

The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret

based on Alice Gerstenberg's play, *Overtones*

libretto and music
Leanna Kirchoff

SCENE 1

As the lights come up, Harriet Goodrich fixes last minute details around her luxurious apartment while she waits the arrival of an acquaintance, Margaret Caldwell. Harriet's clothes and surroundings suggest she is a wealthy woman, between 33-40 years of age. She wears a "jealous" green outfit. Harriet sits on a couch in the middle of the room arranging the elegant tea set and plate of pastries sitting on the coffee table in front of her. She straightens the napkins and the placement of the cups. She gets up to observe the various knick-knacks around the room, and adjust anything slightly out of place.

Harriet moves upstage to look at herself in a large mirror. Instead of seeing her reflection, Hetty appears, Harriet's inner self. (The mirror should be either a free-standing, or a hanging full-length mirror, large enough for Hetty to emerge from, and in full view of the audience.) Hetty is dressed similarly to Harriet, but in a darker shade. (It should be clear that Harriet and Hetty look alike, rather than giving the impression that Hetty is some kind of ghost.) Hetty is Harriet's unpredictable and unknown subconscious. Hetty is emotive and mercurial in comparison to Harriet's calm demeanor. She can be childish at one moment and devilish in the next.

Duet: "The Ballad of Mrs. Goodrich"

exact range
tessitura

appassionato ♩ = 92 rit. ----- appassionato rit. -----

Hetty

Harriet

Piano

f *p* *f* *p*

ped.


andante, with much rubato ♩ = 84

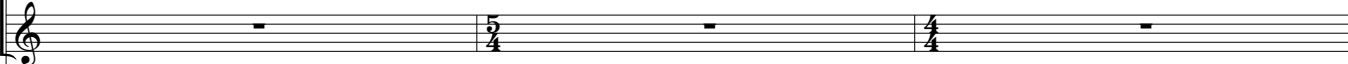
6


p

(Hetty sings to Harriet, looking at her through the mirror.)

10 *mf*

Hetty 
Oh, Har-ri-et you are so beau - ti - ful to - day.

Harr. 

pp 

13 (flippantly)

Hetty 
Suits me.

Harr. *mp* 
Am I pre-sen-ta-ble Het-ty? I've tried to make the best of my



17 a little more moving ♩=92

Hetty 
My pas-sions are deep-er

Harr. 
— good points.



21

Hetty

deep-er than yours, _____ I can't put on the mask, _____ the mask _____ like you do. _____

Harr.

f *p* *mf* *pp*

24

Hetty

_____ I am crude, _____ and _____ real. _____ You are my _____ ap - pear - ance _____ in the _____

Harr.

sub. f

slowing down ----- ♩ = 84

28

Hetty

_____ world. _____

Harr.

I am _____ what you wish the world to believe you are.

mp *p*

Harriet - a little slower tempo

Hetty - a little quicker tempo ♩ = 92

♩ = 84

32

Hetty

You are the part of me _____ that has _____ been trained _____

Harr.

I am your ed - u - cat - ed _____

quicker tempo again

f (passionately)

35

Hetty

I am the rush - ing riv - er; you are the ice, _____ the

Harr.

_____ self _____

38

Hetty

ice _____ o - ver the cur-rent. *mp*

Harr.

I am your sub - tle o - ver-

41

Hetty *f* I'm crude _____

Harr. tones. _____

(rumbly and turbulent)

ff

D

Detailed description: This system covers measures 41 to 43. Hetty's vocal line starts at measure 41 with a rest, then enters at measure 42 with the lyrics 'I'm crude'. Harr.'s vocal line has a rest in measure 41 and enters at measure 42 with the lyrics 'tones.'. The piano accompaniment features a 'rumbly and turbulent' texture, marked *ff*. It includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 42 and a quintuplet in measure 43. The key signature has one flat, and the time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/4 between measures 42 and 43.

44

Hetty *mf* and real. _____ You are my _____ ap - pear - ance

Harr. *mf* You are my _____ ap - pear - ance

Detailed description: This system covers measures 44 to 46. Hetty's vocal line has the lyrics 'and real.' in measure 44 and 'You are my appearance' in measure 45. Harr.'s vocal line has the lyrics 'You are my appearance' in measure 45. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar texture, marked *mf*. It features a quintuplet in measure 45 and a sextuplet in measure 46. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/4 between measures 45 and 46.

rit. ----- tempo andante

47

Hetty *f* in the world, in the world. _____

Harr. *f* in the world, in the world. _____

Detailed description: This system covers measures 47 to 49. Hetty's vocal line has the lyrics 'in the world, in the world.' in measure 47. Harr.'s vocal line has the lyrics 'in the world, in the world.' in measure 47. The piano accompaniment is marked *f* and includes a quintuplet in measure 47. The tempo marking changes from 'rit.' to 'tempo andante' between measures 47 and 48. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 between measures 48 and 49.