

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“Federico” from *Shoot for the Moon*

Music and lyrics by David Gomez & John-Michael Lyles

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Shoot for the Moon takes place in 1920’s Harlem, and explores a forbidden gay love affair between Mercy Wheatley, an up-and-coming Black prizefighter, and Federico García Lorca, a celebrated Spanish poet who is studying abroad at Columbia University. As they fall in love amidst the Harlem Renaissance, they’re forced to overcome cultural barriers, the cut-throat boxing world, and Mercy’s impending wedding to Sarah Jeffries. It’s a sweaty, sexy, and surreal musical that will leave you wondering: how hard would I fight for love?

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

At this major turning point, Mercy grapples with the choice to live the life he has planned with his fiancée, Sarah, or dive into a relationship that is equal parts affirming and dangerous with Federico. In the dead of night, while lying next to Sarah, Mercy risks it all by walking out on her in order to finally pursue Federico. During the song, Mercy walks down Riverside Drive until he arrives at Federico’s dorm. When he locks eyes with Federico, who’s writing in the moonlight of his 9th floor window, Mercy calls out Federico’s name, ready to give up the fight and confess how he truly feels.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

MERCY WHEATLEY: 20’s, Black, Male. An Oklahoma-bred poet who successfully boxes as a featherweight fighter and makes ends meet as a janitor on the side. Lean and muscular build with a quiet intensity. Tenor to G#, with falsetto.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This song is inspired by a pop-folk sound and is accompanied by a guitar in the show. Mercy is from the South and the verses should have a warm, understated and folksy quality. The first two choruses should utilize falsetto, but the *final* lyric of “Federico” should be sung with a sustained, full-voiced expression of unabashed joy and love!