

First Night at the Opera

*Music Giancarlo Aquilanti
Libretto Derek Miller*

Characters (in order of appearance):

JONATHAN, a composer	(Tenor)
CLARA, an elderly opera-goer	(Mezzo-Soprano)
ROBERT, her husband, also elderly	(Baritone)
LILA, a middle-aged fan of opera on the radio	(Soprano)
PETER, an usher	(Tenor)
JOE, a young opera neophyte	(Tenor)
NOELLE, his date, an experienced opera-goer	(Mezzo-Soprano)
THOMAS, a lover of opera	(Baritone)
JULIA, Jonathan's wife	(Soprano)
ANGELA, a philanthropist	(Mezzo-Soprano)
ORLANDO, a conductor	(Baritone)
ARTHUR, Thomas' partner	(Tenor)

Orchestration

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet in B Flat
Bassoon

Horn in F
2 Trumpets in B Flat
Tenor Trombone

Timpani

Percussion (2 players)

Glockenspiel
Xilophone
Tambourine
2 Wood Blocks
4 Toms + Sus. Cymbal
Triangle
Whistle
Taxi Horn
Splash
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

Strings

Full Score

First Night at the Opera

Music Giancarlo Aquilanti

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Allegro ♩ = 120

Flute *mf* *f* *mf*

Oboe *mf* *f* *mf*

Clarinet in B \flat *mf* *f* *mf*

Bassoon *mf* *f* *mf*

Horn in F *fp*

Trumpet in B \flat *fp*

Trombone *fp*

Timpani *f*

Glockenspiel *glock.* *mf*

Xilophone *t.bourine*

Percussion *p*

Scene I. Arriving.

Three spaces suggest (a) the house of a theater in which an opera is being performed; (b) a living room with armchair, radio, table; (c) backstage, near the stage manager's box..
 JONATHAN paces nervously backstage (c). Bells, indicating patrons should take their seats.

Lila
 Julia
 Clara
 Noelle
 Angela
 Jonathan
 Peter
 Joe
 Arthur
 Orlando
 Robert
 Thomas

Allegro ♩ = 120

Violin I *p* *mf* *pizz.*

Violin II *p* *mf* *pizz.*

Viola *p* *mf* *pizz.*

Violoncello *p* *mf* *pizz.*

Contrabass *mf*

6

Fl. *f* *mf*

Ob. *f*

B♭ Cl. *f* *mf*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *mf* < *f* *f* *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1 2 *mf* < *f* *f*

Tbn. *mf* < *f* *f*

Timp. *mf* < *f*

Glk. *f*

Perc. *w.blocks* *f* *toms* *mf*

Vln. I *f* *arco* *mf*

Vln. II *f* *arco* *mf*

Vla. *f* *arco*

Vc. *f* *arco*

Cb. *f* *arco*

11

A *tr* *tr*

Fl. *fp* *f* *mf*

Ob. *f* *mf*

B♭ Cl. *fp* *mf* *fp* *f* *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *mf* *fp* *mf*

Hn. *fp* *mf* *fp* *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1
2 *mf* *fp*

Tbn. *mf* *fp*

Timp. *mf* *f*

Glk. *f*

Perc. *triangle* *f*

Jonathan *mf*
Damn those bells! _____

*ROBERT and CLARA enter (a) and cross slowly downstage.
They will reach their front row seats at the end of the act.*

Vln. I *f* *mp*

Vln. II *f* *mp*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mp*

Vc. *mf* *f* *mp*

Cb. *mf* *f* *mp*

Poco Allegro $\text{♩} = 108$

16

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

B♭ Tpt. 1
2

Tbn.

Timp.

Glk.

Perc.

Lila

Clara

Clara *mf*

Hur-ry, dear, don't daw - dle. The

16

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

tr

p

p

p

p

p

fp

f

fp

f

fp

f

f

mf

f

triangle

fp

f

pizz.

p

B

20

Fl. *mf* *f* *p*

Ob. *mf* *f* *p*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mf* *f*

Hn. *mf* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mf* *f*

2 *mf* *f*

Tbn. *mf* *f*

Timp.

Glk.

Perc. *f*

Lila *f* *mf*

Clara *f*

Robert *f*

Vln. I *mf* *p*

Vln. II *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *pizz.*

Cb. *mf* *p*

whistle

Lila *f* *mf*

The ket - tle! Tea and o - pera and

mu - sic will not wait. For our old bones to set - tle.

Robert *f*

Yes, love!

mf *p* *pizz.* *mf* *p*

25
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
B♭ Tpt. 1
2
Tbn.
Timp.
Glk.
Perc.

Detailed description: This section of the score covers measures 25 to 29 for woodwind and brass instruments. The Flute (Fl.) part begins in measure 27 with a sixteenth-note figure, marked *p*, then *mf*. The Oboe (Ob.) part features a melodic line starting in measure 25 with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then *p* and *mf*. The Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.) and Bassoon (Bsn.) parts have similar melodic lines, with B♭ Cl. starting at *f* and Bsn. at *f*. The Horn (Hn.) part enters in measure 27 with a *mf* dynamic. The Trumpets (B♭ Tpt. 1 & 2) and Trombone (Tbn.) parts have chordal accompaniment, with Tbn. marked *p*. The Timpani (Timp.), Glockenspiel (Glk.), and Percussion (Perc.) parts are mostly silent, with Timp. and Glk. having a few notes in measures 28 and 29.

Lila

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

bis - cuits On a rain - y af - ter - noon. Joy! Rap-ture! Mu - sic!

Detailed description: This block shows the vocal line for Lila in measures 25 to 29. The lyrics are: "bis - cuits On a rain - y af - ter - noon. Joy! Rap-ture! Mu - sic!". The dynamics are marked as *f* (measures 25-26), *mf* (measure 27), *f* (measure 28), *p* (measure 29), and *mf* (measure 30).

25
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Detailed description: This section of the score covers measures 25 to 29 for the string ensemble. The Violin I (Vln. I) part starts in measure 25 with a *mf* dynamic, then *f* in measure 28. The Violin II (Vln. II) part follows a similar pattern, starting at *mf* and moving to *f*. The Viola (Vla.) part starts at *mf* and moves to *f* and *p*. The Violoncello (Vc.) part starts at *mf* and moves to *p* and *mf*. The Contrabass (Cb.) part starts at *mf* with an *arco* marking, then *p* and *mf*.

accel.

Allegro ♩ = 120

30

FL. *mf* *ff*

Ob. *mf* *ff*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *ff*

Bsn. *mf* *ff*

Hn. *p* *fp* *mf* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1/2 *p* *fp* *mf* *f*

Tbn. *p* *fp* *mf*

Timp. *mf* *f*

Glk. *mf* *ff*

Perc. *fp* *mf* *w.blocks*

Lila Earl Grey. Ot - to-man. Ra - di-o. *Peter f*

Peter Tick-et? Pro-gram.

accel.

Allegro ♩ = 120

30

Vln. I *mf* *f*

Vln. II *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

Cb. *mf* *f*

34

Fl. *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Ob. *f* *mf* *p* *f*

B♭ Cl. *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Bsn. *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Hn. *mf* *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1 2 *mf* *mf*

Tbn. *f* *mf* *f*

Timp. *f*

Glk. *f*

Perc. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *f*
1. bourine
w. blocks

Peter
 Tick-ets? Pro-grams. Up Up Up the stairs. Tick-ets? Pro-grams. Sec-ond right. Tick-et? Oth-er aisle. Tick-et?

Vln. I *arco* *mf* *f*

Vln. II *arco* *mf* *f*

Vla. *arco* *mf* *f*

Vc. *arco* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *f*

Cb. *mf* *f* *pizz.* *f*