

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“The Love of Two Parents” from *Mother of Fyre*
Music by Elspeth Collard, Lyrics by Sam Rosenblatt

SHOW SYNOPSIS

In this modern adaptation of the Prometheus myth, a young scientist named Sophia working for a large medical corporation develops a treatment to help infertile women have children. The initiative is highly personal for Sophia, who was adopted as a child and is sensitive to how her adoptive mother was unable to conceive. Sophia is in a relationship with a co-worker, Aaron, who betrays her so that he can take credit for developing the treatment himself and advance within the company. Upon learning that Sophia is pregnant with his child, Aaron rejects her a second time and declares he will not support her or the baby. Sophia retreats to her mother’s house as news of her discovery (attributed to Aaron) becomes public. She finally confronts Aaron in the corporation’s offices and reveals herself to their colleagues as the one who actually developed the fertility treatment. Sophia’s water breaks and she is rushed to the hospital to give birth to a baby girl, who she will now raise on her own. Years later, Sophia is awarded the Nobel Prize for her fertility treatment.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

After a long and difficult labor, Sophia holds her newborn daughter in her arms for the first time and delivers a message of comfort to both of them. She promises the child, and thereby resolves to herself, that although she will be a single parent, she will provide her daughter with as much love as could two parents.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Sophia is both highly intelligent and deeply empathetic. As an Asian-American woman in science, she has had to work incredibly hard to achieve the success that she has found so far; however, she cares about the needs of others as much as she cares about her own. Her head and her heart are often in competition with each other, but at the end of the day she is able to maintain a perfect balance of both. Playing Age: 25-35. Vocal Range: Mezzo with a Solid Belt, A3 to E5.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The emphasis here is definitely on expressiveness above all else - feel free to take a lot of liberties and make the song your own, especially with regard to specific rhythms, adding riffs, optioning up or down, etc. The intro in particular is very free, and should be as close to speech as possible, with just a vague sense of the notes and rhythms. Have fun with the way the song builds: the change from straight to swung eighths at m. 39 brings us into more of a pop/jazz/musical theatre style, which may warrant a subtle change in vocal style, e.g. more of a belt than a mix on the higher notes. From there, it really just keeps building until m. 126, and after that we’re back to a softer, gentler tone - those high notes at the end are definitely in a mixier territory!