

Gisle Kverndokk

5 Songs

inspired by "Babette's Feast" by Karen Blixen

for soprano, tenor and piano

Lyrics by Øystein Wiik

Commissioned by New York Opera Society

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Because of One Kiss

From the Musical "Babette's Feast"

(Achille Papin)

Lyrics by Øystein Wiik

Music by Gisle Kverndokk

Poco Andante (♩ = 72)

rit.

mp

Achille Papin

Be - cause of one

Piano

Achille

a tempo

kiss, I lost my life, I lost my heart, my soul, my mind, I lost the

Pno.

Achille

sweet - est hu - man an - gel, I would e - ver find, I lost my wife, be - cause of one

Pno.

Because of One Kiss

Achille *p* *mf*

13 *p* *f* *mp*

8 kiss. It was by acc-i-dent I trav-elled to the north-ern coast.

Pno.

Achille *f*

17 The moun-tains and the arc-tic sea, The win-ter storms to come, were

Pno. *mf*

Achille *p*

20 like a dark de-press-ing host, that wore me down, and stirred a sor-row deep in me.

Pno. *p*

Achille *rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

23 It made me feel small, Feel tossed and

Pno. *f* *mp*

Achille

blown, — feel old and worn, my voice, my song, — a man at his ar - tis - tic

Pno.

Achille

death - bed, — ev'-ry note was wrong, — I felt a - lone — de - prived of all.

Pno.

f *p*

Achille

Un - til one Sun - day morn,

Pno.

f *p* *fp*

più mosso

Achille

I went to ser-vice at the church, And then, this wo - man starts to sing,

Pno.

fp *p* *mf*

Achille

42

8

— She had that vib - rant string ex - press - ing man's e - ter - nal search, and there and then I

Pno.

Achille

45

8

sud - den - ly — knew ev' - ry - thing. She was a moun - tain peak, the sil - ver snow,

Pno.

mp

Achille

49

8

a crys - tal creek, where flo - wers grow, the mid - night sun, the north - ern light, And

Pno.

f

Achille

53

8

her and me, — it just felt right. Did I real - ly kiss her?

Pno.

mp

rit.

f

Molto sostenuto

57 *mp*
Achille
My me-mo-ry is blurred,
Pno.

61
Achille
Per-haps I just was drawn to-wards the lips, that framed the god-like voice I heard. She was a di-va that
Pno.

65 *f*
Achille
would have had all Pa-ris at her feet if I'd been strong, in-stead of fool-ish, —
Pno.

69 *f* *rit.* *Tempo I*
Achille
— and de-nied our lips to meet. — Be-cause of one kiss, — I lost my
Pno.

Achille

73

life, I lost my heart, my soul, my mind, I lost the sweet - est hu - man

Pno.

Achille

77

an - gel, I would e - ver find, I lost my wife, be - cause of one kiss. Be - cause of one

Pno.

Achille

81

kiss. Be - cause of one kiss.

Pno.

rit. *a tempo* *rit.*

p *pp*

Singing Lesson (When Don Giovanni kissed Zerlina)

From the Musical "Babette's Feast"

Lyrics by Øystein Wiik

Music by Gisle Kverndokk

(Achille, Filippa)

The famous French tenor, Achilles Papin, is infatuated by Filippa, and he asks her strict father, the parish priest, permission to give his daughter singing lessons. Hesitatingly the priest gives his consent.

Tempo di Gavotte (♩ = 132)

Achille

Piano

5

Filippa

Achille

Pno.

10

Filippa

Achille

Pno.

8

10

La la la?

La la la!

From the top of your head, with that golden voice! Yes!

La la la!

Won-der-ful, just won-der-ful, re-lease your heart,

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14

Filippa

La la la la la! La la la la la!

Achille

8 smile and re-joice! Now sing it like you were to say:

Pno.

18

Filippa

(strict)

I ne-ver use those words; La, la, la, la, will have to do!

Achille

8 I love you!

Pno.

22

Achille

8 Ve-ry well, ve-ry well! But how would you sing: La la la? If La la la meant:

Pno.

26

Filippa

Why should I sing La la la, as if I sang those words I

Achille

I love you?

Pno.

30

Filippa

told you I will ne-ver do? (troubled) Let me

Achille

It's just an e-xer-cise, and a piece of good ad-vice for you

Pno.

34

Filippa

ask Pa-pa, if it's a sin to sing, La la la, as if I were to think and sing

Pno.

38 *a tempo*

Filippa "I love you"... Pa - pa!

Achille (manipulative) *mp*

Pno. *f*

No, no

41

Achille no! Your fa - ther has im - por - tant things to do, We should - n't bo - ther him with La la la and "I love

Pno. *p*

44

Filippa But I

Achille you"! All I ask of you to do, is to i - ma - gine I love you.

Pno. *mf*

48

Filippa

don't!

Achille

I know that, too! But a sin - ger is an ac - tress and an ac - tress makes be -

Pno.

p

52

Filippa

rit. I do not make be - lieve, *a tempo* I am brought up to be -

Achille

lieve.

Pno.

p

(Two beats of silence as they lose themselves in each other's gaze an uncontrolled moment.)

56

Filippa

lieve in noth - ing else but God!

Pno.

f *p*

60 (pulling himself together) *mf*

Achille

Ve - ry well, ve - ry well. Let us then sing An -

Pno.

64 *mp* *rit.* *mp*

Filippa

An - dia - mo?

Achille

f

dia - mo! Don Gio - van - ni and Zer - li - na. An - diam. An - diam.

Pno.

Poco Mosso (♩. = 60)

69 *f*

Filippa

diam. _____ Let's go! Let's go...

Achille

f

Let's go! Let's go! _____ My love... My

Pno.

74

Filippa
My love... Re - lieve the pains... Inn - o - cent...

Achille
love... to re - lieve the pains... Of an inn - o - cent...

Pno.

Tempo di Gavotte (♩ = 132)

(Their lips meet briefly, she pulls back immediately.)

(shocked but also in doubt) *p*

78

Filippa
I think... I pre-fer...

Achille
love...

Pno.

83

Filippa
mf I pre-fer to sing.. La la la! *f* With no thoughts of.. no thoughts of..

Achille
La la la!

Pno.

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is for Filippa, the middle for Achille, and the bottom for Piano (Pno.). All parts start at measure 87. The vocal lines for Filippa and Achille are identical, with lyrics: "I love you La la la!". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) and *ff* (fortissimo).

After the lesson, Filippa went straight to her father and said:
"I will not have another lesson with Achille Papin!"



There are Things in this World

From the Musical "Babette's Feast"

Lyrics by Øystein Wiik

(Lorentz Löwenhjelms)

Music by Gisle Kverndokk

Poco Moderato (♩ = 120)

f

Lorentz

I am a sol - dier, I've stu - died ev' - ry rule of war,

Piano

mp *p*

Lorentz

5
8
And I have ne - ver faced de - feat, No force made me re - treat be -

Pno.

5

Lorentz

9
fore. _____ There are things in this world, _____ that are

Pno.

9

Lorentz

13

meant to be, _____ there are things in this world, _____ that are

Pno.

Lorentz

17

meant for me! I am a sol - dier, I've mapped out

Pno.

f *p*

Lorentz

21

plans to con-quer towns, How to ad-vance right from the start, but now I'm left with -

Pno.

mf

Lorentz

25

out a clue, on how to make a break-through in the

Pno.

Lorentz

front - line of Mar - ti - ne's heart. But there are things in this world,

Pno.

f

Lorentz

that are meant to be, there are things in this world,

Pno.

mf

Lorentz

that are meant for me!

Pno.

f

Lorentz

When I see her, My wit that used to hit its tar - get, bul - let sharp, to win a girl.

Pno.

fp *f*

45
Lorentz
8
Some-how, it's gone, My mind gets lame, My thought's a whirl, I choke on each and
Pno.
45
mf

49
Lorentz
8
ev' - ry word, I blush with shame, when faced with her. I sol-dier on,
Pno.
49

53
Lorentz
8
And yet my pray - ers re-main un - heard.
Pno.
53
mf

56
Lorentz
8
Her fath-er's tab - le, will bring no beer to melt the bread,
Pno.
56
f *p*

Lorentz

60

8

No joy to find, no glass of red, to free the mind, and heal my

Pno.

Lorentz

64

8

soul, I'm lone - ly like a night owl, hun - ting high and low in -

Pno.

Lorentz

68

8

side my head.

Pno.

f

Lorentz

71

8

How do I fight to win the heart, her fath - er

Pno.

mp

p

mf

Lorentz

8 stole and gave to God? De - tained in

Pno.

Lorentz

8 his pro - tec - tive arms, her life is shack - led by his

Pno.

Lorentz

8 chains, take the

Pno.

Lorentz

8 loss, the de - cent

Pno.

84 *rit.* **Poco rubato**

Lorentz
end. I'll read the

Pno.

87

Lorentz
chap-ter that re-mains, I'll close the book, get off the hook, I'll car-ry on, with all my

Pno.

91 **molto sostenuto** *rit.* **Tempo 1** (♩ = 120)

Lorentz
pains. I am a sol-dier, I've stu-died ev'-ry rule of war,

Pno.

95

Lorentz
And now at last I face de-feat, and I must leave this nor-thern

Pno.

99
Lorentz
8
shore. _____ But there are things in this world, _____ that are

Pno.

103
Lorentz
8
meant to be, _____ there are things in this world, _____ that are

Pno.

107
Lorentz
8
meant to be _____ im - poss - ib - le. Meant to be im - poss - ib - le. _____ And there are

Pno.

111
Lorentz
8
things in this world, _____ that are meant for me, _____ there are

Pno.

f

Lorentz

115

things in this world, _____ that are meant for me, that's poss-ib-le,

Pno.

Lorentz

119

meant for me, that's poss-ib-le, meant for me. That's poss-ib-le!

Pno.

p *ff*

Sisters on the Road to Paradise

From the Musical "Babette's Feast"

Lyrics by Øystein Wiik

Music by Gisle Kverndokk

(Martine)

Poco Andante (♩ = 100)

Piano

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. Dynamics range from piano (p) to mezzo-forte (mf).

Martine

5

Li-ving in a bell jar, from the in-side, loo-king out,

Martine's vocal line begins at measure 5. It features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, corresponding to the lyrics. The dynamics are mezzo-forte (mf).

Pno.

5

Red.

The piano accompaniment for the first vocal line. The right hand has a complex texture with many beamed notes, while the left hand has a simpler accompaniment. Dynamics include piano (p) and mezzo-forte (mf).

Martine

10

Two sis - ters on the road to Pa - ra - dise.

Martine's vocal line continues at measure 10. The melody is similar to the first line, with lyrics "Two sis - ters on the road to Pa - ra - dise." Dynamics are mezzo-forte (mf).

Pno.

10

mf

The piano accompaniment for the second vocal line. It continues the complex texture from the previous section. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf).

Martine

14

Ser-ving our dear fa - ther, is what love is all a - bout,

Martine's vocal line begins at measure 14. The melody is more melodic and slower, with lyrics "Ser-ving our dear fa - ther, is what love is all a - bout," Dynamics are mezzo-forte (mf).

Pno.

14

p

The piano accompaniment for the third vocal line. It features a more open and spacious texture with fewer notes, reflecting the slower tempo. Dynamics include piano (p).

Martine

18 *f*

for sis - ters on the road to Pa - ra - dise.

Pno.

18 *mf*

Martine

22 *mf*

Our path kept clean, A world with so - lid

Pno.

22 *p*

Martine

26 *f*

frames to keep us safe. Si - lent days be -

Pno.

26 *mf*

Martine

30

hind a screen, In - ter - nal batt - les fought be - tween our faith and doubt, are hard - ly

Pno.

30

Martine
34
seen, by sis - ters on the road to Pa - ra - dise.

Pno.

Martine
38
mf
As our fat-her's hands,

Pno.
mp *p*

Martine
42
she his left, and I his right, Two sis - ters on the

Pno.

Martine
46
f *mf*
road to Pa - ra - dise. Far from earth - ly love,

Pno.
mf *p*

Martine

50

but close to Hea-ven's sac - red light, are sis - ters on the

Pno.

Martine

54

road to Pa - ra - dise.

Pno.

f

mf

Martine

57

The short - lived bliss, The flames of great ro - mance are not our

Pno.

p

Martine

61

call, No sal - va - tion in a kiss, Our fath - er

Pno.

f

mf

Martine

65

rules, our lives are his, We are full - filled, no more to miss, for

Pno.

Martine

69

sis - ters on the road to Pa - ra - dise.

Pno.

Martine

73

Piu Mosso (♩ = 112) *mf*

And then the de - vil comes a -

Pno.

p

Martine

75

long, A love for

Pno.

Martine

77

each of us, a lieu - te - nant and a te - nor, —

Pno.

Martine

80

Both men hand - some, both men

Pno.

f

Red.

Martine

83

young, Whis - pe - ring words of

Pno.

mf

Red.

* Red.

Martine

85

wa - sted youth and neg - lec - ted

Pno.

Martine *ff* *rit.*

beau - ty,

Pno. *f*

Martine *mp* *meno mosso* *f* *rit.*

coun-tered by our fath - er's gos - pel: Truth is plight and du - ty.

Pno. *p* *mf*

* *Andante sostenuto* (♩ = 86) *mp*

Martine *mp*

How bit - ter - sweet, To taste and fight the pass-ions of the flesh, to

Pno. *p*

Martine *p*

meet and greet and then re - treat, Would love _____ have made our lives com -

Pno. *pp*

Martine

101

plete?

Pno.

101

8va

p

Martine

105

mf

We chose to face our hearts' de - feat as sis - ters on the road to

Pno.

105

fp

p

Martine

109

Pa - ra - dise, Sis - ters on the road to Pa - ra - dise.

Pno.

109

p

mp

Martine

114

Sis - ters that would ne - ver com - pro - mise.

Pno.

114

p

pp

rit.

Gossip in the Congregation

From the Musical "Babette's Feast"

Lyrics by Øystein Wiik

(Old Woman, Old Man)

Music by Gisle Kverndokk

Poco Allegro (♩ = 100)

Old Woman

Piano

The

Old Woman

3

sis-ters have a ser-vant, called Ba-bette!

Old Man

8

My dear, they have had Ba-bette for al-most

Pno.

3

p *f* *p*

Old Woman

6

And this Ba-bette has won a lot-te-ry!

Old Man

8

four-teen years! In France, yes, that is true. You told me so

Pno.

6

10

Old Woman

Old Man

Pno.

I see

yes - ter - day, and the day be - fore yes - ter - day too!

12

Old Woman

Pno.

trou-ble, I smell mi-se-ry! Ba-bette has asked the sis-ters to let her cook a

15

Old Woman

Old Man

Pno.

meal for all of us!

Well, is-n't that quite ge-ne-rous? How a-bout we have a

18

Old Woman

But don't you smell a de - vil here? Our great ad -

Old Man

lit - tle fall of fuss?

Pno.

21

Old Woman

ver-sa-ry! She wants the din-ner to take place, at our dear late Pa-rish Priest!s one hund-redth ann - i -

Old Man

ver-sa-ry! She wants the din-ner to take place, at our dear late Pa-rish Priest!s one hund-redth ann - i -

Pno.

p

25

Old Woman

ver-sa-ry! Bles-sed be his name...

Old Man

Bless-ed be his name!

Pno.

accel.

Poco Vivace (♩ = 120)

Old Woman: They eat toads in France! What's the dif-fe-rence?

Old Man: Not toads, my dear, but frogs. The taste, I think. I can-not

Pno. *fz p*

Old Woman: They eat tur-tle soup, with floa-ting balls of hogs! Be ear-nest,

Old Man: speak from own ex-pe-ri-ence. And oc-to-pus' ink?

Pno. *fz p* *mf*

Old Woman: please! I've heard Ba-bette will serve a dish called "silk wor-ker's brain"!

Old Man: Could be, my dear, but to my

Pno. *p*

41

Old Woman

Old Man

Pno.

They eat snails, and... tête de
know-ledge, "slik wor-ker's brain" is a cheese.

p

44

Old Woman

Old Man

Pno.

Veau! Ru-mours has it that Ba-bette will make a calf's head
Please trans-late and ex-plain.

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48

Old Woman

Old Man

Pno.

o-me-let! Oh Lord! To talk to you, I talk in vain!
So there's your brain!

f

Alla Marcia (♩ = 92)

Old Woman

52

The con-gre - ga-tion has de - ci - ded to go through this tri - al of a

Pno.

52

fz *mp*

Old Woman

57

meal, for our dear, dear sis - ters' sake, and we'll con - ceal the way we feel. Calm but

Pno.

57

Old Woman

62

poised to fight off Sa - tan, each mem - ber will be wide a - wake! We shall not com - ment the

Pno.

62

Old Woman

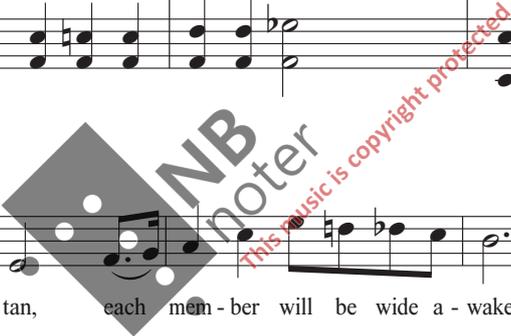
67

food and drink on the eve - ning of Ba - bette's feast, when we ga - ther at our sis - ters' house to

Pno.

67

mp *mf* *p*



Old Woman

ce - le - brate our dear late Priest! What - e - ver this French witch will be put - ting on our

Pno.

Old Woman

plates, not a word will fall, we'll face it all! And if the bells shall ring for

Pno.

Old Woman

us to meet our dead - ly fates, we'll drink our cups of poi - son, with a si - lent

Pno.

Old Woman

dig - ni - ty. Go through Hell and raise to Hea - ven at our Mas - ter's ju - bi -

Pno.

86 *f*

Old Woman
lee! Go through Hell and raise to Hea - ven at our Mas - ter's ju - bi -

Old Man
8 Go through Hell and raise to Hea - ven at our Mas - ter's ju - bi -

Pno. *mf*

Poco Vivace (♩ = 120)

91

Old Woman
lee! _____

Old Man
8 lee! _____

Pno. *f* *ff* *fz*