

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“Coffee for Two” from *Women on Love: A Theatrical Song Cycle* *Music and lyrics by Katya Stanislavskaya*

SHOW SYNOPSIS

“Coffee for Two” is the middle song in a “coffee triptych” within *Women on Love: A Theatrical Song Cycle*. Typically, the same actor sings all three songs within the song cycle. “Coffee Date” is sung while the 20-something character is waiting for a blind date. “Coffee for Two” is the “morning after” song. The final installment, “Me & My Cup”, is sung by the character after she is married with children and a demanding job. Her relationships with her loved ones are tracked through her relationship with coffee.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

The song takes place in the character’s untidy apartment on “the morning after.” This is the first lover—and probably the first guest—that she’s had in her home in a very long time.

This character is oscillating between being frazzled by the immediate situation, and feeling hopeful about the future. Musically, the choruses allow her to relax, while the verses amp up her anxiety by changing time signature and tonal centers.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

The character is in her mid-twenties or early 30’s. She knows what it’s like to be hurt by a love gone awry. She has been guarding her heart for some time, and is now deciding whether to take the plunge into a new relationship.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The song requires no belting. The vocal range is between A3 and C5. The singer should be able to use her mix and/or head voice for the various instances of C5. Some of them could use a crescendo as they transition to the next section. The one in the final chorus is the most vulnerable one.