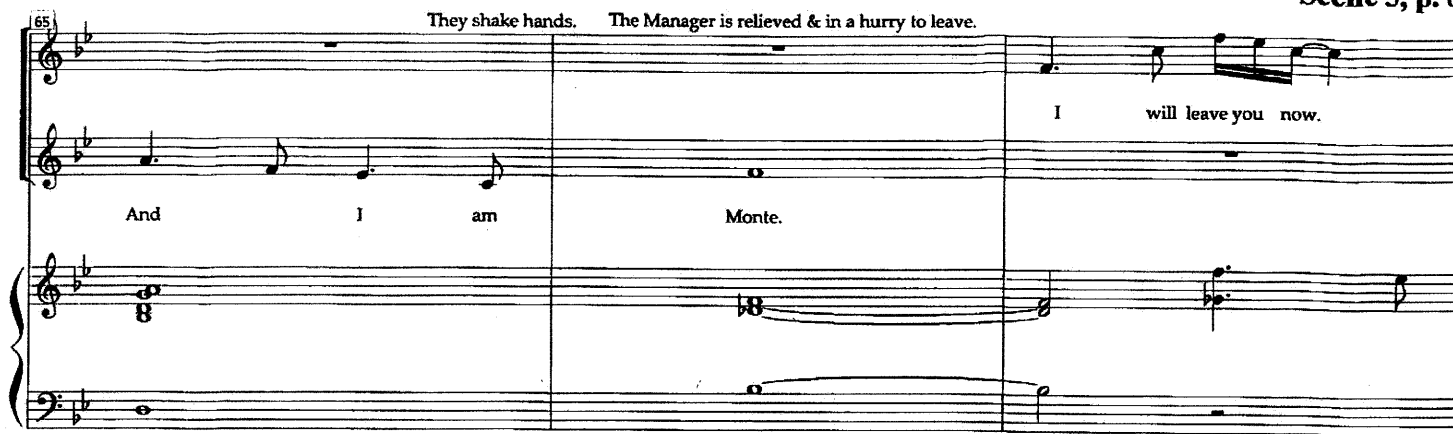
56

Monte and Pinky study each other, making the Manager very uneasy.

59

62

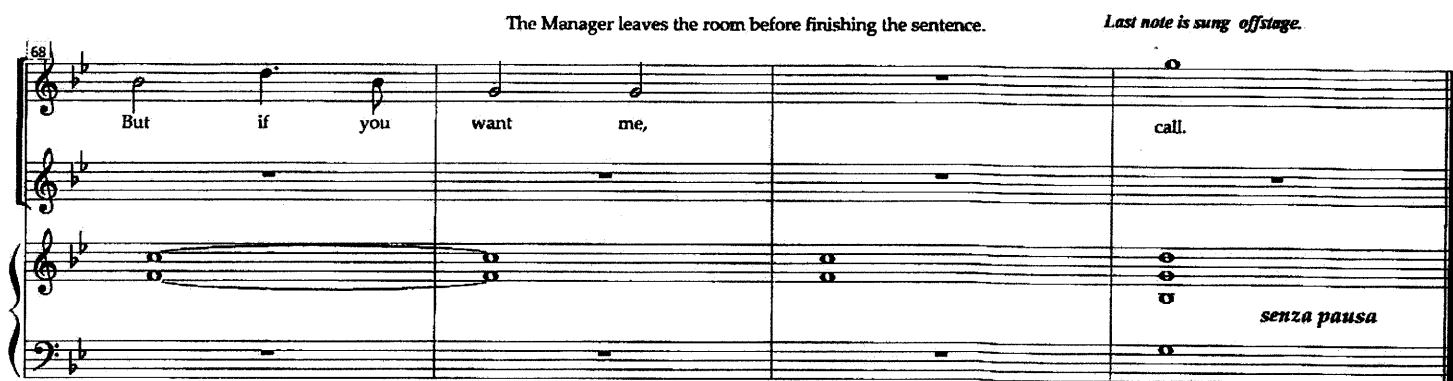
65 They shake hands. The Manager is relieved & in a hurry to leave.



And I am Monte.

I will leave you now.

68 The Manager leaves the room before finishing the sentence. Last note is sung offstage.



But if you want me, call.

senza pausa

Monte & Pinky, Scene 6: Pinky & Thomas C. Walker

Richard L. Rose

$\text{♩} = 100-104$

Pinky
They watch the Manager leave. Note that in this section and for the rest of the work, Pinky sings portamento where appropriate.

Monte
MONTE: *f* Humph! She don't mean to come back till I

Pno/Orch
mf

Pinky nods as she leans on her cane. She picks up a crossword puzzle book from the chair and glances through it quickly during their conversation.

fall! *mf* E ve lyn, is that

p

No, Bou gain vil lea

plant a Wan d'ring Jew?

It's a fam' ly plant my mo ther left to

Scene 6, p.2

me from her great aunt, Vo net ta Cooke. Gi ven for

wa ges due to her when she be freed.

And the on liest thing the Mis sus gave her from that place was this plant

that hung a bove the kit chen win dow.

$\text{♩} = 72-76$ With slight swing

My

real name's Cooke. White was the name we took back when we

stay with foster folk while Ma ma was a way

Law yer Wal ker found her work in Ports mouth.

Scene 6, p.4

Pinky notices a broom and picks it up to sweep beside her chair. When she tells about catching rats, she waves the broom to show how the women in Portsmouth went after them.

The first system of the musical score consists of three measures. The vocal staves (soprano and alto) are mostly empty, with a few notes in the first measure. The piano accompaniment is in B-flat major and features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex, syncopated pattern in the left hand. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

The second system continues the piano accompaniment from the first system. It consists of three measures with similar rhythmic patterns. The vocal staves remain empty. The key signature remains B-flat major.

The third system introduces vocal entries. The first measure begins with a *portamento* (glissando) on the word "Work". The lyrics for the first two measures are "catch ing rats with" and "dogs, and liv ing rough, but with". The piano accompaniment continues with its established patterns. The key signature remains B-flat major.

The fourth system continues the vocal and piano parts. The lyrics for the first two measures are "out Tom Wal ker, Ma ma'd nev er kept us," and "Vo net ta's plant be lost". The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic structure. The key signature remains B-flat major.

Scene 6, p.5

And this wreck you see would be an E ve lyn,

Monte is startled by the name "Pinky" and seems puzzled. She silently forms the word "Pinky" with her lips as if trying to recall something.

not a Pin ky.

Pin ky?

Pinky picks up Tom's picture to look at it. Meanwhile, Tom is spotlighted, either standing in the chorus or in the pulpit, if one is available.

No, with out Tom Wal ker bring ing light

there would have been no Pin ky White.