

music by:

KEVIN WILT

text by:

CAITLIN VINCENT

MODERN MUSE

female voice and violoncello

WHISTLING VINE MUSIC

MODERN MUSE

female voice and violoncello

MODERN MUSE marks my second collaboration with poet Caitlin Vincent, who sent me these wonderful poems shortly after our first. Although these songs have a wide emotional range, they are cabaret songs that never take themselves too seriously, which made them fun to write.

The songs tell familiar tales of women from ancient Greek mythology, but from a fun, colorful, and contemporary angle. As was traditional in the music from ancient Greece, the lyre would accompany the singer heterophonically, doubling the same music underneath the voice, with a little bit of variation. I have hinted at this same relationship between singer and string accompaniment, especially in the first and last songs, before venturing into different textures.

KEVIN WILT

For more information about this piece or any others written by Kevin Wilt,

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www.kevinwilt.com

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Approximate Duration is 15:00

MODERN MUSE

CAITLIN VINCENT

KEVIN WILT

I. Daphne

Nonchalant $\text{♩} = 63$

Voice

Violoncello

p

4

p

There are worse things to be... Than a tree.

8

There are worse ways to go... If I could go.

12

a piacere

If these roots were made for walk-ing. Why, oh why did he have to

16

chase me? Why could-'nt he leaf me a-lone?

41 *mp* **3**

Still, _____ I sup-

mp

44 **Slower** ♩ = 58 *p*

pose... There are worse things to be... _____ Than a tree. _____

p dolce

49 **a piacere**

The sun is warm. _____ The neigh-bors seem nice. _____ And I've al-ways want-ed a

p

54 **rit.** . . .

view _____ of the riv - er. _____

II. Medusa

Slow Tango ♩ = 88

Voice

Violoncello

4 False confidence

21

os-i-ty. You're long-ing to know. Is it true what they say?

overly confident *cresc.*

25

My face... my hair. Is it true?

f *sul pont. even gliss.*

29

Ssssss. Just turn your head. And you'll know. Take a peek. And you'll know. If I'm

mf *pushing* *pizz.* *III* *IV* *sim.* *pp* *mf*

33

beau-ti-ful. Sss - sen - su - al. Sss - se - duc - tive.

desperate *f* **Regaining composure**

37

If I'm ev'-ry-thing they said I would be.

mf

41

Don't be a - fraid. Just turn your head.

arco

45

mp crazy eyes chest voice:
Fall in-to my gaze. I sul pont. even gliss.

mp

Intensifying

49

ord: p cresc. *mf desperate*
Then you'll see. Then you'll know. That's right. Just turn your head.

grad. → to ord.
pp cresc.

53

ff
Just turn your head and... Ssssssss.

ord. *f* *ff* biting *pizz.* *f*

III. Cassandra

Agitated ♩ = 124

Voice

I hate to say I told you so. I hate to say I saw this com-ing. I

arco, off the string

Violoncello

4

hate to say I tried to warn you. But I did. I did. I

7

hate to say I told you so. I hate to say I saw this com-ing. I hate to say I tried to warn you.

10

But I did. I did. I told all of you. But you would-n't

rit.
dim.

fp

13

lis-ten. Would-n't, could-n't o-pen your eyes to the truth.

mfp

16 **With sorrow** ♩ = 56

p

In-stead, you laughed at my warn-ings. Mocked___ my prem-o - ni-tions.

p

20

Called me neu-ro - tic, dra - mat - tic.____ "Cra-zy Cas - san - dra."____

23

mp

Id-i-ots. Fools! I told you that gi - ant horse___ was sus - pi-cious.

mp *cresc.*

rit.

Broadly ♩ = 50

f

Now, see___ what you'vedone. Watch as Troy_ burns to theground. Our

f

30

home, no-thing but death and ash-es. Be-cause of you. Be-cause of that

33

horse.

mf *f* *pesante*

rit. a tempo

37

Now, see_ what you've done. I_ tried_ to tell you_ Our

ff *mp* *ff* *f*

41 **Dying away**

home_____ is now lost for - ev - er. Be cause of you. Be-cause you

mp *pp*

44

would- n't, could - n't lis - ten._____

solo
mp espress.

47 **molto accel.** **rit.**

quasi cadenza

f *mp cantabile*

51 **Slowly** ♩ = 48

rit. **Freely**
p sotto voce 3

Why could-n't you lis - ten?_____

p

IV. Pandora

Devious ♩ = 76

Voice

p

Such a cun-ning lit-tle box. Such a pret-ty lit-tle thing.

Violoncello

p

5

It suits me per-fect - ly. _____ Don't you think?

sul pont. *p* ord. *p*

9

But he told me not to o-pen it. Told me to keep it shut.

13

spoken: sung:

Keep it closed. Keep it locked a-way. Or Gods know what will

sul pont. *p* sub. *p*

17 *mf* //

hap-pen. "Don't ar - gue or ask ques-tions. Don't wor-ry your pret-ty lit-tle

mf *p* *ord.*

21 *spoken, mocking:* *sub. f*

head," he said."Just smile and lis-ten and nev-er o-pen the box. Nev-er o-pen it.

p *f* *sul pont.* *ord.*

25 *spoken:*

For the sake of all man kind." Ha! How dra - ma-tic.

p *mf* *sul pont.*

29 *mf sung:* **Dramatico**

How o-ver the top op - pres-sive! "O - bey," he says, "o - sul pont.

p *mf* *V* *3*

33 *f*

bey," But who is he to or - der me?

37 *ff*

My life is my own. My choi-ces are mine to make.

grad. → to ord.
cresc. *ff*

42 *f* **G.P.**

No mat-ter the price. No mat-ter the cost!

ord. *f*

48 **a tempo** ♩ = 76 *p*

Be - sides, it would be a shame.

pizz. *p*

54 *hypnotized, sotto voce*

Nev-er to o-pen such a love-ly lit-tle box.

arco
sul pont

pp cresc.

60 **Stringendo**

Such a spe-cial, cun-ning lit-tle thing.

mp

65 *mf* eyes widening...

See how it shim-mers in the light.

mf cresc.

grad. -> to ord.

69 **Tense**

I've nev-er seen an-y-thing like it... I won-der what's in side...?

f *ff*

spoken:

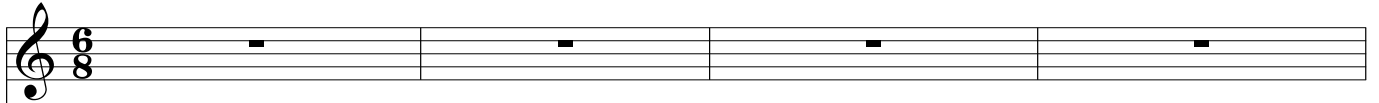
ord.

f *ff*

V. Persephone

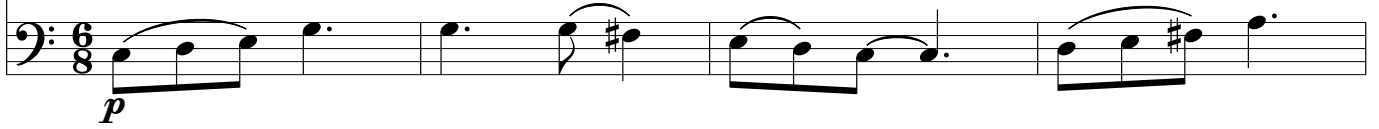
Gently ♩ = 56

Voice



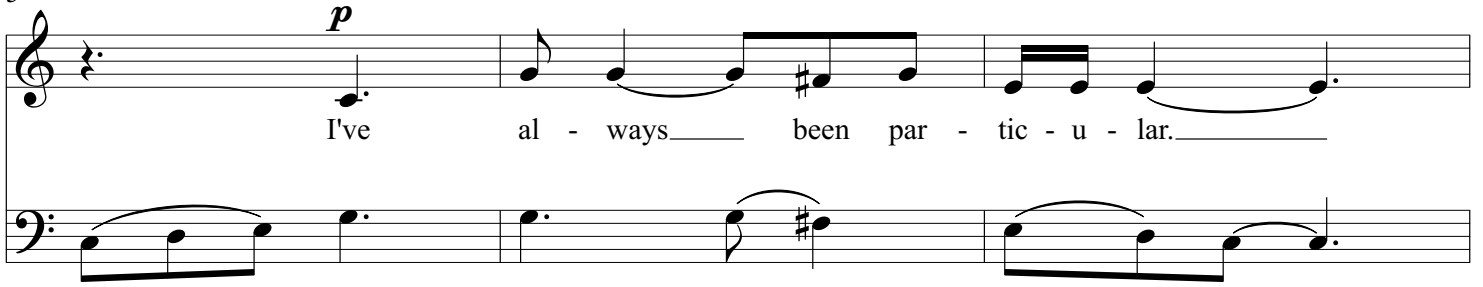
Four measures of a voice staff in 6/8 time, each containing a whole rest.

Violoncello



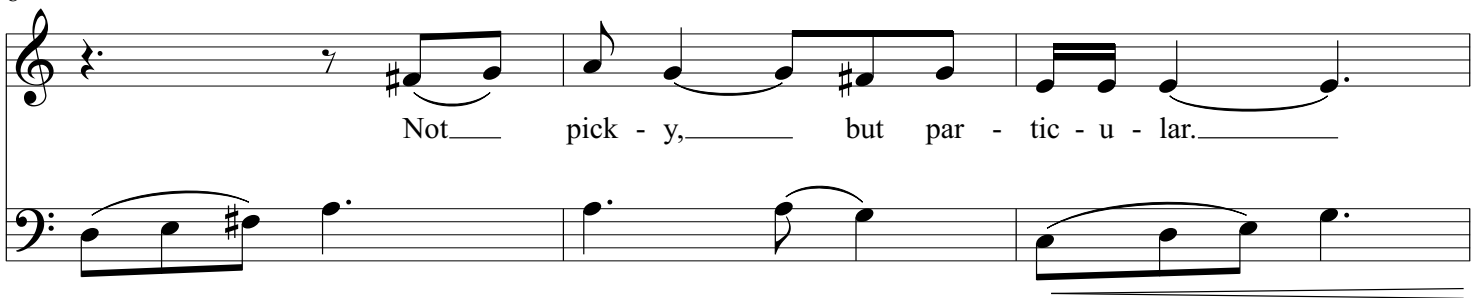
Four measures of a cello staff in 6/8 time. The first measure starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The notes are: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3.

5



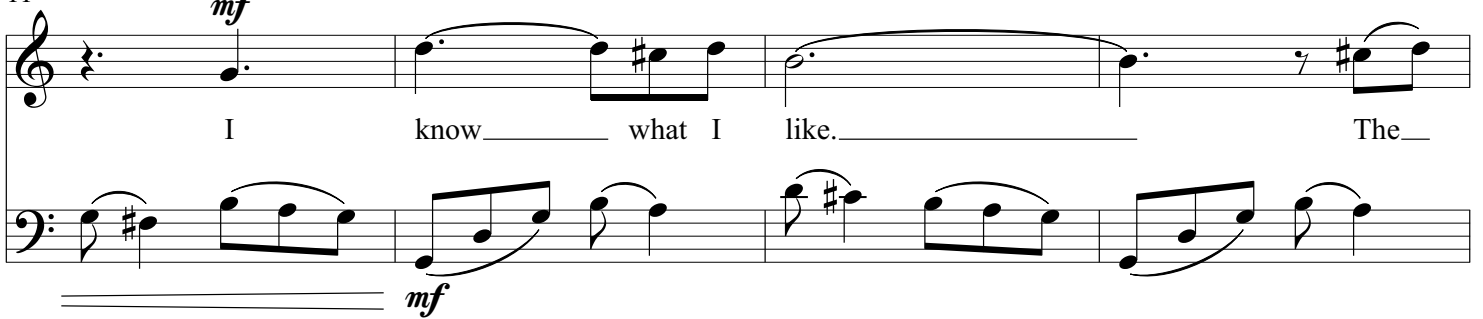
Musical system 5. Voice staff: *p* I've al - ways been par - tic - u - lar. Cello staff continues with notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3.

8



Musical system 8. Voice staff: Not pick - y, but par - tic - u - lar. Cello staff continues with notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3.

11



Musical system 11. Voice staff: *mf* I know what I like. The Cello staff continues with notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3.

15



Musical system 15. Voice staff: smell of the sun. The Cello staff continues with notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3.

18

sound of the wind. The taste of the rain

23

rush-ing through the fields of wheat. I know what I like.

28

What I love. And I

poco rit.

31 **L'istesso tempo** ♩. = ♩

know what I dont. I

Bitter, slightly slower ♩ = 52

35

don't like the dark. The cold. Or the dead. I don't like the taste.

40 *pp sotto voce*

of pom - e - gran - ates. So I don't un - der - stand how it

pp 3

44

hap - pened. How or why I tast - ed those six lit - tle seeds. Those

48 *p cantabile* *mp*

six lit - tle blood - red seeds. An ab - sent - mind - ed

p 3 *mp*

53

slip of the tooth. And now I'm

58 *mf*

Queen of the dark. Queen of the cold and the dead.

mf

63 *dim.*

Queen of the Un-der - world. Wife to Ha - des him - self.

mp

68 *p* *mp*

I know what I like. What I love

pp *mp*

73 *p* *rit.* *a piacere*

and what I don't. But it's fun - ny...

pp

78 **Affectionately** ♩. = 56 *pp* *sotto voce*

Some- times when he smiles, I can

pp

82 *mp* *mf* **Stronger**

al - most smell the sun. Some - times when he

mp *mf*

86

laughs, I can al - most hear the wind.

f

90 **Passionately** *ff*

Some - times when he kis - ses me,

ff

93 *rit.*

his lips taste just like the rain.

dim.

97 **Slower** ♩ = 50
mp

Some - times. I al-most for - get I hate

p mp p

102 **a piacere** **rit.** . . .

pom-e-gran-ates.

mp

107 **Meno** ♩ = 46 **lunga**

Some - times. Some - times.

pp