

THE *Lotte Senya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“The Second Time Around” from *Women on Love: A Theatrical Song Cycle* *Music and lyrics by Katya Stanislavskaya*

SHOW SYNOPSIS

“The Second Time Around” is from *Women on Love: A Theatrical Song Cycle*. The song cycle tracks different kinds of love. Each of the performers has a loose arc connecting their songs. The character who sings this song goes through divorce, single parenthood, and then finds a second chance at romantic love. This is the final song of this character’s arc and happens late in the song cycle.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

During “The Second Time Around,” the character is getting ready for her second wedding. She takes note of how different her preparations are from her first wedding. She is alone, but can see other people through a window, including her children and her husband-to-be. The character begins afraid to let down her guard, and hides behind rationalizations. Over the course of the song, she discovers the positives of “the second time around,” and finally lets herself be vulnerable to the “irrational” feelings of love, excitement, and hope.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

The character is in her 30’s or beyond. She has spent a lot of time building walls around herself, after having been hurt. She prides herself on being strong and independent. She is also terrified of being hurt again. Her self-deprecating sense of humor gets her through hard times. Behind her rationalizations and jokes lies a need to love and trust again.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The majority of the song should be conversational. The singer can feel free to make the rhythms more natural than what’s on the page. It’s important to follow the punctuation and phrasing. The singer should find varying vocal colors for moments of doubt, confidence, humor, and vulnerability.