

Plastic Flowers

music and libretto by

joão macdowell

monodrama
opera in 1 act
for mezzo-soprano, piano and live-electronics

Scenes:

- 1 - Plastic Flowers - Penelope is alone at home, a personal crisis.
- 2 - Memories of her Dad.
- 3 - First boy friend
- 4 - The second man
- 5 - Her lesbian Lover - The Song of Songs
- 6 - Meets husband
- 7 - Feels abandoned
- 8 - Losing control at the shopping Mall
- 9 - Considers suicide
- 10 - Plastic Flowers - Recapitulation and conclusion.

Note about Live Electronics:

Analog synthesizers are provided as reference, sounds may be emulated.

Live Electronics part may be performed by laptop musician.

Generous amounts of expressive modulation, resonance and cut-off should be applied.

Max-MSP programming can be provided upon request.

Plastic Flowers

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Opening*

Penelope Mezzo-soprano

Piano

Voices of children in park, birds.

Live Electronics

Penelope at home: some kind of mess, random objects, boxes, wrapping paper, plastic toys, empty bottles of wine. She has her head down, disheveled hair, wearing a red dress, unzipped in her back.

Andante ♩ = 56

2 **A**

Pno.

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

L.E.

fade out track

7

Pno.

f *p* *f* *p*

*Scene numbers are for organization and rehearsal purposes. All scenes should be performed continuously, as "attacca".

13 *ppp* fragile *pp*

M.S. I cried un-til I could no lon - ger see my eyes in the mir-ror. I

Pno. *ppp* *pp*

18

M.S. tore in small pie-ces the let-ters that once I kept with my se-crets.

Pno.

22 *p* *pp*

M.S. I cried be-cause I tore ap - part the flow-ers I had by the win-dow.

Pno. *p* *pp*

26 *p*

M-S. *p*

There's red all o-ver my face. There's red all o-ver my

Pno. *p*

30

M-S.

bo - dy, There's red when I close up my eyes, It's pain-ting my bo dy like

Pno.

34 *pp*

M-S.

ro - ses. In

Pno. *f* *ff*

39 *mf*

M-S. fla-shes of light I am fa-ding. In glimp-ses of dark-ness I'm fal-ling The

Pno. *pp*

43 *p*

M-S. pain soon will cure all the sorrows My dream starts tas-ting like

Pno. *mf* *f* *p*

48 *p*

M-S. te-ars. My bo-dy is co-vered with flow-ers. The co-lors are bright in the

Pno. *f* *p*

38 53 C *f*

M.S. cor-ners. You gave me

Pno. *f*

L.E. Moog:* *mp*

57

M.S. plas - tic flow-ers. You said that plas - tic flow-ers last for-e-ver.

Pno.

L.E.

61 *p*

M.S. but I won't be your plas - tic flow-er a-ny more. You brought me

Pno. *p*

L.E. *p*

* Analog synthesizers are provided as reference only.

65

M.S. *to this house* *E-ven my glass de-si-res*

Pno. *8va*

L.E.

69

M.S. *seem to fade now.* *Lone - ly hours,* *mp*

Pno. *(8)* *8va* *mp*

L.E. *mp*

73

M.S. *bro - ken hearted, wait - ing ti me* *takes for-e-ver.*

Pno. *(8)*

L.E.

D **Meno mosso** ♩.=52

77

M.S. *f*
You gave me plas-tic flow-ers.

Pno. *f*

L.E.

81

M.S.
You said that plas-tic flow-ers last for-e-ver. but I won't be your plas - tic flow-er

Pno.

Tempo primo ♩.=58

E *mp*

86

M.S. *ff* *mp*
a-ny more. a-ny more.

Pno. *ff* *mp* *ff* *p*

8^{va}

8^{vb}

Tempo primo ♩.=58

E *Moog:* *sempre molto express.*

L.E. *p*

92 (8)

Pno. *f p f ff p*

L.E. (8)

fade in track with samples

97

Pno. *f p mf*

L.E.

100

Pno. *p pp f*

L.E. moog ppp track

103

Pno.

L.E.

Sounds from the body: heartbeat, blood, whispered thoughts

Largo ♩=56

104 **F** Scene 2

M.S.

Pno.

L.E.

mf

Dad used to make up songs

107

M.S.

Pno.

L.E.

p

Synth - warm fluty

with me.