Book by Eric C. Jones Music by Charlie Betz Lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

Final Draft Saturday, June 17, 2023

CAST:

Dr. Nate Hackford (baritone)	mid-50s computer engineer and Rachel's father
Rachel Hackford (soprano)	17, high school senior, dyslexic
Dr. Dean Good (tenor)	mid-40s principal at Rachel's high school
Nora (alto)	mid-30s, Nate's late wife & Rachel's mom, former educator
Miss Dora (alto)	mid-30s, human-like android, looks like Nora

TIME:

June 2053, before & during the National I.Q. Examination

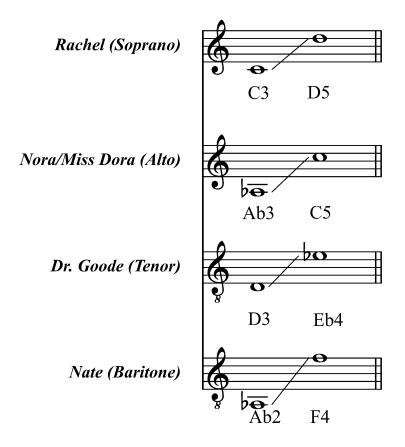
PLACE:

Nate and Rachel's Apartment

Musical Numbers

			integrated
		<u>script</u>	score
1.	Welcome To New AmericaDr. Good, Rack	nel 1	5
2.	You Made It Look So Easy	ate 4	19
3.	The Teaching Song	ora 6	27
4.	You Made It Look So Easy (Reprise)	ate 8	33
5.	Welcome To New America (Reprise)Dr. Good, Racl	nel 10	43
6.	Be Like Me Miss Dora, Raci	nel 13	53
7.	Don't Call Me Kitten UnderscoreInstrumen	tal 17	67
8.	Welcome To New America (Reprise 2)Dr. Good, Racl	nel 20	73
9.	Teaching Song (Reprise)	nel 22	81
10.	You Made It Look So Easy (Reprise 2)	ora 24	87

Vocal Ranges



Scene One

2053. NATE HACKFORD, (50s) widowed computer engineer, paces his living room and works on his Palm device, (right pointer finger on his left palm)

NATE

(yelling to the next room)

Rachel, you're late for school! Grab breakfast rations, treat your teeth and get in here for the principal's morning announcements! Let's go!

(RACHEL (17) scowling, drags her ass from her bedroom and joins her dad. 1. Welcome To New America.)

(DR. DEAN GOOD, high school principal, appears on opposite side of stage.)

RACHEL

(spotting the principal)

Perfect. I'm just in time to drink the "Good juice."

DR. GOOD

(shit-eating grin)

Greetings, Class of 2053. This is Principal Good with a very important morning announcement.

(DR. GOOD straightens his tie and sings.)

DR. GOOD

GATHER ROUND MA FRIENDS, HERE'S THE SITUATION. THE LAWS HAVE CHANGED IN OUR SWEET NEW NATION. ALL THE SMARTIES, THEY BE IN CHARGE, LIVING LARGE AND THE DUMMIES? WELL, THEY BE ALL SAD, SAYIN "YES, SARGE!" HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WILL TAKE A TEST. FLEX YO LITTLE MINDS, THEN YO GET A LITTLE REST. IF YA SCORE REAL HIGH, YA LIMIT IS THE SKY. IF YA SCORE REAL LOW, YA MIGHT NOT WANNA KNOW. (JUST KIDDING!) INDENTURED SERVITUDE, IT AIN'T SO BAD, IT'S YO LOT IN LIFE, DON'T BLAME YO MOM OR DAD.

DR. GOOD RICH FOLK MAKIN' BANK. YOU DOWN ON YO BENDED KNEE. Oh, fuck thee (hand over heart, (gives him finger) patriotically)

WE ARE NEW AMERICA LAND OF THE FREE. Formerly free WE ARE NEW AMERICA

SURRENDER IS THE KEY! Key to the death of the WE ONCE WERE PRO DEMOCRACY sheeple BUT THAT'S SO "YESTERDAY." Eww, free speech! WE ARE NEW AMERICA

RACHEL

(spoken)

WE'VE FOUND A BETTER WAY.

THINK WHAT YA DOIN' FOR SOCIETY

(GOOD exits as Rachel speaks.)

RACHEL

Oh my god, you insufferable dipshit!

YO, SPARE ME THE RIGHTEOUS CONDESCENSION.
YO SPEECH DON'T GET AN HONORABLE MENTION.
YOU THINK WE GONNA STAND HERE AND FOLLOW BLINDLY?
WE AIN'T GONNA BOW DOWN AND TAKE YO TEST KINDLY.
YOU'RE A PUPPET ON A STRING. YOU SHOULD BE IN JAIL.
IF YA TOOK THE TEST YOURSELF, NO DOUBT, YOU'D FAIL.
YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND 'BOUT OUR GENERATION,
WE WON'T STOP FIGHTIN 'TIL WE TAKE BACK THE NATION.

Piano/Vocal

1. Welcome To New America

(Dr. Goode, Rachel) *Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52*

Cue: NATE: Grab breakfast rations, treat your teeth and get in here for the principal's morning announcements! Let's go! (Rachel enters)

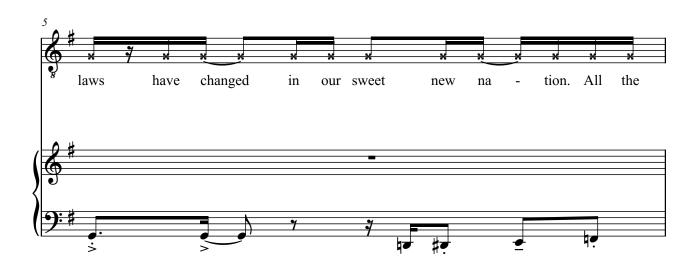
music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

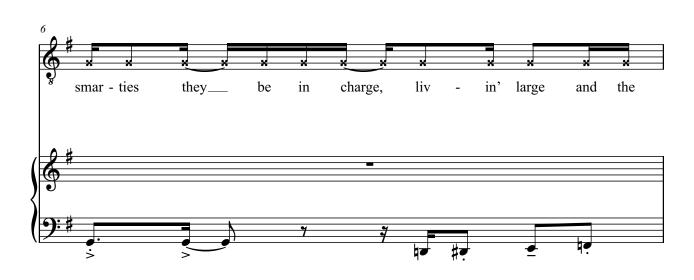
(Dr. Good enters)

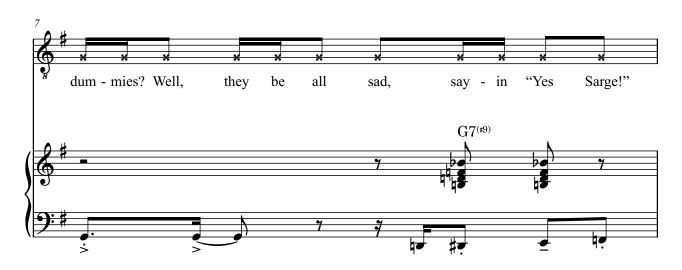
RACHEL: Perfect. I'm just in time to drink the "Good juice." DR. GOOD: Greetings, Class of 2053. This is Principal Good with a very important morning announcement.

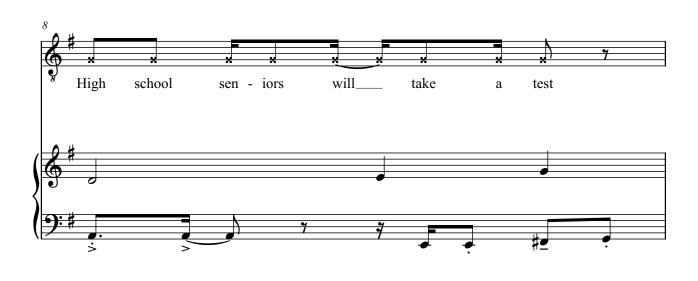


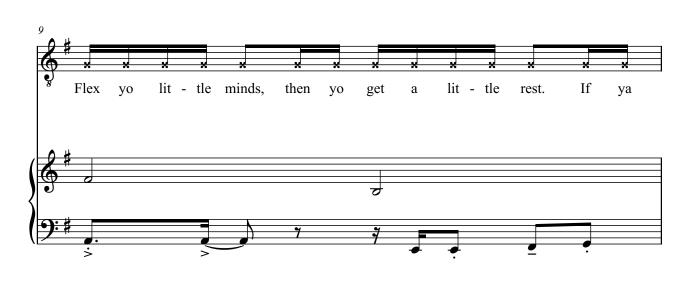


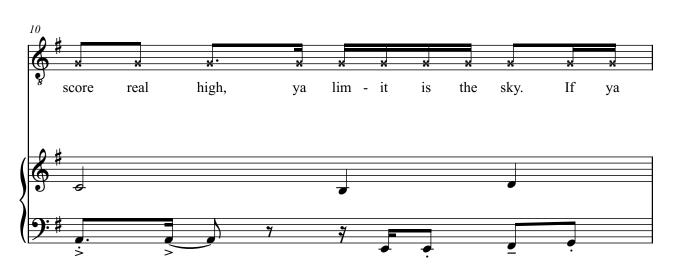


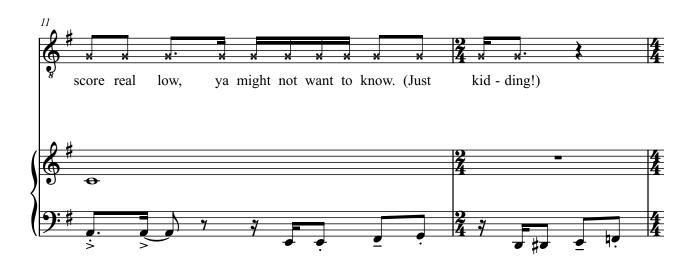


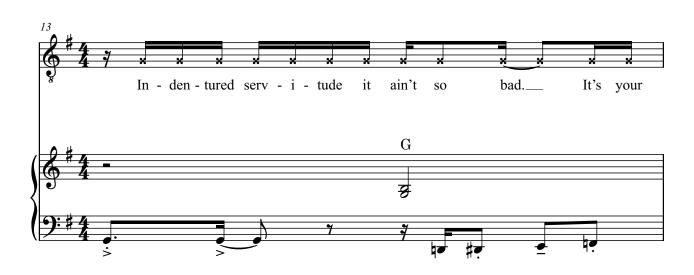


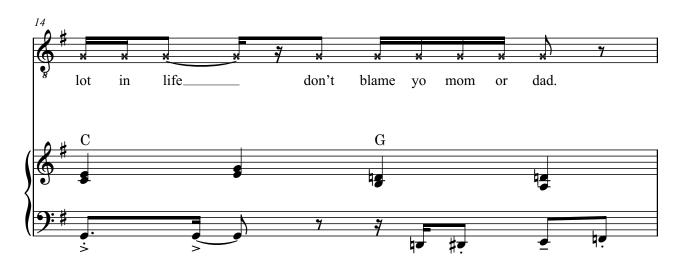


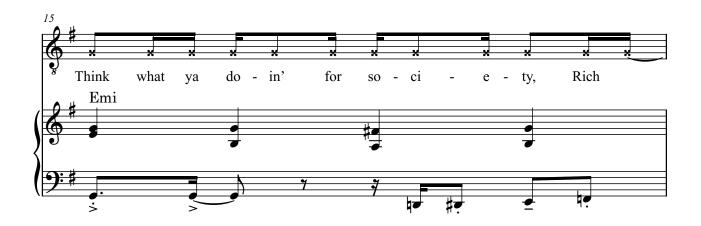


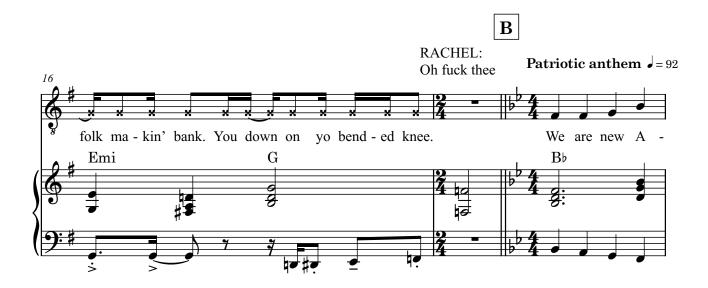


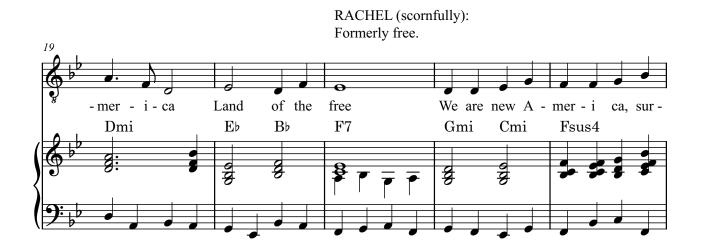




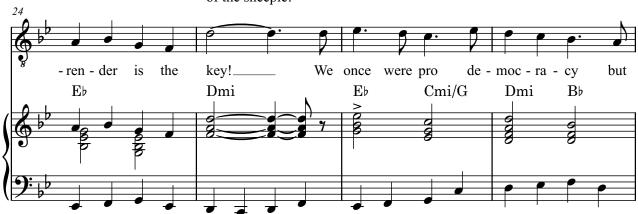






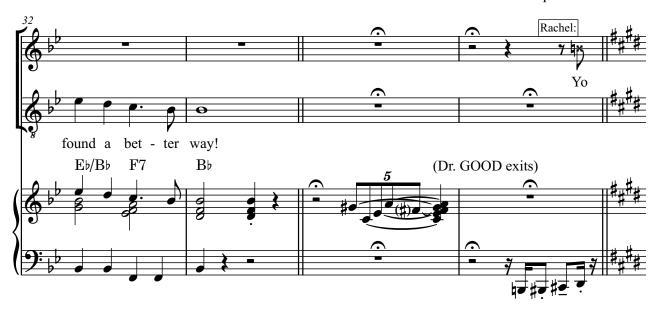


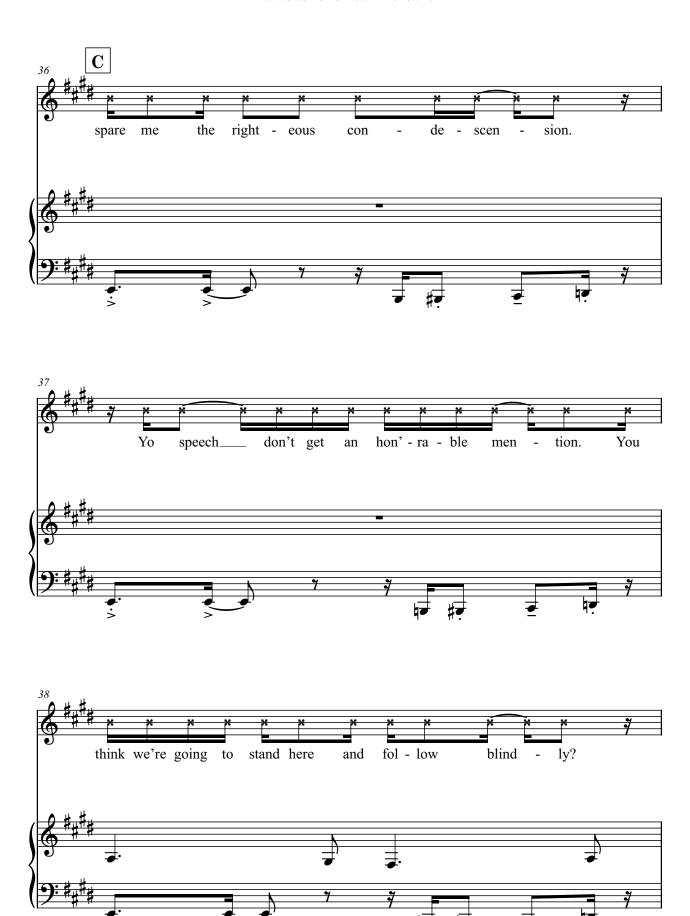
RACHEL: Key to the death of the sheeple!

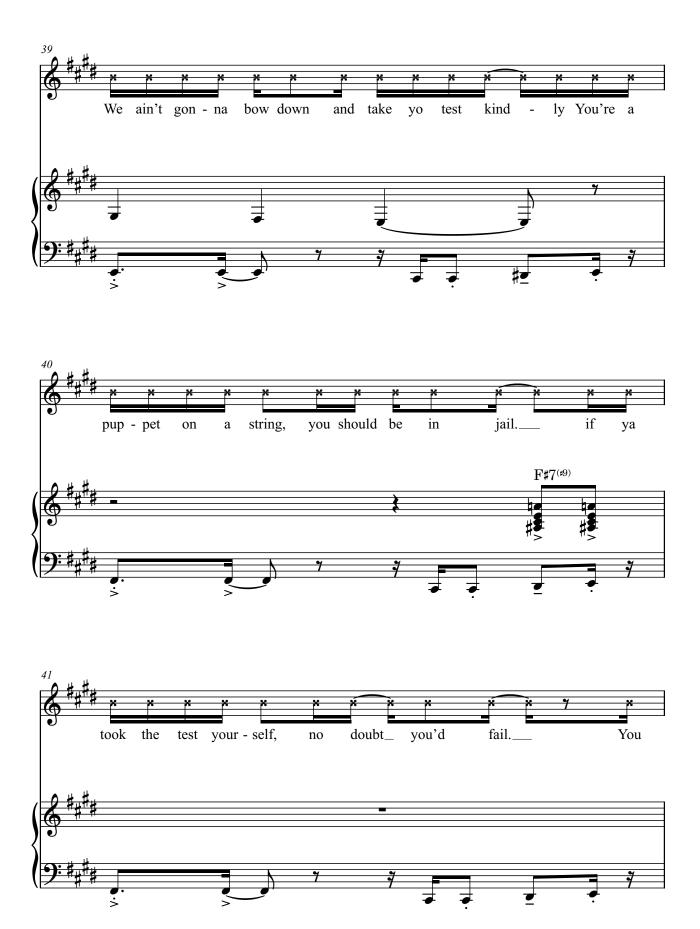


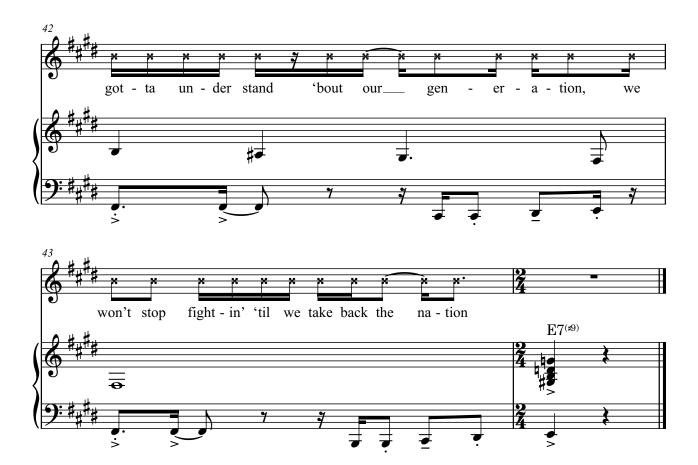


RACHEL: "Oh my god, you insufferable dipshit!"









RACHEL

Fuck this!

NATE

(pleading with his daughter)

Rachel, do you understand how serious this is? You have to take the national IQ test. It's the law.

RACHEL

The law blows! You know I can't pass it. If Mom were alive, she could help me but ... (beat) I just can't.

NATE

Yes, you can! Let me see your PalmPad. It just needs an upgrade.

RACHEL

That's your fix, dad? Really?

(RACHEL storms out.)

NATE

Rachel. Rachel! Get back here.

(beat)

Oh God, I can't lose my little girl.

(looking up as if to his dead wife.)

Nora, please, love, tell me what to do!

(NATE sings 2. You Made It Look So Easy)

NATE

I REMEMBER THE NIGHT OUR GIRL WAS BORN.

I WAS SPELLBOUND BY YOUR SMILE.

I WAS TOO SCARED TO HOLD HER CLOSE,

BUT YOU SOOTHED ALL HER CRIES.

OH YOU KNEW JUST HOW TO APPEASE HER,

WHILE I STAYED FROZEN IN TIME.

WHEN SHE FUSSED AND SHE COOED,

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

BUT YOU, YOU TOOK IT IN STRIDE.

YOU MADE IT LOOK SO EASY.

YOU TURNED THE DARKNESS BRIGHT.
SEE HOW YOU HELD US, YOU HELD US TOGETHER,
YOU MADE THE TOUGH TIMES ALRIGHT.

(NATE wipes his eyes and presses his right pointer finger onto his left palm)

NATE

Play the holo-memory from September 14th, 2042.

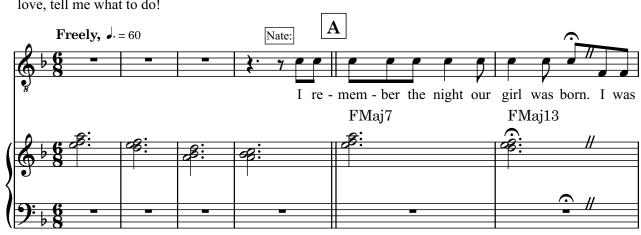
Piano/Vocal

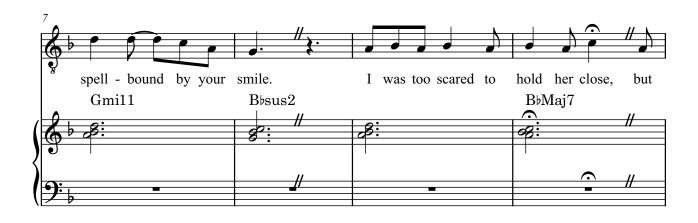
2. You Made It Look So Easy

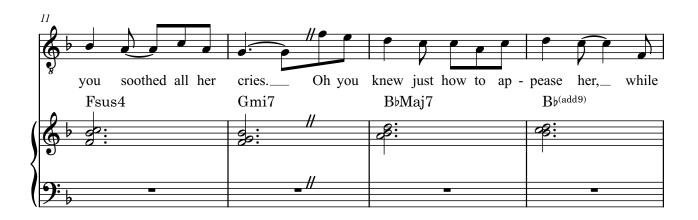
(Nate) Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52

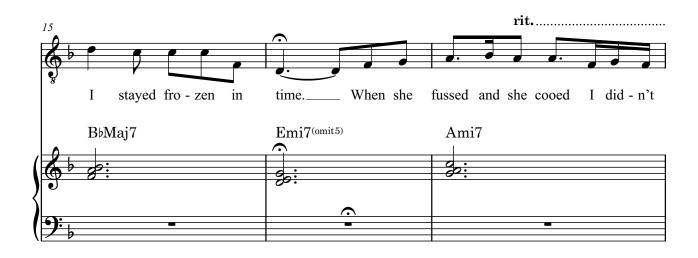
Cue: NATE: Nora, please, love, tell me what to do!

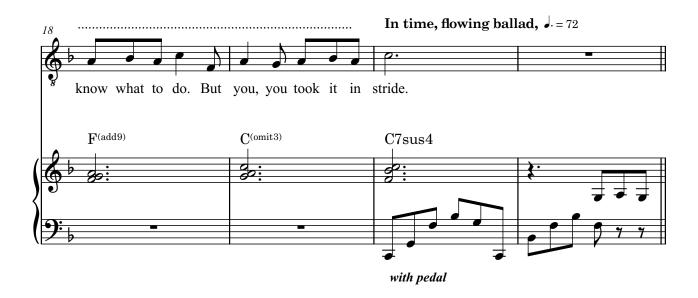
music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

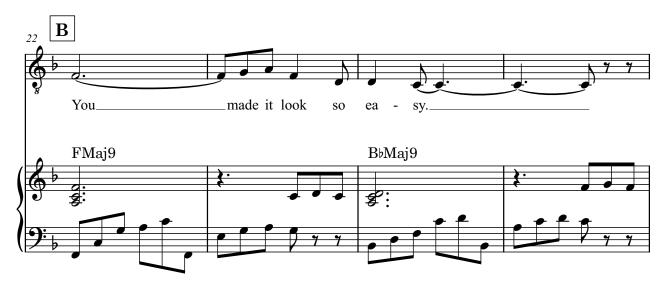


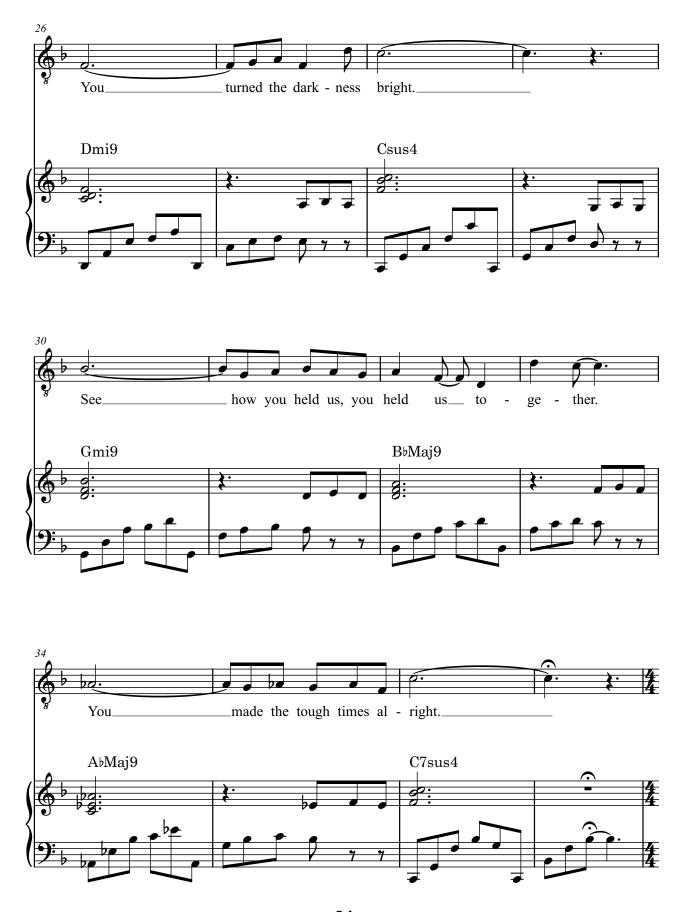












(NATE wipes his eyes and presses his right pointer finger onto his left palm)

NATE: Play the holo-memory from September 14th, 2042.



(NATE watches a digital file of his late wife, Nora, and Rachel, at age seven.)

NORA

(showing Rachel text on her Palm Pad)
Okay, kitten. We practiced this yesterday. Read this short passage.

RACHEL

(struggling to form the words)

"Friends, we will work it out get..herd... togerd.. th..." (upset)

It's no use, Mommy! I can't do it. I'm not like the other kids. I can't read and everyone else can!

NORA

Oh, sweetheart. I know it's hard sometimes, but I promise you, everyone learns differently and if we just take our time--

RACHEL

No, mommy. I have dyslexia, right?

NORA

Yes, yes you do, kitten. But dyslexia doesn't have you.

(NORA caresses Rachel's cheeks, and looks into her eyes, calming her. They sing 3. The Teaching Song.)

NORA

REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, SLOW IT DOWN AND SOUND IT OUT, BREATHE EASY. TAKE YOUR TIME AND JUST KEEP CALM, WORD BY WORD, RIGHT OR WRONG, STAY WITH ME.

WHEN YOU'RE IN DOUBT, WE'LL WORK IT OUT TOGETHER. WHEN IT SEEMS TOO HARD, WE'LL SING IT OUT TOGETHER.

NORA RACHEL

WHEN YOU'RE IN DOUBT, WE'LL
WORK IT OUT TOGETHER.
WHEN IT SEEMS TOO HARD, WE'LL
WHEN IT SEEMS TOO HARD, WE'LL
WING IT OUT TOGETHER.
WHEN IT SEEMS TOO HARD, WE'LL

SING IT OUT TOGETHER. SING IT OUT TOGETHER.

(NORA and RACHEL giggle and hug.)

Piano/Vocal

3. Teaching Song

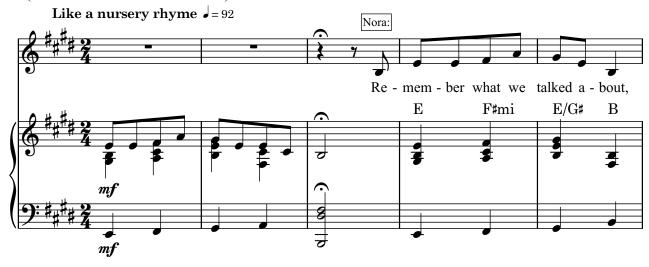
(Nora, Rachel) Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52

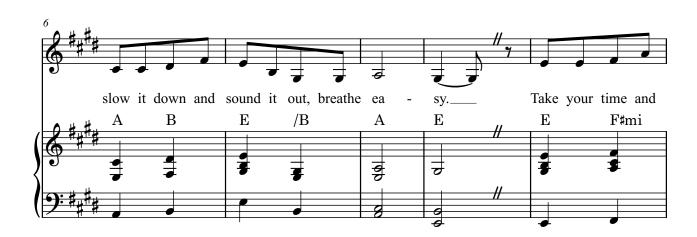
Cue: NORA:

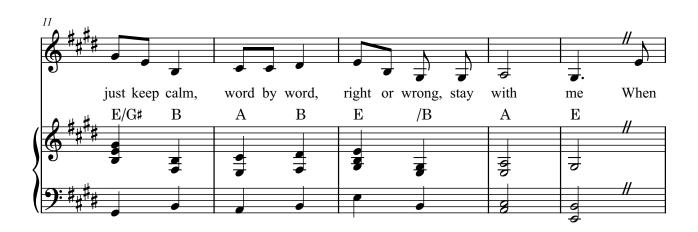
Yes, yes you do, kitten. But dyslexia doesn't have you.

music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

(NORA caresses Rachel's cheeks.)









RACHEL

(taking a deep breath)

NORA

Yes, kitten! You did it, you see?

RACHEL

(hugging Nora)

I did it! I love you, Mommy! You too, Daddy!

NORA

Come on, Nate. Put that camera down and join us!

RACHEL

Yea, Daddy, come here!

(NATE freezes the holographic memory, wishing he could hug his girls. 4. You Made It Look So Easy Reprise.)

NATE

YOU HAD A SWEET WAY TO GET THROUGH TO OUR GIRL, HOLD HER AND SOOTHE WITH YOUR VOICE.
PATIENTLY LISTENING AND KEEPING HER CALM, YOU TURNED HER FEARS INTO JOYS, TO JOYS.

YOU MADE IT LOOK SO EASY.

YOU TOOK MY BREATH AWAY.

I JUST DON'T THINK I CAN DO LIFE WITHOUT YOU.

WHY? WHY COULDN'T YOU STAY?

WE'RE OUT OF TIME TO HELP OUR CHILD.

I'M BEGGING YOU TO LEAD ME.

THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER YOU.

YOU MADE IT LOOK EASY.

(NATE finishes longingly, but then his face lights up with a flash of inspiration.)

NATE

(so emotional, he's almost laughing)
There will never be another you... That's it, Nora! Maybe Rachel can't have the real you, but I can build the next best thing.
Thank you, love! Thank you!

(NATE excitedly runs out.)

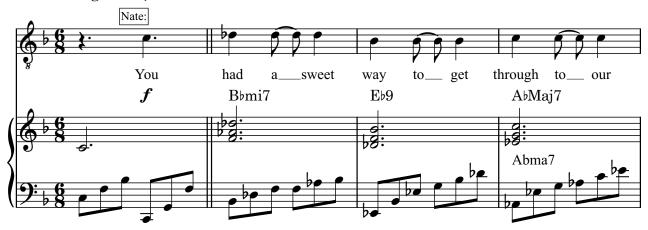
Piano/Vocal

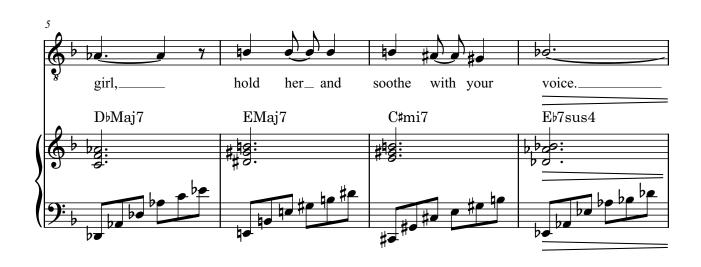
4. You Made It Look So Easy (Reprise)

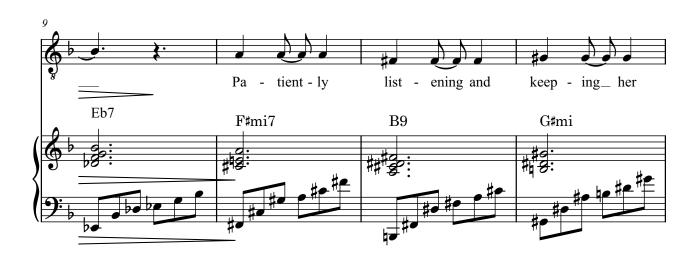
Cue: NORA: Come on, Nate. Put that camera down and join us! RACHEL: Yea, Daddy, come here! (Nate) Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52

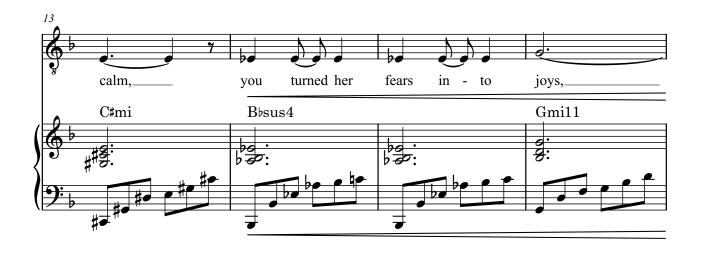
music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

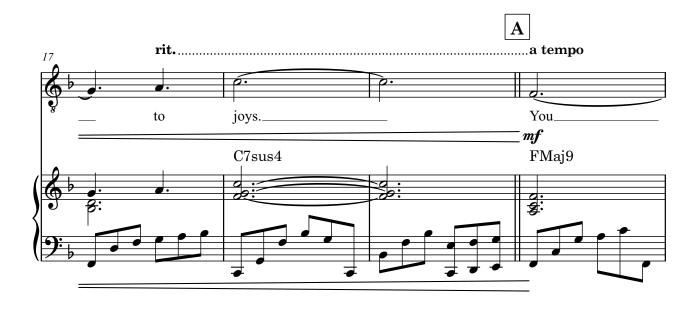
Flowing ballad, $\sqrt{.}$ = 72

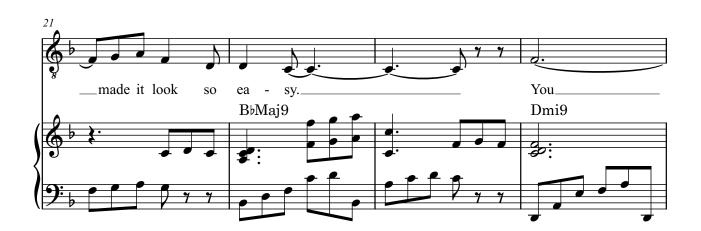


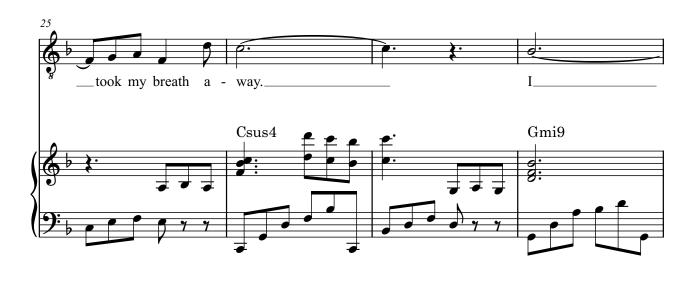


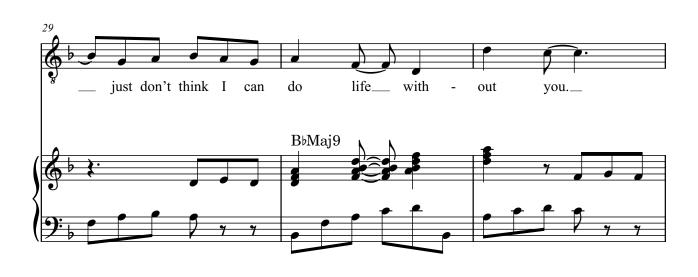




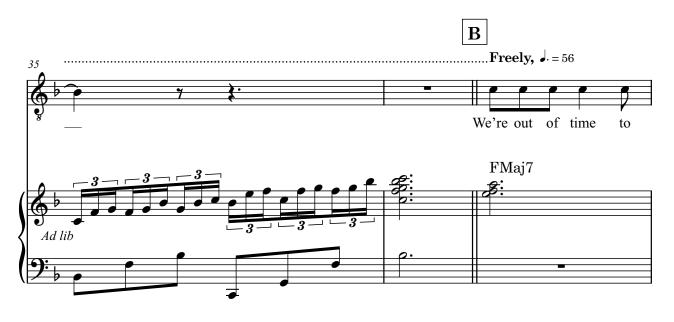


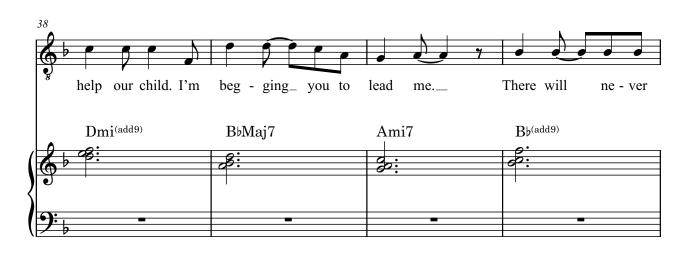


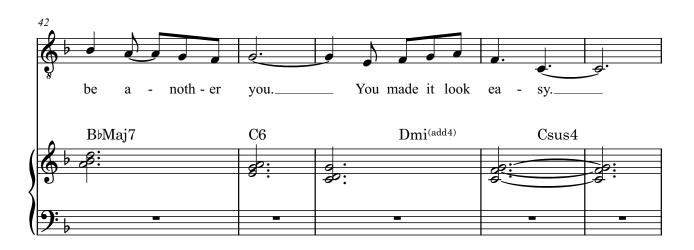












(NATE's face lights up) Maybe Rachel can't have the real you, but never be another you...

ATE: There will never be another you...

Thank you, love! Thank you! (NATE runs out)

Scene Two

Two weeks later, RACHEL comes home from school to an empty house.

RACHEL

(yelling into the next room)

Hello? Dad? I'm alone with a boy and we're smoking crack and having sex!

(beat)

Right. Haven't seen you in weeks. Why would today be any different?

(Musical cue 5. Welcome to New America Reprise)

(DR. GOODE enters for his announcement.)

RACHEL

(exasperated)

Oh, fuck me!

DR. GOOD

Just two weeks til slaughter, my little lambs. Hope y'all are being "good," hunkering down, and studying for the little exam.

DR. GOOD

IF THIS FEELS BLEAK, WELL HURRY UP, DELINQUENT,
YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, YA GOT TWO WEEKS TO FIX IT.
JULY FOURTH'S A NEW HOLIDAY,
YOU DON'T SHOW UP FOR THE TEST, YOU GET TAKEN AWAY.
I'M SO VERY GLAD WE HAD THIS LITTLE TALK.
SEE YOU KIDS ON TEST DAY, HOPE YOU DON'T BALK,
AND CHICKEN OUT EVEN THOUGH YOU FEIGN BRAVERY.
HOPE YA DON'T CRY WHEN YOU'RE THROWN INTO SLAVERY.

(DR. GOOD exits.)

RACHEL

(straightening imaginary tie and imitating a stodgy old guy)

Hello, I'm Dr. Good, top of my class in ass licking.

WE THREW AWAY ALL PROGRESS MADE, WE'RE WALKING IN OUR SLEEP. WE ARE NEW AMERICA, WE'RE BRAIN DEAD LITTLE SHEEP!

Piano/Vocal

5. Welcome To New America (Reprise)

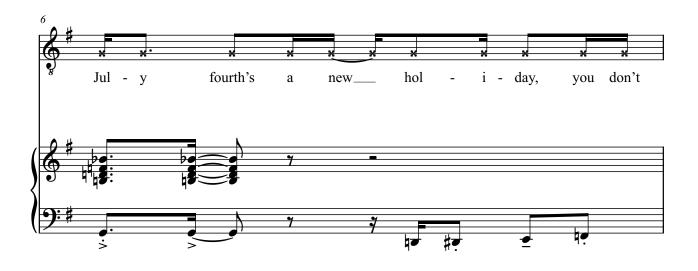
(Dr. Goode, Rachel) *Rev. 2023-06-24.09:10*

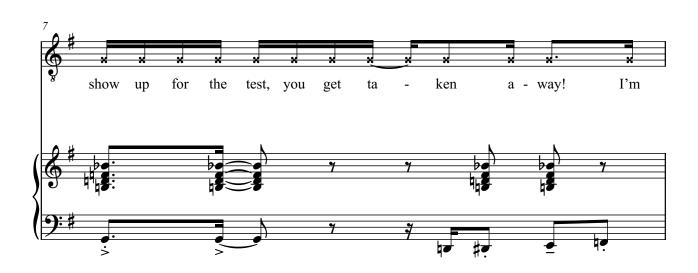
Cue: RACHEL: Right. Haven't seen you in weeks. Why would today be any different?

music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

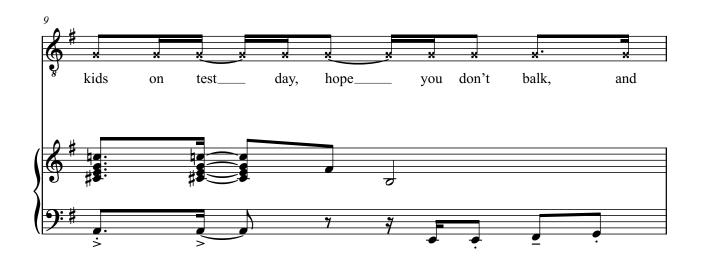
RACHEL: Oh, fuck me! DR. GOOD: Just two weeks til slaughter, my little lambs. Hope y'all are being "good," hunkering down, and studying for the little exam.

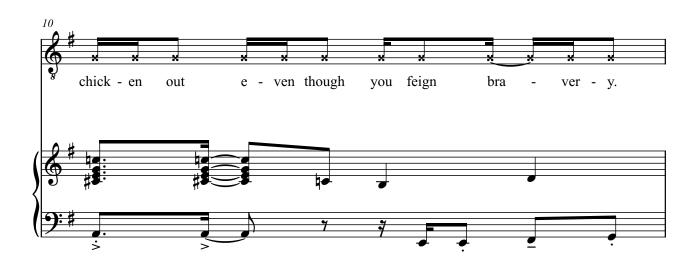


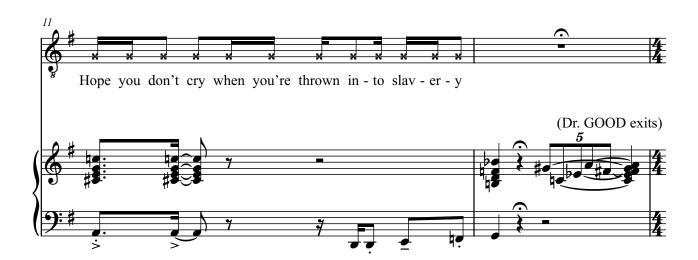




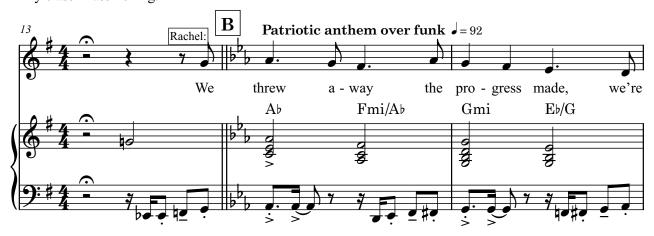


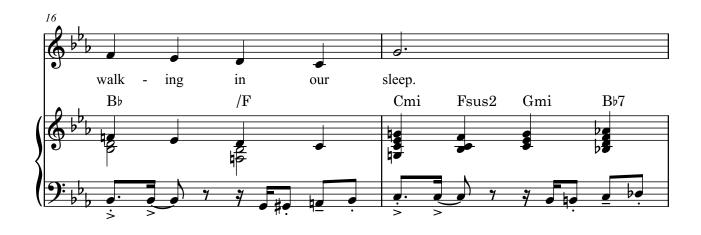






RACHEL: Hello, I'm Dr. Good, top of my class in ass licking.







(NATE rushes in behind Rachel.)

NATE

(loudly)

Rachel!

RACHEL

Jesus, Dad! You scared the F out of me!

NATE

I have the solution to our problem. Rachel, I would love to introduce you to Miss Dora.

(MISS DORA, the spitting image of Rachel's late mother, enters.)

RACHEL

What the fuck? You dug up mom?

NATE

Of course not. But I did model this A.I. tutor after your mom, the best teacher ever.

MISS DORA

Hello. You must be Miss Rachel. Pleasure to meet you.

(MISS DORA strikes an uncomfortable looking smile and wannabe showgirl pose.)

RACHEL

Um. What's wrong with her?

NATE

Oh, that. Yes, well, the build was rushed, so there were some glitches.

RACHEL

Glitches?

NATE

Yes. She may look like your mom, but she developed some less appealing human attributes like a need for drama-

(MISS DORA strikes another odd pose) And a really, big ego--

My dear Rachel. All it takes is a simple palm download from (wildly gesturing to herself)

this glorious specimen to

(gesturing to Rachel, less than enthused)

you. And viola! You have everything you need to pass the test!

RACHEL

(skeptical)

Really??

(MISS DORA preens, dances and sings. 6. Be Like Me.)

Yes, really! You just listen to Miss Dora, I'll show you how it's done.

YOU GOT TO BE LIKE ME.

YOU KNOW YOU WANNA BE LIKE ME.

RACHEL

Uh, not!

MISS DORA

(raising up her palm to Rachel)

JUST RAISE UP YOUR PALM, YOU'LL GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU NEED.

WOW THEM AS YOU CALCULATE AND READ, YEAH!

RACHEL

(walks away and leaves Dora's palm hanging)
Hard pass.

MISS DORA

Oh, come on!

YOU GOT TO BE LIKE, BE LIKE ME.

(NATE tweaks a switch on the back of Dora's neck. DORA snaps back.)

YOU KNOW YOU WANNA BE LIKE, ME-ME-ME-ME-ME...

(NATE continues to try to troubleshoot Miss Dora.)

JUST LET ALL THIS BEAUTY, BRILLIANCE, POISE AND AGILITY,

HELP YOU DEMONSTRATE YOUR VIABILITY, YEAH!

THE MATHEMATICAL EQUATIONS, SURE THEY'RE A BORE.

BUT JUST REMEMBER WHAT ALL THIS IS FOR.

YOU MUST IMPRESS THESE NEW MORONIC GOVERNMENT CLONES, YOU JUST GOTTA PLAY THEIR GAME!

RACHEL

(conceding Dora is right)

I know.

(DORA raises her palm up again to Rachel. RACHEL finally holds her palm up to Dora's and gets a jolt of energy (during the following line.)

LET'S FILL THAT TINY TEENAGE BRAIN TO MAX CAPACITY.

IF YOU WANNA SURVIVE THIS TWISTED DREADFUL FASCIST TYRANNY!

(RACHEL feels the download shock. DORA is so excited that she glitches again...)

MISS DORA

(getting stuck)

YOU GOT TO BE LIKE, BE LIKE, BE LIKE ME
YOU KNOW-KNOW-KNOW-KNOW-KNOW-KNOW-KNOW-

(Miss DORA grinds to a halt. NATE adjusts something on the back of MISS DORA's neck.)

NATE

Finish the process, Miss Dora!

MISS DORA

YOU WANNA BE LIKE ME
IF YOU WANNA THRIVE, NOT JUST SURVIVE FOR ETERNITY.
OH, YOU GOTTA BE LIKE,
SIMPLY GOTTA BE LIKE...

MISS DORA

98% complete!

(MISS DORA freezes briefly. NATE and RACHEL look at each other.)

MISS DORA

OH, YOU GOTTA BE LIKE SIMPLY GOTTA BE LIKE...

(MISS DORA freezes again. NATE and RACHEL each take an arm and gently shake her. MISS DORA snaps out of it.)

MISS DORA

OH, YOU GOTTA BE LIKE, SIMPLY GOTTA BE LIKE...

(MISS DORA holds out her palm one last time to Rachel. RACHEL "accepts" holding her palm up, feeling a shock.)

BE LIKE ME.

(MISS DORA finishes with a jazz hands big flourish.)

Piano/Vocal

6. Be Like Me

(Miss Dora, Rachel) *Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52*

Cue: MISS DORA: And viola! You have everything you need to pass the test!

RACHEL: Really??

music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

MISS DORA

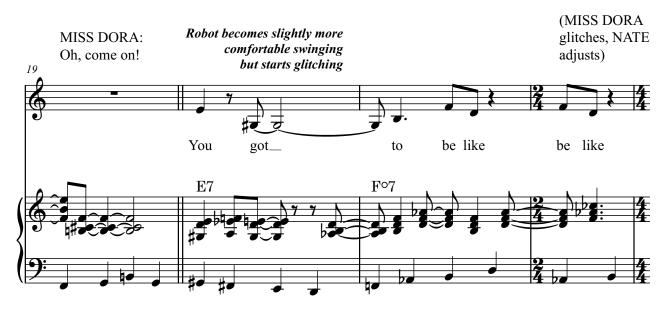
Yes, really! You just listen to Miss Dora, I'll show you how it's done.

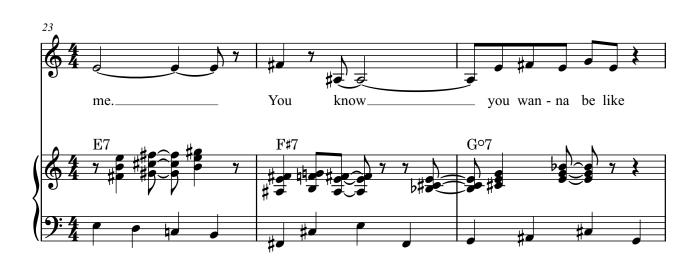




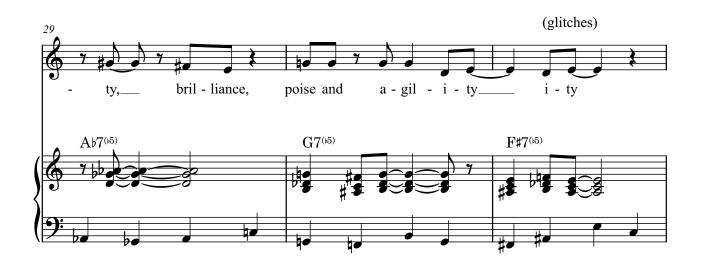


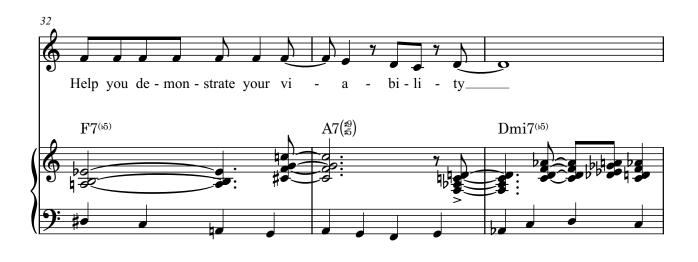
6. Be Like Me - 3

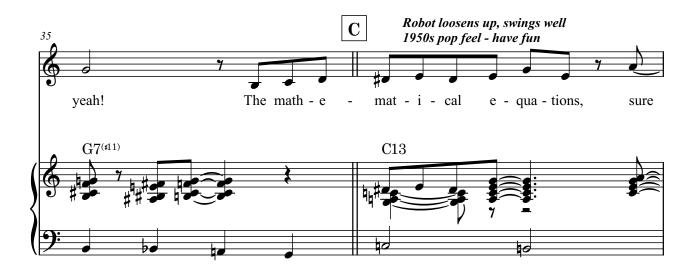




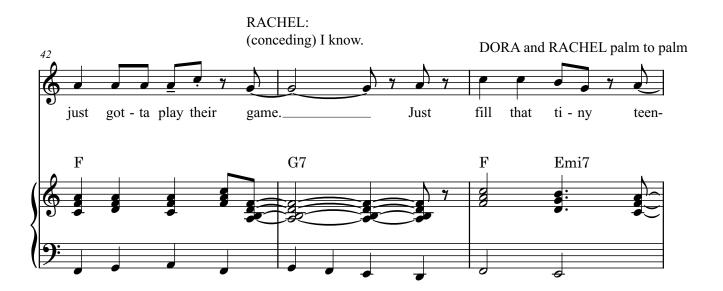


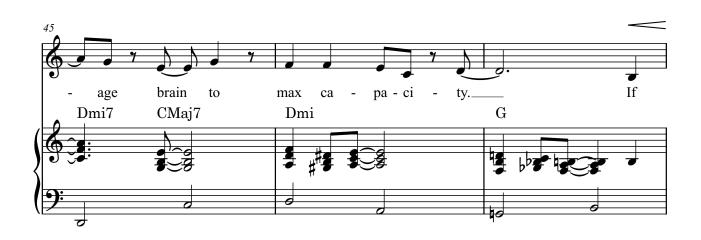


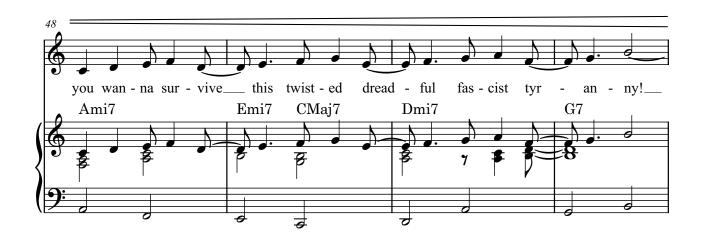








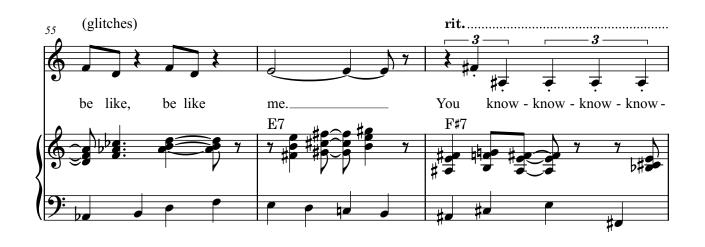




(RACHEL reacts to shock from Miss Dora's download.)

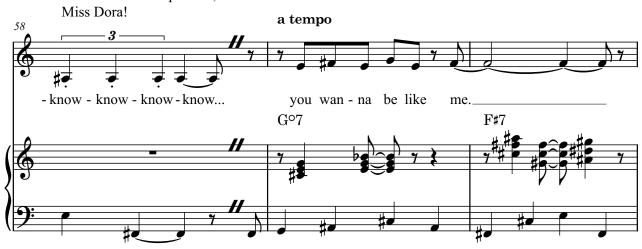
You got___ to be like,
For

D

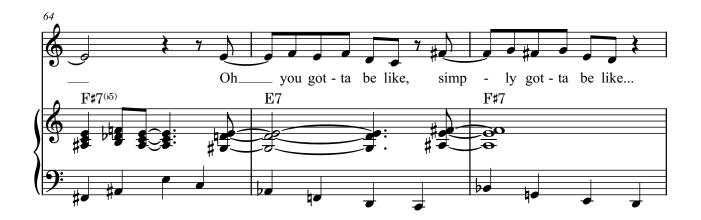


(MISS DORA freezes. NATE adjusts something on her.)
NATE: Finish the process,

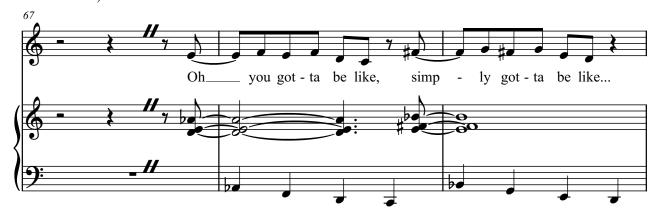
.....



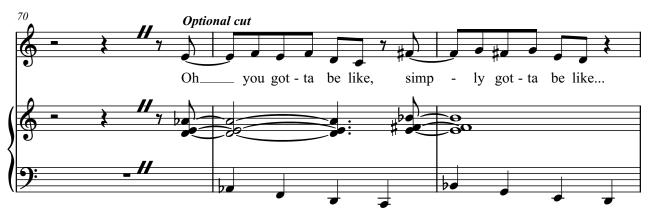




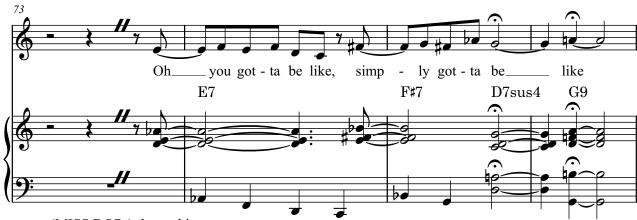
MISS DORA: 98% complete! (MISS DORA freezes briefly; NATE and RACHEL look at each other)



(MISS DORA freezes again. NATE and RACHEL each grab one of Miss DORA's arms and shake her gently)



(MISS DORA and RACHEL final palm-to-palm)



(MISS DORA does a big finish, arms wide, bows for applause)



Download complete.

RACHEL

Really?

MISS DORA

Yup. Read this.

(MISS DORA places her palm in front of Rachel's face.)

RACHEL

"Fool me once, shame falls upon thee; fool me twice, shame falls upon me."

MISS DORA

Correct!

RACHEL

(happily)

I can read that sentence easily. The words aren't mixed up.

MISS DORA

Congratulations, Kitten.

(RACHEL freezes, enraged. 7. Don't Call Me Kitten Underscore)

RACHEL

What the hell did you call me?

NATE

Rachel--

RACHEL

You don't get to call me "Kitten;" my mom was the only one who called me that.

NATE

Rachel, that's my fault. It was in the programming. I--

RACHEL

(to Nate)

Well, congratulations, Dad, you replaced my mom with a narcissistic fembot!

MISS DORA

Replaced!? Well, I never!

(posing)

I am always an upgrade!

(RACHEL storms out. Nate glares at Dora, who hangs her head embarrassed.)

NATE

Dora, Go!

(MISS DORA exits.)

NATE

What have I done?

(NATE pulls up a memory on his PalmPad.)

NATE

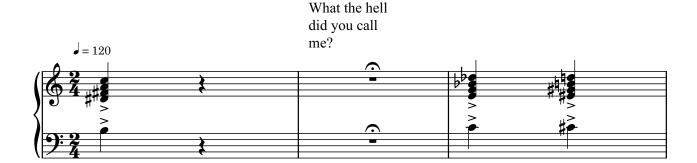
Play Nora holo-memory November 24, 2052.

Piano/Vocal

7. Don't Call Me Kitten

(Underscore) Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52

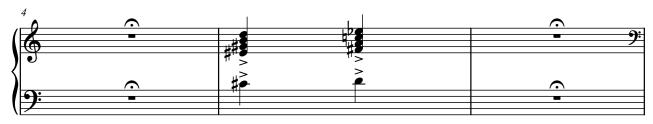
Cue: MISS DORA: Congratulations, Kitten. (RACHEL freezes, enraged.) music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare



RACHEL:

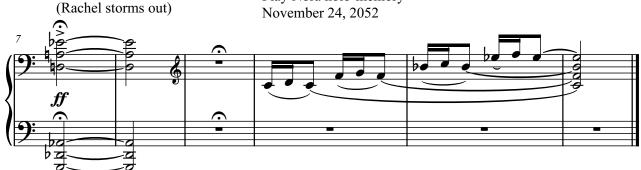
NATE: Rachel... RACHEL: You don't get to call me "Kitten;" my mom was the only one who called me that. NATE: No, Rachel. That's my fault. It was in the programming. I--RACHEL: Well, congratula-

tions, Dad, you replaced my mom with a narcissistic fembot! MISS DORA: Replaced!? Well, I never! I am always an upgrade!



NATE: Dora, go! (Miss Dora exits)

NATE: What have I done? Play Nora holo-memory November 24, 2052



(NORA enters.)

NORA

Hi Nate! I heard your voicemail about Rachel. I know it's tough, but when she's struggling, you need to slow things down, spell them out, even sing them with her. Rachel doesn't need any hightech stuff; she just needs her father.

NATE

I know, you're right, baby.

NORA

As long as you are with her, Rachel will do great. I'll be home soon. Love you!

NATE

Please, no! Nora, wait! I'll fix this. I'll fix it!

(Snapping out of it, running to Rachel's bedroom door, knocking and pleading.)

Rachel! I'm sorry. I know I screwed up. But you got this. You can pass the test.

(No answer from Rachel.)

NATE

(to himself, resigned)

I love you.

Scene Three

Nate is pacing nervously, in his living room. DR. GOOD "enters" for his "test day" announcement.

(DR. GOOD appears, sings $\bf 8$. Welcome $\bf To$ New America Reprise $\bf 2$)

DR. GOOD

Happy test day, my little lambs! Are you feeling queasy?

IF YA GETTA LITTLE URGE TO SKIP THE TEST,
I'M COMIN AFTER YOU AND I WON'T REST.
THEY'LL DETAIN YOU AND MAIM YOU, AND EVEN IF I COULD,
I AIN'T GONNA STOP EM, JUSTICE IS SO GOOD.
WE COMIN TO GET YA,
WE COMIN TO GET YA.
I'M ONLY OUT FOR ME, SO I ALREADY FORGET YA.
WE COMIN TO GET YA
WE COMIN TO GET YA, (RACHEL)

I COULD LET YOU FLEE, BUT I AIN'T GONNA LET YA.

Piano/Vocal

8. Welcome To New America (Reprise 2)

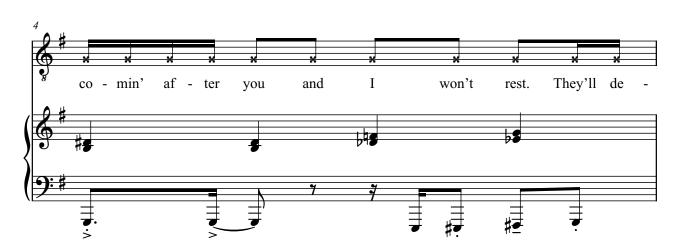
Cue: NATE I love you. (Scene shifts. Nate is pacing nervously).

(Dr. Goode) Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52

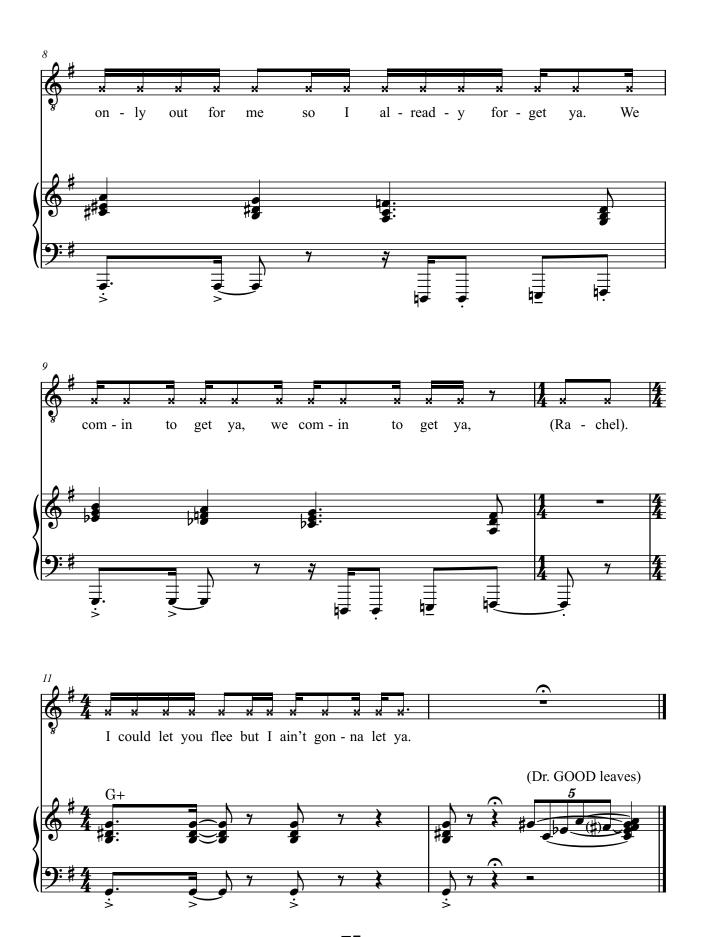
music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

(Dr. GOOD enters)
DR. GOOD: Happy test day,
my little lambs! Are you









(DR. GOOD exits.)

NATE

(looking up)

My God, Good. You've gone mad.

(RACHEL meekly pops her head out of her bedroom.)

RACHEL

Dad?

(RACHEL enters. 9. Teaching Song (Reprise))

NATE

(shocked and agitated)

Rachel!! What are you doing here??

RACHEL

(enters)

I'm so sorry, Dad. I tried but the words got mixed up again. I couldn't take the test! I didn't know what to do!

NATE

(shattered and despondent)

No, I'm sorry, baby. This is all my fault. I have failed you completely.

(beat)

(RACHEL holds out her hand to Nate. HE grabs it tight.)

RACHEL

REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, SLOW IT DOWN AND SOUND IT OUT, BREATHE EASY.

(NATE slowly lifts his head.)

NATE

WHEN YOU'RE IN DOUBT, WE'LL (gaining spirit)

WORK IT OUT TOGETHER.

NATE & RACHEL

WHEN IT SEEMS TOO HARD, WE'LL

SING IT OUT TOGETHER.

Piano/Vocal

9. Teaching Song (Reprise)

(Nate, Rachel) Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52

Cue: NATE: My God, Good.

You've gone mad. (Rachel appears.) RACHEL: Dad?

music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

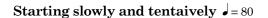
NATE: (Shocked) Rachel!! What are you doing here??

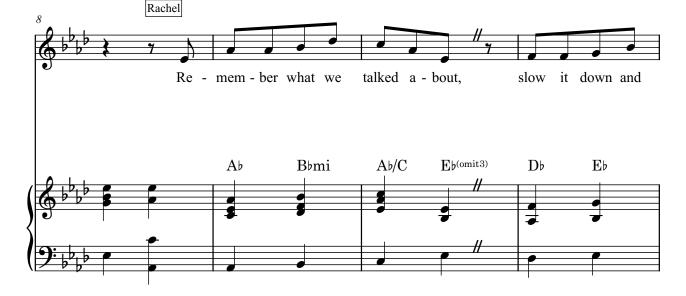
RACHEL: (enters) I'm so sorry, Dad. I tried but the words got mixed up again. I couldn't take the test! I didn't know what to do!



NATE: (shattered)
No, I'm sorry, baby.
This is all my fault.
I have failed you completely.

(RACHEL reaches her hand to Nate.)







NATE

I'm so sorry, Rachel. I get it now, it's not about fixing you. I need to be with you.

RACHEL

That's all I ever wanted.

(getting agitated)

But what's gonna happen to me? Are they going to take me away?

NATE

Not if I can help it. We'll head North. But we gotta go now! (looking into her eyes, calming her)
We got this, sweetheart. It's just you and me.

RACHEL

We're never alone, Dad...

(RACHEL touches her PalmPad.)

Play Nora holo-memory April 12th, 2053.

(NORA appears and sings. NATE, RACHEL join her. 10. You Made It Look So Easy (Reprise))

NATE NORA RACHEL

REMEMBER WHAT WE HER THE DAY SHE WAS TALKED ABOUT. BORN,

GENTLY KEPT WATCH

THROUGH THE NIGHT. SLOW IT DOWN AND

OVER THE YEARS YOUR
TAKE YOUR TIME AND
JUST KEEP CALM.

OVER THE YEARS YOUR
DEVOTION HAS GROWN,
I KNOW YOUR FUTURE

IS BRIGHT.

STAY WITH ME. STAY WITH ME!

WE'LL MAKE IT LOOK SO EASY,

WE'LL NEVER GIVE UP
THE FIGHT.

SEE HOW THE THREE
OF US KEEP US
TOGETHER.

WHEN YOU'RE IN

DOUBT WE'LL WORK

IT OUT TOGETHER,

WHEN IT'S HARD.

TOGETHER.

SLOW IT DOWN AND SOUND IT OUT BREATHE EASY

WORD BY WORD AND RIGHT OR WRONG, STAY WITH ME

WITH ME

ALL THAT I NEEDED WAS YOU BY MY SIDE.

NEVER STOP FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.

SEE HOW THE THREE OF US KEEP US TOGETHER.

NATE/NORA/RACHEL

WE'LL BE FINE

IF WE HOLD ON REAL TIGHT.

WE KNOW THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

AS LONG AS WE'RE,

AS LONG AS WE'RE,

AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER.

End of Play

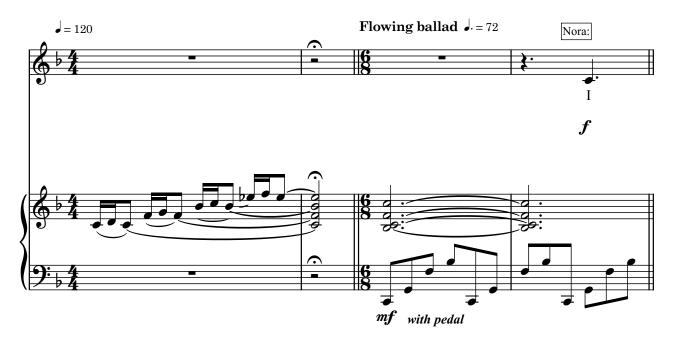
Piano/Vocal

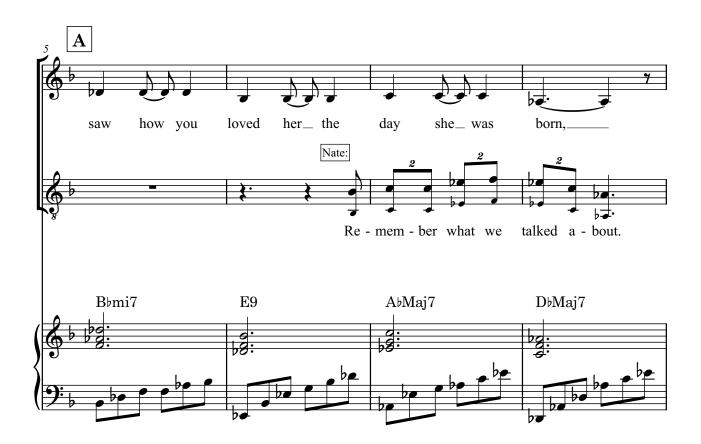
10. You Made It Look So Easy (Reprise 2)

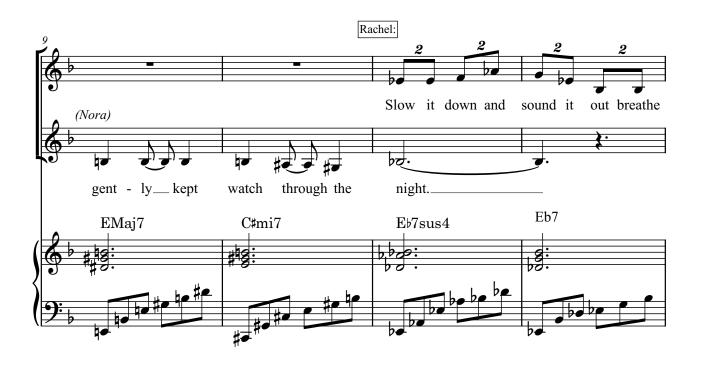
Cue: RACHEL: Play Nora holo-memory April 12th, 2053.

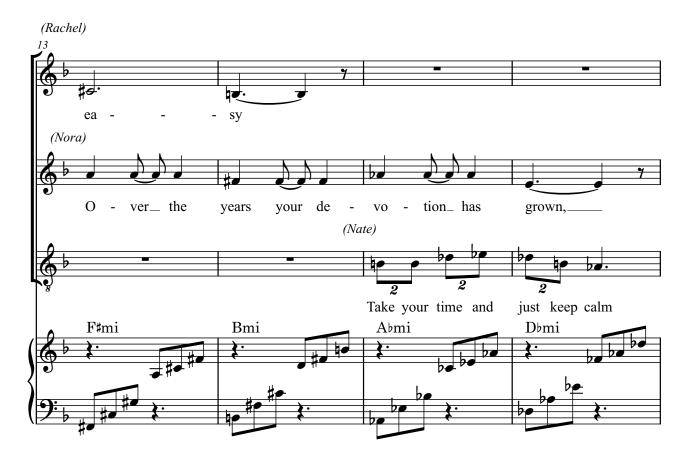
(Nate, Nora, Rachel) Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52

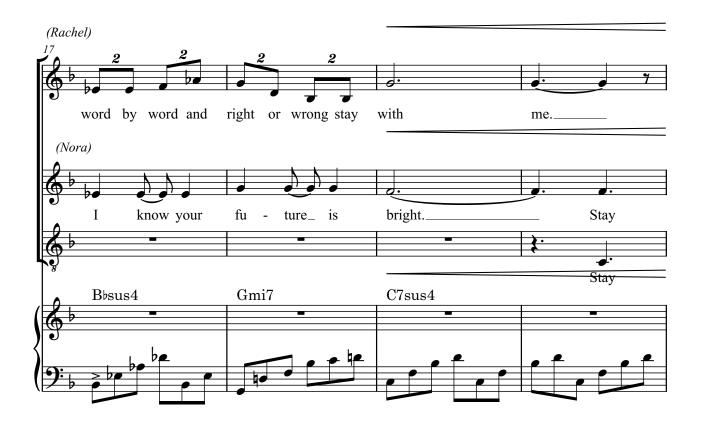
music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

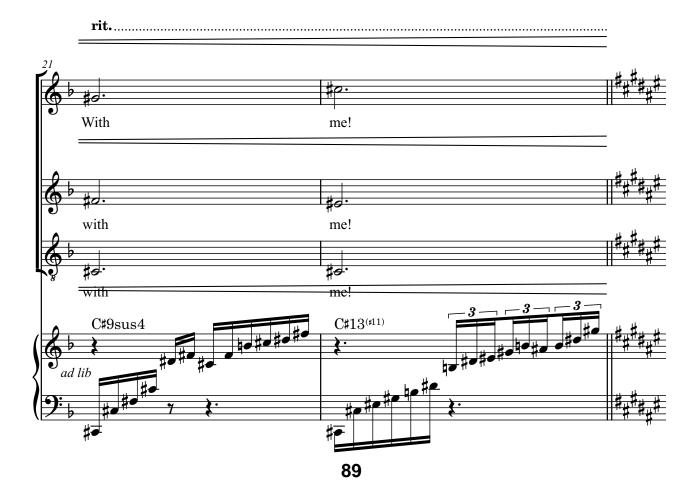




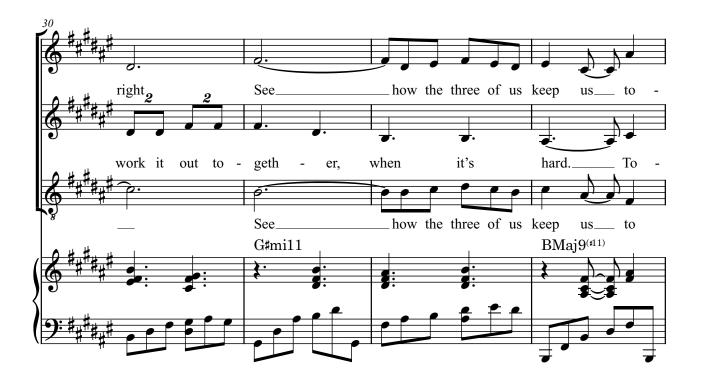


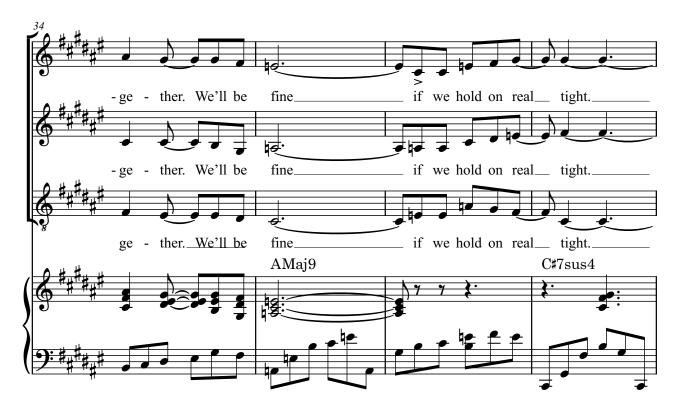




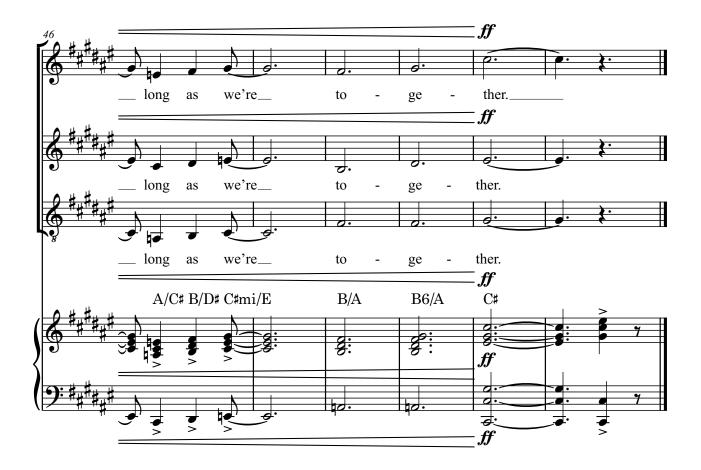












Appendix: Possible Cuts

Timed at 16 minutes at rough read through. We then found and made about 20 seconds of book cuts.

Suggestions:

Cut Cue 6 (Be Like Me) mm 71-73. 6 seconds. (It's part of the joke that she repeats the tag too many times, but the song can live without it.)

Cut Cue 3 (Teaching song) pickup to 16 through pickup to 23. (12 seconds).

It is possible that 2-19 can use some tightening.

ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY - Cut Cue 5 (New America reprise, Rachel's satire) letter B. 23 seconds. The downside is that the patriotic song is also repeated dissonantly in the 2^{nd} reprise, so taking it out here weakens that leitmotif and its payoff.

Appendix 2: Notes

Composer's notes:

1. Welcome to New America. On last readthrough the tempo was closer to 102, as marked/envisioned it's 92 (obviously need to balance energy & understandability).

Notating rap is not an exact science. The saxophone honking on one note is of course a very simplified representation. The performers should put their own stamp on it, playing with the timings - the 16th-note syncopated rhythms are only an approximation and if followed exactly will sound horribly square. If the singer and music director want to add or remove beats for interest (rhythmic beats, that is), that is fine.

The patriotic anthem is meant to be scary and fascist in its seriousness. Note that it is also woven into the piano accompaniment during the rap.

6. Be Like Me is the big showstopper. Have fun with it. The interjections are suggestions and can be tweaked and ad-libbed a bit. It will be a balance of Nate fussing but not upstaging Miss Dora too much. It's a little contradictory - Miss Dora sings squarely at first, loosening up and swinging well by the end, but she also glitches more and more as the song progresses.

The bridge should be done straight, just focus on the music - nice easy 1950s ice cream changes and a familiar style for the audience to relax with in contrast to the more dissonant, angular, Monk-inspired A sections with the glitches and interjections.

At the end, go ahead and be creative with the breaks, her getting "stuck" on the cliche tag ending repeat (it's an old cabaret/variety show gag, the band keeps playing the tag in seeming ignorance of the performer), etc. Script and score are directional but this kind of routine requires some flexibility as it comes to life. The team agrees we won't object if the final result diverges a bit, if it's fun!

8. Welcome to New America. The anthem reappears a final time harmonized in whole tone scale to emphasize how frightening the whole program is. It's a payoff for the simplistic nature of the original anthem.

9. Teaching Song (Reprise). The core emotional moment of the whole play is in Cue 9, Measure 7. BIG beat; THEN Rachel reaches to Nate and she starts singing slowly and hesitantly, really trying to get through to him, vulnerable, not sure if he will open up. There should be real doubt in the audience's mind as to how he will respond. Will this end as a tragedy?

I kept the bottom at middle C for the soprano, but if they have the low notes it might sound better transposed down to F# or even F. This is a sensitive little song, we don't want big money notes. I have put a transposed version in F after this appendix.

10. You Made It Look So Easy (Reprise 2). Big finale. One of the payoffs here is the integration of the simplistic Teaching Song into a more complex musical texture.

At B, we've now heard the main theme several times, so the soprano descant countermelody should be front and center.

The ensemble will need to practice and rehearse in #10, measure 39-41 especially, and then through the end. There is a quick cue chord in the pickup to 40 but the singers should work carefully with their tracks to nail the pitches at 40. The piano is now directly supporting them.

The piece does not end on the tonic. This reflects the ending which is unsettled and unresolved in the narrative - they are going to flee into an uncertain future and are putting a good face on it, hence the <u>Picardy third</u> sound at the end and a final tonicization of C# which is technically the dominant (I chose not to change key signature).

Piano/Vocal

9. Teaching Song (Reprise) - F

(Nate, Rachel) Rev. 2023-06-17.08:52

> music by Charles T. Betz lyrics by Kristen Egan O'Hare

Cue: NATE: My God, Good.

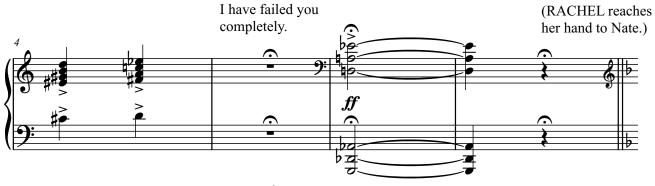
You've gone mad. (Rachel appears.) RACHEL: Dad?

NATE: (Shocked) Rachel!! What are you doing here??

RACHEL: (enters) I'm so sorry, Dad. I tried but the words got mixed up again. I couldn't take the test! I didn't know what to do!



NATE: (shattered) No, I'm sorry, baby. This is all my fault.



Starting slowly and tentaively J = 80

