

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“The Waiting World” from *After Anatevka* *Music by Will Reynolds, lyrics by Eric Price*

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Based on the novel by Alexandra Silber, the story begins after the events of the classic Broadway musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. It focuses on the life of Hodel as she travels to the outer reaches of Siberia to reunite with her fiancé Perchik, who is imprisoned there in a work camp.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

Before Hodel arrives, we meet Perchik, who has been secretly working to publish an underground Socialist newspaper and is now in the early stages of planning an escape.

To do so, he needs to enlist the help of Dmitry, a fellow prisoner, who is a sensitive cellist, not an aspiring revolutionary. But Perchik realizes that his plan will only work with Dmitry’s help and seeks to inspire the young man to take political action.

The two men have arranged to meet near a crumbling wall on a remote edge of the prison camp. From their vantage point, they are able to see the horizon, beyond which lies a world that can be remade, if only they can get there.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Perchik’s age range is from early-20s to early-30s. He is a lifelong student who isn’t afraid of new ideas or traditions that must be changed. He has an outspoken bravery, but is also capable of charm, tenderheartedness, and wry humor. While he has exhibited revolutionary ideals for his entire life, his love for Hodel has helped him understand that the purpose of revolution is not to tear down the past, but to build a better world for the future. Vocal range: Baritone, C2 – F#4

PERFORMANCE NOTES

“The Waiting World” was written for promotional events associated with the publication of the novel *After Anatevka* by Alexandra Silber. Additional research into the world of the story can be achieved through study of the novel (this song, in particular, was inspired by the chapter entitled “The People Matter”) and by an understanding of *Fiddler on the Roof* and the character of Perchik. Keep your eyes and ears open for hidden allusions to *Fiddler* in the music and lyrics of “The Waiting World.” And bear in mind that the relevance of Perchik’s advocacy for action extends far beyond his given time and place. We all have the potential to change the world.