

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“Lullaby” (cut song) from *Echo* *Music and lyrics by Anna K. Jacobs*

SHOW SYNOPSIS

“Lullaby” was cut from the musical, *Echo*, almost as soon as it was written, but has continued to have a life as a “stand-alone” song. *Echo* tells the story of three, contemporary women – Maryanne, Beth, and Vanessa – who unwittingly inherit the legacy of Echo, an ancient Greek nymph who falls for the mortal, Narcissus, and tragically meets her fate. Though “Lullaby” was not specifically intended for any of these characters, it does explore a theme that is prevalent throughout *Echo*: the compulsion to define oneself in relation to others.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

In “Lullaby,” we encounter a new mother who is struggling to meet her own expectations of how a new mother should be. As a quintessentially Type A personality, this lack of control causes her to unravel. However, it is only through the unraveling that she is able to let go of her expectations and start to construct a picture of the type of mother she – and only she – can be to her precious, newborn daughter. The mother addresses the entirety of her song to the newborn, who herself transitions through a range of emotional states, from placid to hysterical.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

The character in “Lullaby” is a late-20’s or older female. She is wound pretty tight, but yearns for connection. The vocal range for this role is A3 to F5, and the voice type is mezzo-soprano.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Tonally, “Lullaby” is intended to be comedic, but also truthful, or in other words: not camp. As the performer, trust that comedy will organically stem from the fact that the audience is witnessing a character who is essentially a control freak being placed in a situation over which she has absolutely no control. Your job is simply to play the stakes – which for this character are extremely, extremely high – truthfully. Also, don’t feel like you have to sing the song “beautifully”! Have the courage to explore all the different colors of your voice, and allow the drama to dictate those colors. This song leads its character through a rollercoaster of emotions; it would be dishonest not to make at least a few ugly sounds (with the caveat that ugliness is subjective).