



When Dragons Come to Play

Ashley Hastings

Revised October 2024

“It is by such statements as, ‘Once upon a time there was a dragon,’ or ‘In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit’ - it is by such beautiful non-facts that we fantastic human beings may arrive, in our peculiar fashion, at the truth.”

—Ursula K. Le Guin

When Dragons Come to Play

Ashley Hastings
Opus 3

A Chamber Opera in One Act

Commissioned by Cascadia Chamber Opera

Revised October 2024

Story, libretto, and music by Ashley Hastings.

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CHARACTERS

Olivia

Soprano

Olivia is an 11- or 12-year-old girl who loves opera. She is an avid reader and a budding musician, with keyboard and singing talents. She is intellectually and emotionally mature for her age, and is sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of others.

Lucas

Mezzo-soprano or Countertenor

Lucas is Olivia's younger brother. Like his sister, Lucas loves to read. He has a lively imagination and is always ready for adventure. He is quick to anger if he perceives any slights against himself or his sister, but he is a kind and loving child.

SheeSHAHzhah

Soprano

SheeSHAHzhah is a young dragon girl, around the same age as Lucas. She is assertive, clever, a bit vain, and curious about everything.

FAHfeenar

Mezzo-soprano or Countertenor

FAHfeenar is SheeSHAHzhah's older brother, around the same age as Olivia. He is quick to understand new concepts and has an air of leadership.

INSTRUMENTATION

Piano

Chimes (concealed behind the set)

Electric keyboard (on stage)

THE STORY

The family of Olivia and Lucas has just moved into a new house. Much of their furniture and other belongings are being delivered today. Their parents have set up a playroom to keep Olivia and Lucas safely occupied while the movers carry furniture and boxes into the other rooms of the house.

While investigating the playroom, Olivia and Lucas inadvertently sing a magic formula that causes a magic door to open in the closet. Two young dragons emerge. After initial doubt and confusion, the four young beings accept each other as friends. They exchange information about their lives, with lively discussions and explorations of flying, anatomy, and other topics, including books, music, legends, family trips, soccer, and marshmallows.

When the dragons try to return home, they find that the magic door has closed. Olivia and Lucas manage to reopen the magic door and the dragons exit. On impulse, Lucas decides to give the dragons his soccer ball. He follows them, but then the magic door closes again with him on the other side. Olivia is unable to reopen the door by herself; but she enlists the aid of children in the audience, who sing the magic formula with her. The magic door opens again and Lucas returns home, safe and sound.

LIBRETTO

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Scene: a playroom furnished with toys, games, books, a music keyboard, etc. There are two doors, both closed, in the back wall: one is to a hallway; the other is a closet.

The hall door opens. Olivia and Lucas enter. They take a step into the room and stop. They stare around in delighted astonishment.

Olivia Wow!

Lucas Wow! What a wonderful playroom!

Olivia I love our new house!

Olivia Here are puzzles we can do.

Lucas Have we done them before?

Olivia No, they are new. Here are games of every kind. Here is a checker board.

Lucas I'll play with every toy I find! Here is a pirate sword! "For... I am a Pirate King! And it is, it is a glorious thing to be a Pirate King!"

Olivia And look! A keyboard that I can play! I'll practice my music every day! "Let's put on our dancing pants and do a funny little dance! right foot first, left foot then, round about and back again."

Lucas And look, Olivia, look! A shelf full of books!

Olivia A wonderful sight to see! Books for you, and books for me!

Lucas Story books...

Olivia ...and science books. Picture books...

Lucas ...and coloring books.

Olivia Books that take us to faraway places that we've never seen.

Lucas I want to read them all.

**Olivia,
Lucas**

I want to read them all.

Olivia

And look, Lucas, look! A dragon book!

Lucas

I love dragons! Let me see!

Olivia

My teacher always says: "Books open many doors that lead to places you've never seen before." So I've read a lot of books, and I'm gonna read more. A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Lucas

Learning new things is what a book is for.

**Olivia,
Lucas**

A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Lucas opens the dragon book. Chimes are heard from the closet.

Lucas and Olivia look at each other in confusion. Cautiously, they approach the closet door and open it.

FAHfeenar and SheeSHAHzhah slowly emerge from the closet. Humans and dragons eye each other warily.

Lucas

Who are you?

SheeSHAHzhah

I am SheeSHAHzhah.

FAHfeenar

I am FAHfeenar, her brother.

SheeSHAHzhah

Who are you?

Lucas

I am Lucas.

Olivia

I am Olivia, his sister. How did you get in here?

FAHfeenar

We heard a beautiful sound...

SheeSHAHzhah

...and a magic door opened in front of us.

FAHfeenar

And we came through the door, and found ourselves here.

SheeSHAHzhah

Where are we?

Olivia You are in our house!

FAHfeenar What is a house?

Lucas It's where we live!

SheeSHAHzhah So this is your cave?

Olivia No, it's not a cave!

Lucas We don't live in a cave!

FAHfeenar Everybody we know lives in a cave!

Olivia Where are you guys from?

Lucas And why do you look like dragons?

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** We are dragons.

**Olivia,
Lucas** Dragons!

SheeSHAHzhah And I don't mean to be rude, but what exactly are you?

**Olivia,
Lucas** We are children.

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** We are children too. But what kind of children are you?

**Olivia,
Lucas** We are human children.

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** Human children?

FAHfeenar I never heard of humans!

SheeSHAHzhah I thought only dragons could talk.

FAHfeenar Are you sure you're not dragons too?

Lucas Silly question! Of course we're sure!

Olivia Lucas, Lucas, something amazing has happened! You opened a dragon book, and dragons appeared!

Lucas But are you really dragons? Can you fly?

FAHfeenar You ask, are we dragons

SheeSHAHzhah You ask, can we fly?

FAHfeenar If we could take you home with us...

SheeSHAHzhah ...you would see with your own eyes...

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** ...how dragons fly!

Oh, dragons go flying, dragons go flying, dragons go flying, up
in the sky. Higher than tree tops, higher than hill tops, higher
than mountains, higher than high! We sing as we fly. Our
voices are strong! The air is alive with dragon song! We fly in
the night, with the Moon and the stars, and gaze at the
beauty of Venus and Mars!

Lucas It must be fun to fly!

Olivia I wish that I could fly!

**Olivia,
Lucas** I'd spend a lot of time up in the sky!

Lucas And wouldn't it be cool if we could fly to school!

**Olivia,
Lucas** The other kids would not believe their eyes!

Olivia And if I wanted to cross the street, but the traffic light was
red, I wouldn't have to wait for the light to turn green, I'd fly
across instead.

Lucas And if I wanted to take a trip to Germany or Spain, I wouldn't
have to sail on an ocean ship, or buy a ticket on a big jet
plane. I'd just fly through the air, and pretty soon I'd be
there!

Olivia And if I got tired of flying around, I'd fly to a tree, high above
the ground, and sit on a branch, and take a little rest, and
count the eggs in a robin's nest.

**Olivia,
Lucas** I wish that I could fly. It must be fun to fly.

SheeSHAHzhah Oh, you poor things! Poor things!

FAHfeenar You'll never get off the ground with those skinny little wings.

SheeSHAHzhah No matter how hard you flap them, they are useless for flying.

FAHfeenar Look, SheSHAHzhah! Their wings look like bones.

Lucas These are not wings! They are arms!

SheeSHAHzhah Look, FAHfeenar! There are knobs on their arms.

Olivia These are not knobs! They are hands!

FAHfeenar Why are there wiggly worms on your hands?

Lucas These are not worms! They are fingers!

SheeSHAHzhah And what is wrong with your feet? They look awful!

Lucas Why are you so rude?

Olivia You can't even see my feet! I'm wearing shoes and socks. I'll take them off so you can see that my feet are perfectly normal!

FAHfeenar Look, look, look! She has fingers on her feet!

Lucas No, you stupid dragon, no! Those are toes! Toes! Toes!

Olivia Fingers on my feet! Fingers on my feet! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha! You dragons are so funny!

Lucas But they are rude!

Olivia Come on, Lucas! Don't be in an ugly mood! FAHfeenar and SheSHAHzhah have never seen anyone who looks like us.

SheeSHAHzhah, FAHfeenar That's right. That's right.

Olivia I don't think they're trying to be mean, or cause a fuss.

SheeSHAHzhah, FAHfeenar That's right. That's right.

SheeSHAHzhah We're just trying to understand arms, and toes, and fingers, and hands.

Olivia And I must admit, it's kind of neat to find out what dragons think of my feet!

(ALL) Ha ha! Ha ha! Ha ha! Ha ha!

SheeSHAHzhah Now that I've had a chance to look twice, I think that your feet look very nice.

(ALL) Ha ha! Ha ha! Ha ha! Ha ha!

Olivia I will explain so you understand why we have fingers, arms, and hands. We need them to do the things humans do. Does that make sense to you?

Lucas For example, I use my hands to catch a ball. I use my fingers to tie my shoes. I use my arms to hug my friends, and hug my sister, too.

FAHfeenar At first, I wondered why you don't have wings, but now I understand why. With arms and hands and fingers, you can do many things, but you never need to fly.

SheeSHAHzhah Dragons have to fly, so our wings must be strong, and our tails keep us balanced as we fly along.

Lucas But, there's one thing you still haven't said: why do you have horns on your head?

FAHfeenar I don't know any explanation.

SheeSHAHzhah I think they are just decoration.

Lucas And now, I really hope you'll show us how you fly!

Olivia Yes, we want to see you fly!

**Olivia,
Lucas** Please fly! Please fly! Please fly!

FAHfeenar We'd love to show you how we fly, but this space is too small.

SheeSHAHzhah We would bump into the ceiling and bump into the walls!

FAHfeenar We need to go outside, under the open sky.

SheeSHAHzhah And then, we will fly,...

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** ...fly, fly!

Lucas Let's go! Let's go! Let's go let's go let's go!

Olivia No no! No no! No, Lucas, no!

Lucas But why? Why? Why, Olivia, why?

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** Don't you want to see us fly?

Olivia Our parents get quite upset whenever they see a mouse. What will they do if they see dragons in the house? I don't think they'll say: "Have a nice day. We're so glad you dragons have come to play."

Lucas Now I understand what you're worried about. Our mother would scream. Our father would shout. And then they would put our dragons out. Out of the house.

**Olivia,
Lucas** Out of the house.

FAHfeenar We understand.

SheeSHAHzhah We understand. You don't want to give your parents a scare.

FAHfeenar So of course we will not go out there. And tell you the truth, If we took you home with us, our parents would be terrified.

SheeSHAHzhah Our father would say: "Why have you brought these awful creatures into our cave?"

FAHfeenar Our mother would say: "They have bony wings, with knobs on their tips, and wiggling worms on the knobs!"

Lucas And fingers on our feet!

(ALL) Ha ha! Ha ha!

Olivia I'm sorry that we won't get to see you dragons fly. But we don't have to stand here and hang our heads and cry. We still can enjoy our day. This is a playroom, so let's play!

Lucas What would you dragons like to do first?

SheeSHAHzhah I have no idea!

FAHfeenar We don't know what these things are, or what you do with them.

Lucas Let's start with a puzzle then.

Olivia Good idea!

SheeSHAHzhah What is a puzzle?

Olivia A puzzle is a picture that is cut into pieces.

FAHfeenar What is a picture?

- Lucas** For example, there's a picture of a mountain on the lid of this puzzle box.
- SheeSHAHzhah** Oh look, FAHfeenar, look! It really looks like a mountain!
- FAHfeenar** The way a mountain looks when you see it from far away!
- Lucas** Haven't you dragons ever seen a picture before?
- Olivia** Think, Lucas! Think! Where do pictures come from? They don't grow on trees! People make pictures, with pencils, brushes, cameras, or computers.
- Lucas** Using fingers, which dragons don't have! Of course, now I see! How silly of me!
- FAHfeenar**
SheeSHAHzhah We dragons don't have pictures, but we have good memories. A dragon can remember anything a dragon sees.
- FAHfeenar** And after I see a mountain, I always find I can still see that mountain in my mind.
- SheeSHAHzhah** I remember so many beautiful sights. Last summer, our parents took us on a flight to the valley where they fell in love. It was gorgeous when seen from above. There were mountains and lakes, and a high waterfall, and a rainbow arching over all, and a pretty pink baby unicorn with a blue butterfly perched on its horn. I have no pictures that my eyes can see, but I see them in my heart. That's enough for me.
- FAHfeenar** Tell us about these other things. This thing with a hole... what is it for?
- Olivia** It's a board we use in a beanbag game.
- SheeSHAHzhah** Can you show us how to play?
- Lucas** You toss a beanbag at the board. You try to toss it in the hole. If it goes in the hole, you get three points. If it stays on the board, you get one point. If it falls on the floor, you get nothing at all.
- FAHfeenar** This reminds me of a kicking game that we played one time with our cousins. It was two years ago at a family reunion, on a tropical island in a tropical sea. Our parents were there, and our uncles, and our aunts, and dozens of cousins who came to sing and dance. There were coconut palm trees growing all around, and hundreds of coconuts lying on the ground. And one by one, just for fun, we started kicking coconuts around.

We were kicking coconuts! kicking coconuts! Kicking coco
kicking coco kicking coconuts!

(ALL) Kicking coconuts! Kicking coconuts! Kicking coco kicking coco
kicking coconuts!

Lucas brings out a soccer ball.

FAHfeenar Then, an idea came to me. We could kick coconuts at a tree!
And we counted all the coconuts that hit the tree. And my
sister SheeSHAHzhah was the coconut kicking champion of
the family!

We were kicking coconuts! kicking coconuts! Kicking coco
kicking coco kicking coconuts!

Lucas kicks the soccer ball to the others.

(ALL) Kicking coconuts! Kicking coconuts! Kicking coco kicking coco
kicking coconuts! Kicking coco kicking coco kicking coconuts!

Olivia Let's have a change of pace. Lucas, maybe our friends would
like to see the dragon book.

SheeSHAHzhah What is a book?

Lucas This is a book.

FAHfeenar What is that horrible picture?

Lucas It's supposed to be a dragon.

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** No! No!

SheeSHAHzhah No dragon ever looked like that!

FAHfeenar It's an insult!

SheeSHAHzhah It makes me angry!

Olivia Lucas, why don't you read for our friends! Read the first page.
Read it aloud.

FAHfeenar How do you read?

Lucas You look at the words on the page.

SheeSHAHzhah What is a page?

Lucas This is a page.

FAHfeenar How can words be on a page?

SheeSHAHzhah I don't hear any words!

Lucas The words are made of letters.

SheeSHAHzhah What are letters?

Lucas These are letters.

FAHfeenar They look like tiny bugs!

SheeSHAHzhah What words are these letters saying?

Lucas Dragons are imaginary monsters.

SheeSHAHzhah Oh, FAHfeenar! You are such a horrible monster!

FAHfeenar It's a good thing I'm only imaginary.

Lucas The roar of a dragon is a terrible sound.

SheeSHAHzhah Roar. Roar. Roar, roar, roar, roar, roar.

FAHfeenar Oh, SheeSHAHzha! You are scary!

Lucas Dragons eat human children for breakfast.

SheeSHAHzhah Now I think I'm gonna barf!

FAHfeenar Barf, barf!

Olivia It just goes to show that you can't believe every thing you read.

Lucas When I grow up I'm gonna write a book about real dragons! I know more about dragons than the guy who wrote this book. 'Cause I have two friends who are real, real dragons, and I know how they sound and look. Real dragons are friendly and fun. They would never hurt anyone. Real dragons are not scary. Scary dragons are only imaginary. When I grow up I'm gonna write a book about real dragons! I know more about dragons than the guy who wrote this book. 'Cause I have two friends who are real, real dragons, and I love how they sound and look.

SheeSHAHzhah What is this thing with the black and white teeth?

Olivia That is my keyboard.

FAHfeenar What is it for?

Olivia It's for music!

Olivia plays the opening measures of the overture to Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel.

SheeSHAHzhah Beautiful!

FAHfeenar This thing sings!

SheeSHAHzhah I never imagined that a thing could sing!

FAHfeenar It must be magic!

Olivia Yes, music is magic! It fills my life with joy! And my favorite kind of music is opera!

FAHfeenar What is opera?

Olivia An opera is a story that is told with music, dramatic acting, and singing, beautiful singing! The music I just played is from my favorite opera: Hansel and Gretel.

Olivia plays more of the overture while singing.

Olivia Gretel is a girl, and Hansel is her brother. They live in a house with their father and their mother. They get into terrible danger together and save themselves by being clever.

Lucas Olivia! Now play the dance! The Hansel and Gretel dance!

Olivia plays and sings, while Lucas dances and the dragons imitate him.

Olivia Let's put on our dancing pants and do a funny little dance! Right foot first, left foot then, round about and back again. Dancing is a lot of fun! Lots of fun for everyone. Everyone is

watching you, and you know just what to do! With your feet go tap tap tap! With your hands go clap clap clap! Tap and clap, and you'll see, it's as easy as can be!

FAHfeenar

We dragons have no opera.

SheeSHAHzhah

But we do have legends that we sing.

FAHfeenar

Our legends are stories that explain...

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar**

...how the world began.

Olivia

I would love to hear a legend!

Lucas

Me too!

SheeSHAHzhah

Let's sing the one about the mother dragon!

FAHfeenar

That's my favorite one!

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar**

Back when the world was new, the Mother of All Dragons was flying over a lake. And the Mother of All Dragons looked down at the lake and saw her own reflection in the water of the lake. And the Mother of All Dragons shouted down to her reflection: "Fly up to me, and be my child!"

And the reflection became a baby dragon, and flew up from the lake, and joined the Mother of All Dragons in the sky, and became her child.

And the Mother of All Dragons took the baby dragon home to her cave. And the baby dragon said: "Mother, I will freeze in this cold, dark cave. You must fly down to the forest, and gather firewood, and make a fire to keep me warm."

So, the Mother of All Dragons found some firewood. And the baby dragon said: "Mother, you need fire to make the wood burn. You must fly down to the lake, where the sun shines on the water, and drink the warm sunlight that sparkles on the water."

And the Mother of All Dragons drank the sparkling sunlight. And she felt fire in her belly. And she flew back to her cave, and blew fire on the wood and made it burn.

Lucas

Can you really breathe fire?

SheeSHAHzhah

Of course!

FAHfeenar Shall we show you?
Lucas Oh yes, please do!
Olivia No! Do you want to burn our new house down?
SheeSHAHzhah We have very good control of the flame.
FAHfeenar In fact, that's how we cook our food.
SheeSHAHzhah It's perfectly safe.
Olivia Then I have an idea!

Olivia runs out of the room.

FAHfeenar Lucas what is your sister doing?
Lucas She is full of good ideas, so I bet we're in for a treat!
SheeSHAHzhah What kind of treat?
FAHfeenar What kind of treat?
Lucas Maybe something to eat!
SheeSHAHzhah That would be good!
FAHfeenar What will it be?

Olivia rushes back into the room, carrying a bag of marshmallows and four forks.

Olivia Marshmallows! Toasted marshmallows!
SheeSHAHzhah How do they taste?
Lucas Very sweet!
Olivia Lucas, take a fork in each hand. Stick a marshmallow on each fork. Then hold them up so a dragon can blow fire and toast them for us to eat.

Both Lucas and Olivia stick marshmallows on two forks.

FAHfeenar We will use our lowest setting.

SheeSHAHzhah The flame will be invisible...

FAHfeenar ...but hot enough to do the job.

Lucas and Olivia hold up the marshmallows and the dragons blow gently on them.

Olivia I think they should be done.

Lucas Let's try them!

Lucas and Olivia feed marshmallows to themselves and the dragons.

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** So sweet!

**Olivia,
Lucas** They like them!

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** So sweet! So sweet! So gooey and sweet! I have never tasted anything this sweet before! So sweet! So sweet! So sweet so sweet so sweet! So sweet! So sweet! So sweet!

**Olivia,
Lucas** We're glad you like them we're very very glad! So glad! So glad! So glad!

FAHfeenar I think it's time for us to go home.

Lucas So soon? What's the hurry?

SheeSHAHzhah Our parents don't know where we are, and we don't want them to worry.

Olivia Let me get my camera!

FAHfeenar What is a camera?

Lucas It's a thing that makes pictures.

Olivia Lucas, first I'll take you with the dragons. Smile! Dragons!
Smile!

Lucas Now I'll take one with you.

Olivia Let's see how they came out!

Everyone looks at the pictures on the camera.

FAHfeenar I've never seen a picture of myself before.

SheeSHAHzhah My horns are really pretty, aren't they?

Olivia Before you leave, I just want to say: I think we've all learned
a lot today.

Dragons and humans can be friends.

SheeSHAHzhah All kinds of children can be friends.

Lucas We all like to laugh, and sing, and play.

FAHfeenar We are the same, just in different ways.

(ALL) Dragons and humans can be friends. All kinds of children can
be friends. Let's hope that our friendship never ends.

Olivia And we hope you'll come back.

Lucas Come back real soon!

SheeSHAHzhah We would love to come back.

FAHfeenar We'll come back soon!

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** But for now.... Goodbye!

**Olivia,
Lucas** Goodbye, goodbye!

*The dragons enter the closet, then immediately rush out
again.*

SheeSHAHzhah Lucas! Olivia!

FAHfeenar The magic door is closed!

SheeSHAHzhah We can't go home!

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar** We can't live here! We will die here! Please open the magic door again!

Olivia Let's be calm. Lucas, remember, you opened the dragon book, and the magic door opened right away.

Lucas I'll open it now!

Lucas opens the dragon book. SheeSHAHzhah looks into the closet.

SheeSHAHzhah The magic door is still closed.

Lucas Olivia, remember, you sang a little song about a book and a key and a door, and the magic door opened right away.

Olivia I'll sing the song now, while you open the dragon book.

A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Lucas opens the dragon book. FAHfeenar looks into the closet.

FAHfeenar The magic door is still closed.

Olivia Lucas, remember, you sang the song with me, and the magic door opened right away.

Lucas Maybe one voice is not enough. Maybe we need two. This time I will sing with you.

**Olivia,
Lucas** A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Lucas opens the dragon book. The dragons look into the closet.

**SheeSHAHzhah,
FAHfeenar**

The magic door is open! Thank you! Thank you so much.

The dragons enter the closet.

Lucas

I'm gonna give them the soccer ball! I'll be right back!

Lucas grabs the soccer ball and dashes into the closet.

Olivia

Lucas is so generous and kind.

Let's put on our dancing pants and do a funny little dance!
right foot first, left foot then, round about and...

Lucas should be back by now.

Olivia goes to the closet and looks inside. She emerges in a panic.

Olivia

The magic door is closed! Lucas is gone! Lucas, Lucas, my dear brother! I must save him, I must save him! I must open the magic door again!

I must be calm.

A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

She opens the dragon book repeatedly.

I'll try singing louder and faster... A book is a magic key that opens a magic door! A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

I can't do it alone! One voice is not enough! How can I bring my brother home?

She looks out toward the audience.

One voice is not enough to open the magic door. I need some children to sing with me. Who will help? Great! Let's practice a couple of times.

Olivia,

Audience A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Olivia Now louder!

**Olivia,
Audience** A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Olivia Once more, with the book!

**Olivia,
Audience** A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Olivia opens the dragon book. The chimes are heard. Lucas emerges from the closet.

Olivia Lucas, Lucas, I'm so glad to see you!

Lucas Olivia! I saw dragons fly! Their parents were not at home, so FAHfeenar and SheeSHAHzhah took me outside, and they flew for me! And it was wonderful to see!

But, when I tried to come home, the magic door was gone, and I was afraid I was stuck there forever! I thought I would never see you, or Mom, or Dad again. There I was in a dragon cave, so scared! So scared!

Then the magic door opened in front of me. And I came through the door. But... how did you open the magic door? All by yourself, with only one voice?

Olivia I was not alone. These children helped me!**Lucas and Olivia face the audience.**

Lucas Thank you! Thank you so much.

**Olivia,
Lucas** When those dragons came to play, it was such a big surprise! We could not believe our eyes. What an amazing day!

Now when dragons come to play, we will know just what to do. And we hope to see you too, when dragons come to play!

SCORE

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*“But it is one thing to read about dragons
and another to meet them.”*

—Ursula K. Le Guin

When Dragons Come To Play

Story, words, and music by Ashley Hastings

Scene: a well-furnished playroom

1. The New Playroom

1

♩ = 60

The musical score is written for a 4/4 time signature in a key of three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). It features eight staves: Olivia, Lucas, SheSHAHzhah, FAHfeenar, Piano, Keyboard, Chimes, and Audience. The vocal parts (Olivia, Lucas, SheSHAHzhah, FAHfeenar) are currently silent, indicated by horizontal lines. The Piano part begins with a melody in the right hand, starting on a half note G4, moving to F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3. The left hand provides a simple accompaniment with a half note G3 in the first measure, followed by rests. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*). The Keyboard, Chimes, and Audience parts are also silent.

Piano score for measures 4-8. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats. Measure 4 starts with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' over a melodic line in the right hand. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*. A tempo marking of *rit.* and a tempo of $\text{♩} = 40$ are present. The score includes a repeat sign and a double bar line.

The hall door opens. Olivia and Lucas enter. They take a step into the room and stop. They stare around in delighted astonishment.

Vocal and piano score for measures 8-17. The tempo is $\text{♩} = 120$. The vocal parts for Olivia (O.) and Lucas (L.) enter with the lyrics "Wow!...". The piano accompaniment (Pno.) features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. The lyrics "Wow!... What a wonderful" are shown.

Vocal and piano score for measures 18-22. The tempo is $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$. The vocal parts continue with the lyrics "I love our new house!" and "play - room!". The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *f*. The lyrics "I love our new house!" and "play - room!" are shown.

28

O. Here are puzzles we can do.

L. Have we done them before?

Pno.

34

O. No, ——— they are new. Here are games of

Pno.

41

O. eve - ry kind. Here is a check - er board.

L. I'll play with eve - ry toy I find!

46

L. Here is a pi - rate sword! For... ——— I am a Pi - rate

Pno. *f* *mf*

**Lucas plays swordfighting while
Olivia cowers in mock fear.**

52

L. King! _____ And it is, it is a glo-ri-ous thing to

Pno.

57

O. _____ And look! A key-board that

L. be a Pi - rate King! _____

Pno. *sf* *mf*

$\text{♩} = 120$

62

O. I can play! I'll prac-tice my mu-sic eve-ry day!

Pno. *cresc.*

69 ♩ = 100

67 Olivia sits at the keyboard and plays.

f

Lucas dances.

O. Let's put on our dancing pants and

Pno. *(cresc.)* *ff*

Kbd. *mf* *mp*



73

O. do a fun-ny lit-tle dance! right foot first, left foot then, round a-bout and back a-gain.

Kbd.

83

79

L. *f*

Pno. *f*

Kbd. *mf*

And look, O-liv-i-a,

85

O. *f*

L.

Pno.

look! A shelf full of books!

A won-der-fulsight to see!

91

O.

L.

Pno. *mf*

Books for you, and books for me! and sci - ence books.

Sto - ry books

97

O. Pic-ture books Books that take us to far-a-way plac-es that we've nev-er

L. and color-ing books.

Pno. *mp*

102

O. seen. I want to read them all.

L. I want to read them all. I want to read them all.

Pno. *ff* *mf*

109 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

Lucas takes the dragon book.

O. And look, Lu-cas, look! A drag-on book!

L. I love drag-ons! Let me see!

Pno. *f*

117

O. My teach-er al-ways says: "Books o-penman-y doors that lead to

Pno. *ff* *mp* 8

124

O. plac - esyou've nev-erseenbe - fore." SoI've reada lotof books,andI'm gon-naread more.

Pno. 8


132


O. A book is a mag-ic key that o-pensa mag-ic door!

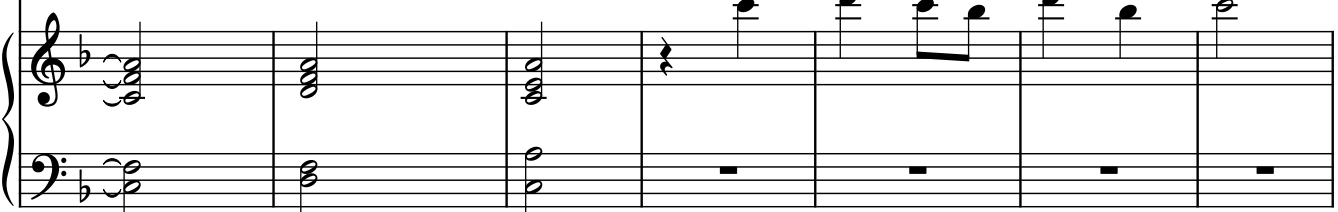
L. Learningnew

Pno.

141

O. 

L. 

Pno. 



Lucas opens the dragon book.

148

O. 

L. 

Pno. 



Chimes are heard from the closet. Lucas and Olivia look at each other in confusion.

153

Cme. 



162

Pno. 

166 **Cautiously, they approach the closet door and open it.**

Pno.

(cresc.)



Pno.

168 $\text{♩} = 80$

(cresc.)

ff

2. Meeting the Dragons

171

♩ = 80

**FAHfeenar and SheeSHAHzhah slowly emerge from the closet.
Humans and dragons eye each other warily.**

Pno.

177

♩ = ♩.
mf

L.
S.
F.

Who are you? *mf*
I am Shee-SHAH-zhah. *mf*
I am

Pno.

184

S.
F.

Who are you?
FAH-fee-nar, her broth-er.

Pno.

191 *mf*

O. I am O - liv - i - a, his sis - ter.

L. I am Lu - cas.

Pno.

198

O. How — did you get in here? —

F. We heard a beau-ti-ful

Pno.

204 *f*

S. and a mag - ic door o-pened in front of us. *f*

F. sound, And

Pno. *mf*

209

S. *Where are we?*

F. *we came through the door, and found our-selves here.*

Pno.



216 *f*

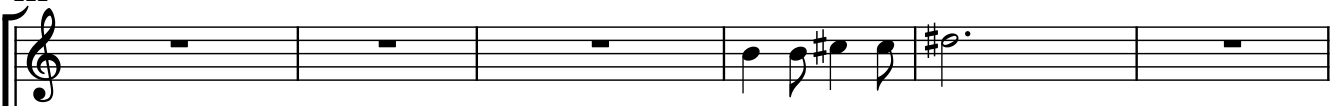
O. *You are in our house!*

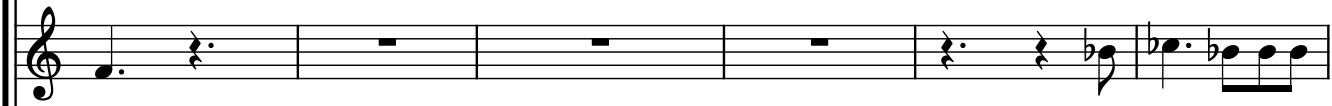
L. *It's where we*

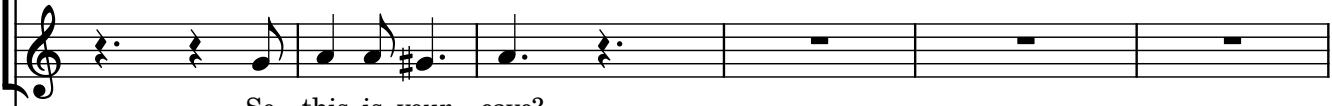
F. *What is a house?*

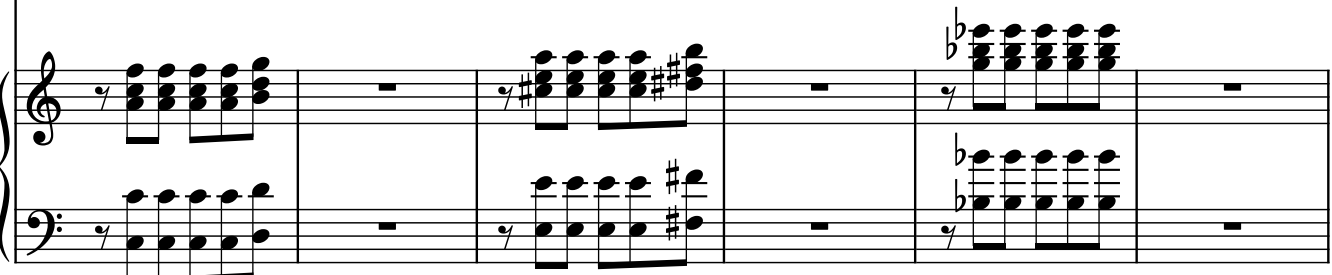
Pno.

222

O.  No, it's not a cave!

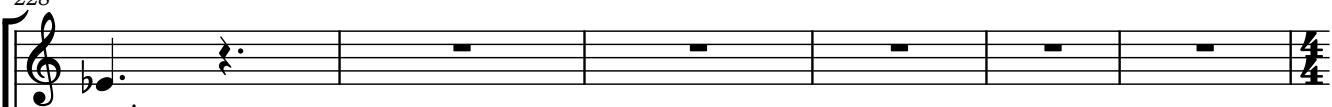
L.  live! We don't live in a


S.  So this is your cave?

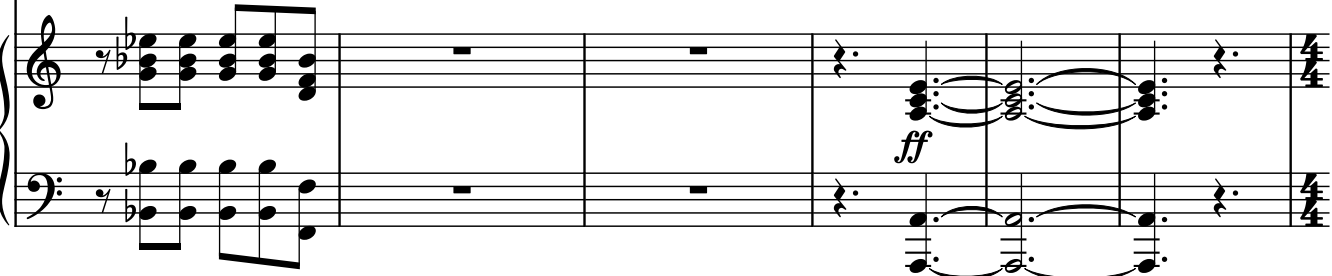
Pno. 



228

L.  cave!

F.  Eve-ry-bod-y we know lives in a cave!

Pno. 

234

234 $\text{♪} = \text{♪}$

O. $\text{Where are you guys from?}$

L. $\text{And why do you look like drag-ons?}$

S. We *mp*

F. We *mp*

Pno. *ff* *mf*

240 $\text{♪} = \text{♪}$

O. *p* Drag - ons!

L. *p* Drag - ons!

S. $\text{are drag - ons. And I don't mean to be}$

F. are drag - ons.

Pno. *mf*

247 *mf* $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

O. We are chil - dren.

L. We are chil - dren.

S. rude, but what ex-act-ly are you?

Pno.



253

S. We are chil-dren too. But what

F. We are chil-dren too. But what

Pno.

259

O. *f* We are hu - man chil - dren.

L. *f* We are hu - man chil - dren.

S. kind of chil-dren are you?

F. kind of chil-dren are you?

Pno. *f* *ff*



264

S. Hu-man chil-dren?

F. Hu-man chil-dren? I never heard of hu-mans!

Pno.

268

S. I thought on-ly drag-ons could talk.

F. Are you sure you're not drag-ons

Pno.

272

L. Sil-ly ques-tion! Of course we're sure!

F. too?

Pno.

275

276

O. Lu - cas, Lu - cas, some-thing a-maz-ing has hap-pened! You

Pno.

279 ♩ = ♩

O. *o-pened a drag-on book, and drag-ons ap-peared!*

L. *But are you real-ly*

Pno.

283 ♩ = 80
meno mosso

L. *drag-ons? Can you fly?*

Pno.

291 *f*

S. *You ask, can we fly?*

F. *You ask, are we drag-ons? If we could take you*

Pno.

295

S. *ff*
you would see with your own eyes how drag - ons fly!

F. *ff*
home with us, how drag - ons fly!

Pno. *ff*

3. Flying

299

299 ♩ = 80

Pno.



S. *f* Oh,

F. *f* Oh,

Pno. *f*



S. drag-onsgo fly - ing, drag-onsgo fly - ing, drag-onsgo fly - ing,

F. drag-onsgo fly - ing, drag-onsgo fly - ing, drag-onsgo fly - ing,

Pno.

306

S. up in the sky. High-er than tree tops, high-er than hill tops,

F. up in the sky. High-er than tree tops, high-er than hill tops,

Pno.

309

S. high-er than moun - tains, high-er than high! We sing as we fly. Our

F. high-er than moun - tains, high-er than high! We sing as we fly. Our

Pno.

ff

312

S. voic - es are strong! The air is a - live with drag - on song! We

F. voic - es are strong! The air is a - live with drag - on song! We

Pno.

315

S. fly in the night, with the Moon and the stars, and gaze at the beau - ty of

F. fly in the night, with the Moon and the stars, and gaze at the beau - ty of

Pno.

320 **accel.** $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

S. Ve - nus and Mars!

F. Ve - nus and Mars!

Pno. *fff* *f*

321 $\text{♩} = 136$ *f*

O. I wish that I could fly! I'd

L. It must be fun to fly! I'd

Pno.

324

O.
L.
Pno.

spend a lot of time up in the sky!

spend a lot of time up in the sky! And would-n't it be cool if

327

O.
L.
Pno.

The oth-er kids would not believe their eyes! And

we could fly to school! The oth-er kids would not believe their eyes!

330

O.

if I want-ed to cross the street, but the traf - fic light was

333

O.
Pno.

red, I would-n't have to wait for the light to turn green, I'd

336

O. fly a-cross in - stead.

L. And if I wanted to take a trip to

Pno.

340

L. Ger - man-y or Spain, I would-n't have to sail on an

Pno.

343

L. o - cean ship, or buy a tick-et on a big jet plane. I'd just fly through the

Pno.

347

O. And if I got tired of

L. air, and pret-ty soon I'd be there!

Pno.

351

O. fly-ing around, I'd fly to a tree, high a-bove the ground, and sit on a branch, and

Pno.

355

O. take a lit-tle rest, and count the eggs in a ro-bin's nest.

Pno.

rit.

dim.

359

O. I wish that I could fly. It

L. I wish that I could fly. It

Pno.

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

(dim.) *mp*

365

363 $\text{♩} = 80$

O. must be fun to fly. _____

L. must be fun to fly. _____

S. _____

Oh, you poor things!

Pno. *mf* *mp*

368

S. Poor things! _____ No

F. _____

You'll nev-er get off the ground with those skin-ny lit - tle wings.

Pno.

371

S. mat-ter how hard you flap them, they are use-less for fly - ing.

Pno.

4. Anatomy

373

♩ = 120

♩ = ♩

373 *f*

F. *f* Look, She-SHAH-zhah! Their wings look like bones.

Pno. *f* *ff*

The humans hold their arms straight up in the air, with their fists clenched.

377 *ff*

L. *ff* These are not wings! They are arms!

S. *f* Look, FAH-fee-nar! There are

Pno. *f*

The humans open their fists and wiggle their fingers.

381 *ff*

O. *ff* These are not knobs! They are hands!

S. knobs on their arms.

Pno. *f* *ff*

385 *f*

F. Why are there wig - gly worms on your hands?

Pno.



388 *ff*

L. These are not worms! They are fin - gers!

Pno. *f* *ff* *mf*



392 *ff*

S. And what is wrong with your feet? They look

Pno. *f*

396 **accel.** $\text{♩} = 96$ **ff**

O. **ff** You can't e-ven see my

L. **ff** Why are you so rude?

S. aw - ful!

Pno. **fff** **ff**

401

O. feet! I'm wear-ing shoes and socks. I'll take them off so

Pno.

406

O. you can see that my feet are per-fect-ly nor-mal!

Pno. **fff**

♩ = 144
♩ = ♩

412

F. *Look, look, look!* *She has*

Pno. *f*

418

L. *fff* *No, you stu-pid drag-on, no! Those are toes!*

F. *fin-gerson her feet!*

Pno. *fff*

425

O. *f* *Fin-gerson my feet! Fin-gers on my feet! Ha*

L. *Toes! Toes!*

Pno. *f*

432 *ff*

O. *ha haha ha ha haha ha ha!* You drag-onsare so fun - ny!

Pno.

438 *rit.* *f* *mf* $\text{♩} = 120$

O. *Come on, Lu-cas!* Don't beinanug-ly

L. *ff* *But they are rude!*

Pno. *f*

446 $\text{♩} = 120$ *mf*

O. mood! FAH - fee-nar andShe-SHAH-zhah have nev-er seen

Pno. *mf* *mp*

451

O. *mf* an-y-one who looks like us. I don't think they're try-ing to be

S. That's right. That's right.

F. *mf* That's right. That's right.

Pno.

455

O. mean, or cause a fuss.

S. That's right. That's right.

F. That's right. That's right.

Pno.

458

S. *f* We're just try-ing to un - der-stand

Pno. *f*

466

O. *f* Ha

S. *mf*

Now that I've had a chance to look twice, I think that your feet look ver - y nice.



468

O. *rit.* *ff* **469** ♩ = 80 ♩ = 120

ha! Ha ha! Ha ha! Ha ha!

L. *f* *ff*

Ha ha! Ha ha! Ha ha!

S. *f* *ff*

Ha ha! Ha ha!

F. *f* *ff*

Ha ha! Ha ha!

Pno. *ff* *mf*

471 *f*

O. I will ex-plain so you un - der - stand why we have fin - gers,

Pno.

474

O. arms, and hands. We need them to do the things hu-mans do. Does

Pno.

477 **479** Lucas demonstrates the described actions.

O. that makes sense to you?

L. *f* For ex - am - ple, I use my hand to catch a ball.

Pno.

484

L. I use my fin-gersto tie my shoes. I use my arms to hug my

Pno.

498

493

L. friends, and hug my sis - ter, too.

F. *f* At first, I

Pno.

501

F. won-dered why you don't have wings, but now I un-der-stand why. With

Pno.

508

F. armsandhandsand fin-gers,you can do man-y things,butyou nev - er need to fly.—

Pno.

515 *f*

S. Drag-ons have to fly, so our

F.

Pno.

520

S. wings must be strong, and our tails keep us bal-anced as we

Pno.

524 *mf*

L. But, there's onething you still have-n't

S. fly a - long.

Pno.

531

L. *said:* why do you have horns on your head?

F. *mf* I don't know an-y ex-pla-

Pno.



539

S. *mf* I think they are just dec - o - ra - tion.

F. -na - tion.

Pno.

attacca

5. Please Fly!

545

$\text{♩} = 120$
 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

545 *f*

L. *f*

Pno. *f* *tr.*

And now, I real-ly hope you'll show us how you

550 *f*

O. *f*

L. *f*

Pno. *f*

Yes, we want to see you fly! Please

fly! Please

555

O. *f*

L. *f*

Pno. *f* *tr.* *cresc.*

fly! Please fly! Please fly!

fly! Please fly! Please fly!

562

560

O.

L.

F.

f

We'd love to show you

Pno.

(cresc.) - - - - - *ff*

f



565

S.

We would bump in-to the ceil - ing and

F.

how we fly, but this space is too small.

4

Pno.

570 *ff*

S. bump in-to the walls! *f* And

F. We need to go out-side, un-der the o-pen sky.

Pno.

576 581 ♩ = ♩ *ff*

L. Let's

S. then, we will fly, fly, fly!_____

F. fly, fly!_____

Pno.

583

L. go! Let's go! Let's go let's go let's

Pno.

586 *rit.* *ff* = 120 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

O. No no! No no! No, Lu-cas, no!

L. go! But why?

Pno. *f*



593

L. Why? Why, O-liv-i-a, why?

S. *f* Don't you want to see us fly?

F. *f* Don't you want to see us fly?

Pno.

attacca

6. Parents

599

599 $\text{♩} = 120$ *mf*

O. *mf*

Pno. *f* *mp*

Our par-ents get quite up-set when-ev-er they see a

605

O. mouse. What will they do if they see drag-ons in the house? I don't think they'll

Pno.

611

O. say: "Have a nice day. We're so glad you drag-on-shave come to play."

Pno.

618

618 *mf*

L. *mf*

Pno.

Now I un-der-stand what you're wor-ried a-bout. Our moth-er would

624

cresc. - - - - -

L. *scream. Our fa-ther would shout. And then they would put our drag - ons*

Pno. *cresc.* - - - - -

635

$\text{♩} = 180$
 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

O. *Out of the house.*

L. *out. Out of the house. Out of the house.*

Pno. *(cresc.)* - - - - - *f*

S. *We un-der-*

F. *We un-der - stand.*

Pno.

639

S. *-stand.* You don't

Pno.

642

S. want to give your parents a scare. *rit.*

F. So of course we will not go out there.

Pno.

646

F. *mf* And tell you the truth, If we took you home with us, our

Pno. *mf*

mf

$\text{♩} = 120$

650

S. *mf* *f*

Our fa-ther would say: "Why have you brought these

F. par-ents would bet-er - ri - fied.

Pno. *f*

654

S. aw - ful crea-tures in-to our cave?"

F. *f*

Our moth-er would say:

Pno. *f*

658

F. "They have bon - y wings, with knobs on their tips, and wig-gling worms on the knobs!"

Pno.

662

O. *f* *ff*
Ha ha! Ha ha!

L. *f* *ff*
And fin - gers on our feet! Ha ha! Ha ha!

S. *f* *ff*
Ha ha! Ha ha!

F. *f* *ff*
Ha ha! Ha ha!

Pno.

7. Pictures

665

665 ♩ = 120

O. *f* I'm sor - ry that we won't get to

Pno. *f* *mf*

668

O. see you drag-ons fly. But we don't have to stand here and hang our heads and cry. We

Pno.

671

O. still can en-joy our day. This is a play-room, so let's

Pno.

676

675

♩ = ♩

O. play!

Pno. *f* *mf*

677 *f*

L. *f* What would you dragons like to do first?

S. *f* I have no i-de - a!

Pno. *f* *mf*

680 *f*

F. *f* We don't know what these things are,

Pno. *f* *mf*

682 *mf*

O. *mf* Goodi-

L. *mf* Let's start with a puzzle then.

F. *mf* or what you do with them.

Pno. *f*

♩. = ♩

687

O. -de-a! A puzzle is a picture that is

S. What is a puzzle?

Pno.

694

O. cut in-to piec-es.

L. Forex - am-ple, there's a

F. What is a picture?

Pno.

707

L. picture of a moun-tain on the lid of this puzzle-box.

S. Oh look, FAH-fee-nar,

Pno.

709

S. look! It real - ly looks like a moun - tain! *f*

F. The way a moun - tain looks when you

Pno.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 709 through 713. The Soprano part begins with a dotted quarter note, followed by eighth notes, and ends with a half note. The Alto part has rests in the first two measures, then enters with a quarter note and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and rests in the left hand.

714

L. Have - n't you drag - ons ev - er seen a pic - ture be -

F. see it from far a - way!

Pno.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 714 through 718. The Alto part has rests in the first two measures, then enters with a quarter note and eighth notes. The Soprano part has rests in the first two measures, then enters with a quarter note and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and rests in the left hand.

719

O. Think, Lu - cas! Think! Where do pic - tures come from? They don't grow on

L. - fore?

Pno.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 719 through 723. The Organ part begins with a dotted quarter note, followed by eighth notes, and ends with a half note. The Alto part has rests in the first two measures, then enters with a quarter note and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and rests in the left hand.

726

O. trees! Peo-ple make pictures, with pen-cils, brush-es,

Pno.

733

O. cam-er-as, or com - pu - ters.

L. Us-ing fin - gers, which drag-ons don't

Pno.

739

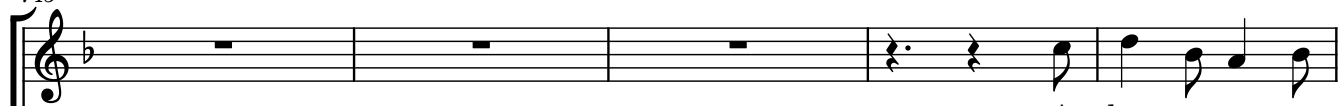
L. have! Of course, now I see! How sil - ly of me!


F. We

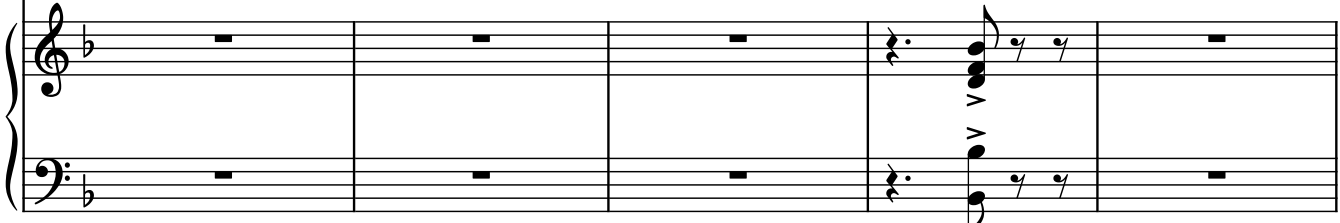
Pno.

744

745

S.  A drag-on can re-

F.  drag-ons don't have pic-tures, but we have good mem-or-ies.

Pno. 


750


S.  -mem-ber an-y-thing a drag-on sees.


F.  And af-ter I see a moun-tain, I al-ways

Pno. 

756

F.  find I can still see that moun-tain in my mind.

Pno. 

760 

763 *mf*

S. I re - mem - berso man - y beau - ti - ful sights. Last sum - mer, our par - entstook

Pno. *mp*

770

S. us on a flight to the val - ley where they fell in love. It was gor - geous when

Pno.

777

S. seen from a - bove. There were moun - tains and lakes, and a high wa - ter -

Pno. *p*

783

S. - fall, and a rain - bow arch - ing o - ver all, and a pret - ty pink

Pno.

789 *mp*

S. ba - by u - ni - corn with a blue but - ter - fly perched on its horn. I

Pno.

797 *f*

S. have no picture that my eyes can see, but I see them in my heart.

Pno.

p *mp* *mf*

803 *ff*

S. That's e - nough for me.

Pno.

f *ff*

8. Kicking

806

♩ = 120

♪ = ♩

806 *mf*

F. Tell us a-bout these oth - er things. This

Pno. *mf*



811 *mf*

O. It's a board we use in a bean-bag game.

F. thing with a hole... what is it for?

Pno.



816 *f*

L. You toss a bean-bag

S. *mf* Can you show us how to play?

Pno. *f*

822

Lucas tosses beanbags to illustrate each outcome.

L. at the board. You try to toss it in the hole.

Pno.

828

L. If it goes in the hole, you get three points. If it

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 96$
meno mosso
mf

833

L. stays on the board, you get one point. If it falls on the floor, you get

Pno.

841

$\text{♩} = 144$
 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

839

L. noth-ing at all.

F. *mf* This re-minds me of a

Pno. *mf*

843 $\text{♪} = \text{♪}$

F. kick - ing game that we played one time without cous - ins. It was

Pno.

846

F. two years ago at a fam-i-ly re-u-nion, on a trop-i-cal is-land in a

Pno. *mp*

850 *f*

F. trop-i-calsea. Our par-ents were there, and our un-cles, and our aunts, and

Pno. *f*

854

F. doz-ens of cous-ins who came to sing and dance. There were co-co-nut palm trees

Pno.

858

F. grow-ing all a-round, and hun-dreds of co-co-nuts ly-ing on the ground. And

Pno.

862

F. one by one, just for fun, we start-ed kick-ing co-co-nuts a-

Pno.

865

FAHfeenar starts kicking imaginary coconuts.

F. round. We were kick-ing co-co-nuts! kick-ing co-co-nuts!

Pno.

870

All start kicking imaginary coconuts.

868

O. *ff* Kick-ing co - co-nuts!

L. *ff* Kick-ing co - co-nuts!

S. *ff* Kick-ing co - co-nuts!

F. Kick-ing co - co kick-ing co - co kick-ing co - co-nuts! *ff* Kick-ing co - co-nuts!

Pno.

871

O.
L.
S.
F.

Piano accompaniment (Pno.)

Kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co-kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co-nuts!
 Kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co-kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co-nuts!
 Kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co-kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co-nuts!
 Kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co-kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co-nuts!

875

Lucas fetches a soccer ball.

F.

Piano accompaniment (Pno.)

Then, an i-de - a came to me. We could kick co-co-nuts at a tree!

879

F.

Piano accompaniment (Pno.)

And we count-ed all the co-co-nuts that hit the tree And my

893

O.
Kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co

L.
Kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co

S.
Kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co

F.
Kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co kick-ing co-co-nuts! Kick-ing co-co

Pno.

897

O.
kick - ing co - co kick - ing co - co - nuts!

L.
kick - ing co - co kick - ing co - co - nuts!

S.
kick - ing co - co kick - ing co - co - nuts!

F.
kick - ing co - co kick - ing co - co - nuts!

Pno.

9. Books

901 **901** $\text{♩} = 100$
f

O. Let's have a change of pace. Lu-cas, may-be our friends would like to see the

Pno. *mf*

Lucas retrieves the dragon book and shows it to the dragons.

906

O. drag - on book.

L. *f* This is a book.

S. *f* What is a book?

Pno. *f*

911 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *mp*

L. It's supposed to be a

F. *f* What is that hor - ri-ble pic - ture?

Pno.

915

L. drag-on. *ff*

S. No! No! No drag-on ev - er looked like that!

F. No! No! It's an

Pno. *ff*

922

O. *mf* Lu-cas, why don't you

S. It makes me an-gry!

F. in-sult!

Pno. *mf*

927

O. read for our friends! Read the first page. Read it a - loud.

Pno.

936

f

L. You look at the words on the page. *f*

S. What is a

F. *f* How do you read?

Pno.

Lucas shows the dragons the first page.

945

L. This is a page.

S. page? I don't hear an-y

F. How can words be on a page?

Pno.

954

L. The words are made of let - ters.

S. words! What are let - ters?

F.

Pno.

Lucas holds the book closer for inspection.

964 *f*

L. *f*

S. These are let - ters.

F. What

They look like ti - ny bugs!

Pno.

978

Lucas reads from the book.

974 *mp*

L. *mp*

S. Drag-ons are im-ag - i - nar - y mon - sters. *ff*

F. words are these let - ters say - ing? Oh,

Pno. *ff*

980

S. FAH - fee - nar! You are such a hor - ri - ble mon - ster!

F. It's a good thing I'm on - ly im -

Pno.

984

L. *The roar of a drag-on is a ter - ri-ble sound.*

F. *-ag - i-nar - y.*

Pno. *mf*

988 *mf*

S. *Roar. Roar. Roar, roar, roar, roar, roar.*

F. *Oh, Shee-SHAH-zha! You are*

Pno. *ff*

993

L. *Drag-ons eat hu-man*

F. *scar - y!*

Pno.

997 *mf*

O. *mf* It

L. chil - dren for break - fast. *ff*

S. Now I think I'm gon - na barf!

F. *ff* Barf, barf!

Pno. *mf*

1001 *rit.* $\text{♩} = 80$

O. just goes to show that you can't believe eve - ry thing you read.

Pno. *f* *mf*

1005 **1005** *f*

L. When I grow up I'm gon - na write a book a - bout real

Pno.

1010

L. drag-ons! I know more a-bout drag-ons than the guy who wrote this book. 'Cause

Pno.

1015

L. I have two friends who are real, real drag-ons, and I know how they sound and look.

Pno.

1022

mf

L. Real drag-ons are friendly and fun. They would nev - er hurt any - one.

Pno.

1031

cresc.

L. Real drag-ons are not scar - y. Scar - y drag-ons are

Pno.

1041 *(cresc.)* ----- *f* $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *f*

L. on - ly im - ag - i - nar - y. When

Pno. *mf* *f*

1047

L. I grow up I'm gon-na write a book a-bout real drag-ons! I know more a-bout

Pno. 3

1052 *mf*

L. drag - ons than the guy who wrote this book. 'Cause

Pno. *mf*

1056 *rit.* ----- $\text{♩} = 60$ *ff* *dim.* ----- *mf*

L. I have two friends who are real, real drag-ons, and I love how they sound and look.

Pno. *f dim.* ----- *mp*

10. Opera

1063

1063 ♩ = 92 *mf*

O. *mf* That is my key-board.

S. *mf* What is this thing with the black and white teeth?

Pno. *mf*



1077

1071 *mf* Olivia sits at the keyboard and plays. ♩ = ♩

O. It's for mu - sic!

F. *mf* What is it for?

Pno.

Kbd. *mf*

1079

S. *Beau-ti-ful!* I

F. *This thing sings!*

Pno.

Kbd.

1083

S. *nev-er im-ag-ined that a thing could sing!*

F. *It must be mag-ic!*

Pno. *mp*

1086 *f*

O. *Yes, mu-sic is mag-ic! It fills my life with joy! And my fa-vor-ite kind of*

Pno.

1091 *ff* *mf*

O. mu - sic is o - per-a! An

F. What is o - per-a?

Pno. *f* *mp*

1097 *cresc.* *f*

O. o - per-a is a sto - ry that is told with mu - sic, dra - mat - ic act - ing, and sing - ing,

Pno. *cresc.* *mf*

1102 *ff* *f*

O. beau - ti - ful sing - ing! The mu - sic I just played is from my

Pno. *f* *mf*

1115

♩. = ♩

Olivia plays.

f

1109

O. *f*

fa - vor - ite o - per - a: Han - sel and Gre - tel. Gretel is a girl, and

Pno.

Kbd. *mf*

1116

O.

Han - sel is her broth - er. They live in a house with their fa - ther and their moth - er. They

Kbd.

1119

O.

get in - to ter - ri - ble dan - ger to - ge - ther and save them - selves by be - ing clev - er.

Kbd.

1123 **1123** **accel.** $\text{♩} = 100$

L. **O - liv - i - a! Now play the dance! The Han - sel and Gre - tel dance!**

Pno.

1130 **Lucas dances.** **f**

O. **Let's put on our danc - ing pants and do a fun - ny lit - tle dance!**

Kbd. **mf mp**

1136 **The dragons dance with Lucas.**

O. **Right foot first, left foot then, round a - bout and back a - gain.**

Kbd. **mf**

1142

O. **Danc - ing is a lot of fun! Lots of fun for**

Kbd.

1147

O. eve-ry-one. Eve-ry-one is watch-ing you, and you know just what to do!

Kbd.

1154

O. With your feet go taptaptap! With your hands go clapclapclap! Tap and clap, and you'll see,

Kbd.

1160

O. it's as eas - y as can be!

Kbd.

11. Legend

1162

1162 $\text{♩} = 144$

S. *f* But we do have leg-ends that wesi-
sing.

F. *f* We drag-ons have no o - per-a.

Pno. *f*

1167

S. how the world be - gan.

F. Our leg-ends are stor - ies that ex-plain how the world be - gan.

Pno.

1172 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

O. I would love to hear a leg-end!

L. Me too!

S. Let's sing the one a -

Pno.

1177

S. *-bout themoth-er drag - on!*

F. *That's my fa - vor - ite one!*

Pno.

1183 **Solemnly, reverently** *J. = J.*

F. *Back when the*

Pno.

1193

S. *when the world was new_____*


F. *world was new_____ the Moth-er of All Drag-ons was fly - ing,*

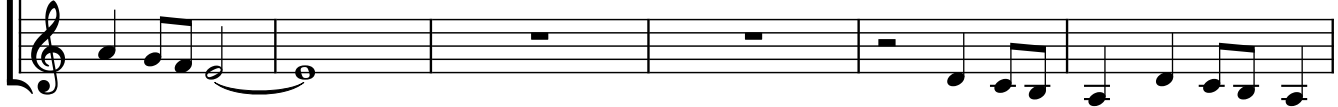
1201

S. *Moth-er of AllDrag-ons, fly-ing, fly-ing o - ver a lake_____*


F. *fly - ing_____ fly-ing o - ver a lake,*


1206

S.  And the Moth-er of All Drag-onslooked down_____

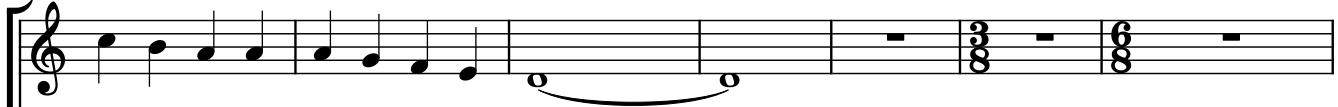
F.  o-ver a lake_____ down at the lake, down at the lake


1212

S.  and saw own flec she saw her own re-

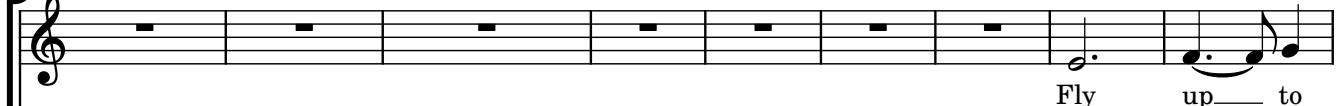
F.  she looked down at the lake she her re tion


1219

S.  -flection in the wa-ter of the lake._____ $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$


F.  of the lake. And the Moth-er of All


1226

S.  Fly up_____ to

F.  Drag-ons shout-ed down to her re - flec - tion:

1235

S.  me,_____ and be my child!_____

F.  to me_____ my child!_____

1245 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

S. And the re - flec - tion be - came a ba-by drag-on, and flew up from the lake, and

F. And the re - flec - tion be - came a ba-by drag-on, and flew up from the lake, and

1251 *rit.* ----- $\text{♩} = 100$

S. joined the Moth-er of All Drag-ons in the sky, and be-came her child.

F. joined the Moth-er of All Drag-ons in the sky, and be-came her child.

1257 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

S. And the

F. And the Moth-er of All Drag-ons took the ba-by drag-on home to her cave.

1264

S. ba-by drag-on said: Moth-er, I will freeze in this cold, dark cave. You must fly down to the

1271

S. for-est, and gath-er fire - wood, and make a fire to keep me warm.

F. So, — the


1278

S. 

F. 

And the ba - bydrag-on said:
Moth-er of All Drag - ons foundsomefire - wood.

1284

S. 


Moth-er, you need fire to makethewood burn. You must flydown tothe lake,-wherethe


1290

S. 

sun shinesonthe wa - ter, and drinkthewarm sun-lightthat spar-kleson the wa - ter.


1296


S. 

F. 

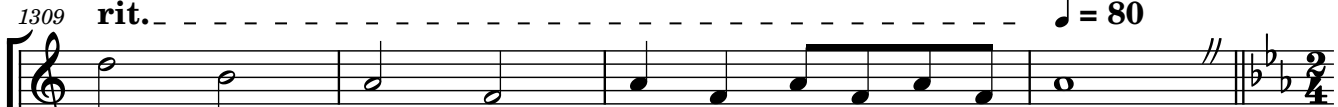
And she felt
And the Moth-er of All Drag-ons drankthespar-king sun-light. And she felt

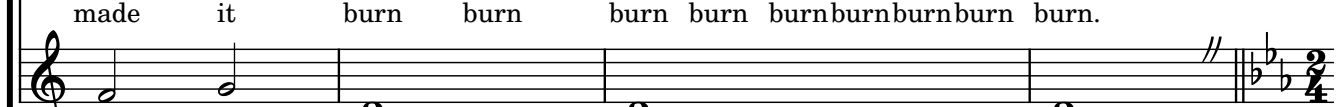
1302

S. 

F. 

fire in her bel - ly. Andshe flewback to her cave, andblew fire on the wood and
fire in her bel - ly. Andshe flewback to her cave, andblew fire on the wood and

1309 **rit.** 

F. 

made it burn burn burn burn burnburnburnburn burn.
made it burn.

12. Marshmallows

1313

♩ = 144

1313 *f*

L. *f*
Can you real-ly breathe fire?

S. *f*
Of course!

F. *f*
Shall we show you?

Pno. *mf*

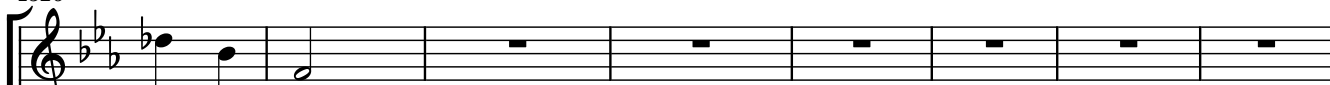
1320 *ff*


O. *ff*
No! Do you want to burn our

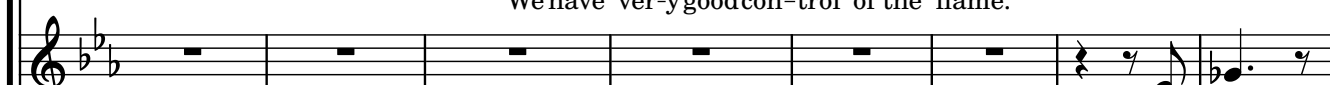
L.
Oh yes, please do!

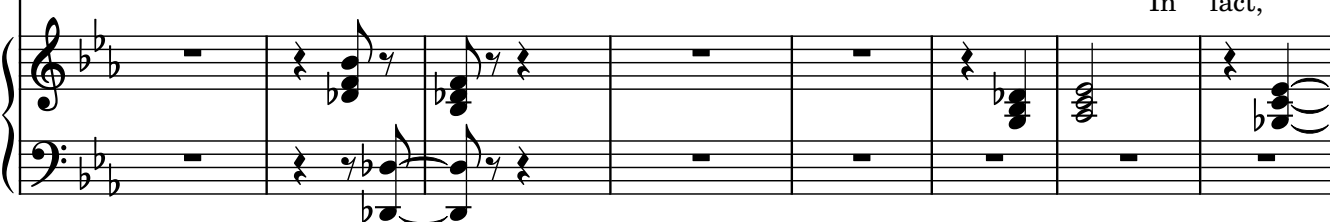
Pno.

1326

O. 

S. 

F. 

Pno. 


new house down?

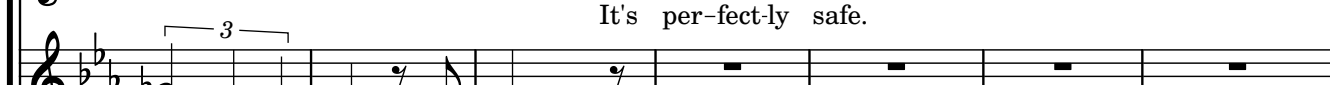
We have ver-y good con-trol of the flame.

In fact,

1334

O. 

S. 

F. 

Pno. 

Then I have an i-

It's per-fect-ly safe.

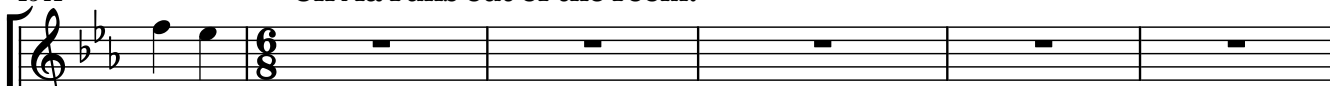
that's how we cook our food.

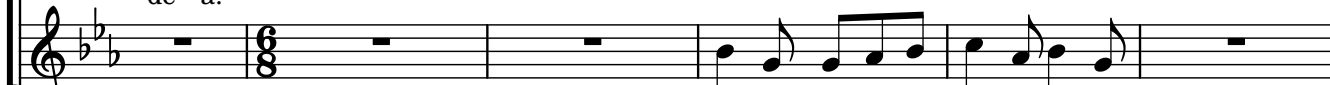
1342


♩ = ♩.

Olivia runs out of the room.

1341

O. 

F. 

Pno. 

-de - a!

Lu-cas, what is your sis-ter do-ing?

1347

L. I don't know. She is full of good ideas, so I bet we're in for a treat!

S. What kind of

Pno.

1353

L. May-be some-thing to eat!

S. treat? That would be good!

F. What kind of treat?

Pno.

1360

Olivia rushes back into the room, carrying a bag of marshmallows and four forks.

1358

F. What will it be?

Pno.

1363

O. Marsh-mal-lows! Toast-edmarsh-mal-lows!

S. How do they

Pno.



1367 **accel.** = 144

O. Lu - cas, take a

L. Ver - y sweet!

S. taste?

Pno.



1374

O. fork ineach hand. Stick a marsh-mal-low on each fork. Then hold them

Pno.

1381

O. up so a drag-on can blow fire and toast them for us to eat.

F. We will use our low-est

Pno.

1389 *rit.*

S. The flame will be in - vis - i - ble

F. set - ting. but hot enough to do the job.

Pno.

1396

Pno.

1397

♩ = 96

Lucas and Olivia hold up the marshmallows and the dragons blow gently on them.

15

1397

Pno.

1399 **15**

Pno.

1401 **15**

Pno.

1403

O. I think they should be

15

Pno.

1406 **1409** *accel.* $\text{♩} = 144$ *mp*

O. done. They like them!

L. Let's try them! They like them!

S. So sweet!

F. So sweet!

Pno. *mp*

1413

S. So sweet! So sweet! So goo-ey and sweet!

F. So sweet! So sweet! So goo-ey and sweet!

Pno. *mp*

1418 **accel.** $\text{♩} = 180$ **f**

O. We're *mf*

S. I have never tasted anything this sweet before! So *mf*

F. I have never tasted anything this sweet before! So

Pno. *f*

1422

O. glad *f* you like them we're ver-y ver-y glad!

L. We're glad you like them we're ver-y glad!

S. sweet! So sweet! So sweet so sweet so sweet!

F. sweet! So sweet! So sweet so sweet so sweet!

1426

O. *mf* *cresc.* *ff*
So glad! So glad! So glad!

L. *mf* *cresc.* *ff*
So glad! So glad! So glad!

S. *mf* *cresc.* *ff*
So sweet! So sweet! So sweet!

F. *mf* *cresc.* *ff*
So sweet! So sweet! So sweet!

Pno. *mf* *cresc.* *ff*

13. Goodbye

1430

♩ = 80

L. *f*

F. *mf* So soon? What's the hur-ry?

Pno. *mf* *mp* *f*

I think it's time for us to go home.

S. *f*

Pno.

Our parents don't know where we are, and we don't want them to wor-ry.

1448

♩ = ♩

Olivia goes to retrieve her camera from a shelf.

O. Let me get my cam-er-a!

L. It's a

F. What is a cam-er-a?

Pno.

1454

O. Lu-cas, first I'll take you with the drag-ons.

L. thing that makes pic-tures.

Pno.

1461

Lucas arranges himself and the dragons. **Olivia snaps a picture.**

O. Smile! Drag-ons! Smile!

L. Now

Pno.

1468

Lucas and Olivia trade places. **Lucas snaps a picture.**

O. Let's see how they came out!

L. I'll take one with you.

Pno.

1475

Everyone looks at the pictures on the camera.

mf

F. 

I've nev-erseen a


Pno. 

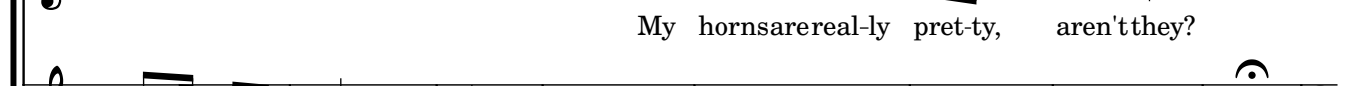


1484

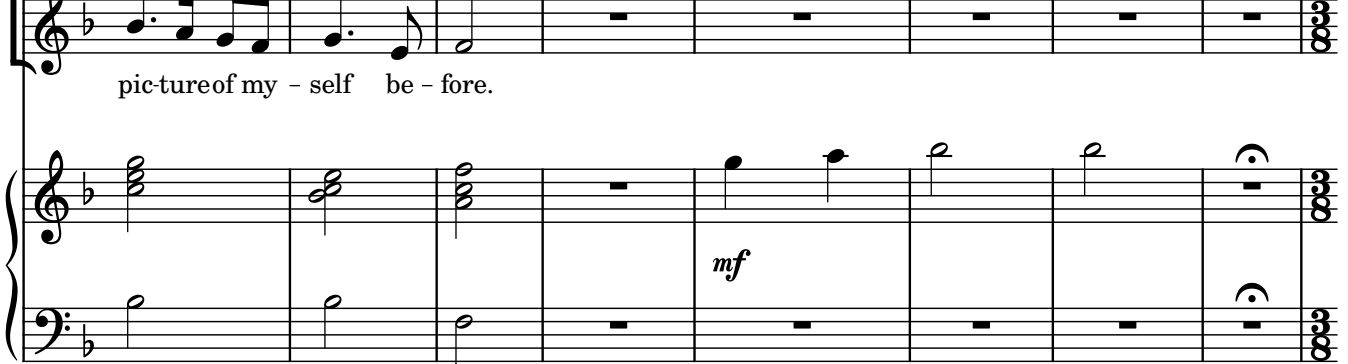
My hornsarereal-ly pret-ty, aren'tthey?

My hornsarereal-ly pret-ty, aren'tthey?

S. 

F. 

pic-tureof my - self be - fore.


Pno. 

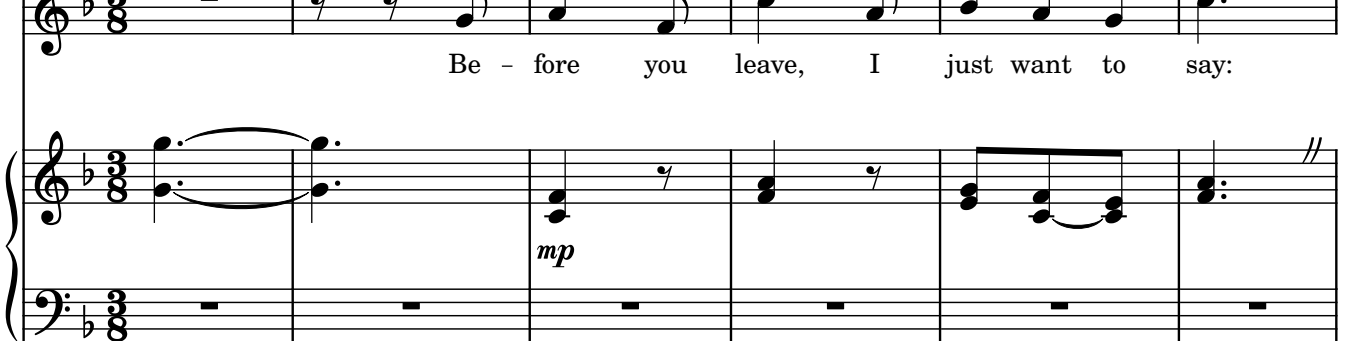


1492

mf

Be - fore you leave, I just want to say:

O. 

Pno. 

1503

rit. ----- $\text{♩} = 100$

1498

O. $\text{♩} = 100$

I think we've all learned a lot to - day.

Pno.



$\text{♩} = 100$

1507

O. *f*

Drag-ons and hu-mans can be friends.

L. *f*

We

S. *f*

All kinds of chil-dren can be friends.

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf* *f mf*

1511

L. all liketolaugh, and sing, and play.

F. *f* We are the same, just in dif-fer-ent ways.

Pno. *ff*

1516

O. *f* Drag-ons and hu-mans can be friends. All kinds of chil-dren can be friends. Let's *rit.*

L. *f* Drag-ons and hu-mans can be friends. All kinds of chil-dren can be friends. Let's

S. *f* Drag-ons and hu-mans can be friends. All kinds of chil-dren can be friends. Let's

F. *f* Drag-ons and hu-mans can be friends. All kinds of chil-dren can be friends. Let's

Pno. *f < ff*

1520 $\text{♩} = 80$ **accel.**

O. *hopethatourfriendship nev - er ends. Andwe hopeyou'llcomeback.*

L. *hopethatourfriendship nev - er ends. Comebackreal*

S. *hopethatourfriendship nev - er ends.*

F. *hopethatourfriendship nev - er ends.*

Pno.



1524 **rit.** $\text{♩} = 120$

L. *soon!*

S. *We would love tocomeback. For now...*

F. *We'll comeback soon! Butfor now....*

The dragons enter the closet.

1529 ♩ = 80

O. *f*
Good - bye, good - bye!

L. *f*
Good - bye, good - bye!

S. *mf*
Good - bye!

F. *mf*
Good - bye!

Pno. *mp*
attacca

14. Panic

1533

♩ = 100

The dragons rush out of the closet.

1533

S. *ff*
Lu-cas! O-liv-i-a!

F. *ff*
The mag-icdoor is closed!

Pno. *fff* *ff*

1539

S. *3*
We can't go home!

Pno.

1544

S. *ff*
We can't live here! We will die here!

F. *ff*
We can't live here! We will die here!

Pno. *mf*

1549 *mf*

O. *mf* Let's be

S. Please o-penthemag-ic door a - gain!

F. Please o-penthemag-ic door a - gain!

Pno. *ff* *mf*

1556 *f*

O. *f* calm. Lu - cas, re - mem - ber, you o-pened the drag - on

Pno. *mf*

1561 *f*

O. book, and the mag - ic door o - pened right a - way. *f*

L. I'll o - pen it now!

Pno.

Lucas opens the dragon book. SheeSHAHzhah looks into the closet.

1571

1566

L.

S.

Pno.



1572

L.

Pno.



1577

O.

L.

Pno.

1583 ♩ = ♩

O. sing the song now, while you o-pen the drag-on book. A

Pno.

1588

O. **Lucas opens the dragon book.** **FAHfeenar looks into the closet.**
 book is a mag-ic key that o-pen a mag-ic door!

Pno.

1597

1593 ♩ = ♩

O. Lu - cas, re - mem - ber, you

F. The mag-ic door is still closed.

Pno. *mp*

1599

O. sang the song with me, and the mag-ic door o-pened right a-way.

L.

Pno. *May-be*

1605

L. one voice is not enough. *May-be* we need two. This time I will sing with you.

Pno.

1612 *♩. = ♩* **Lucas opens the dragon book.**

O. A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

L. A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Pno.

Cme. *mf*

1619 **The dragons look into the closet.** *rit.* *ff* ♩ = 80

S. The mag - ic door is o - pen!

F. The mag - ic door is o - pen!

Pno. *ff*

Cme. *cresc.*

1624

Pno. *p* *f*

1632 **The dragons enter the closet.**


S. Thank you! Thank you so much.

F. Thank you! Thank you so much.

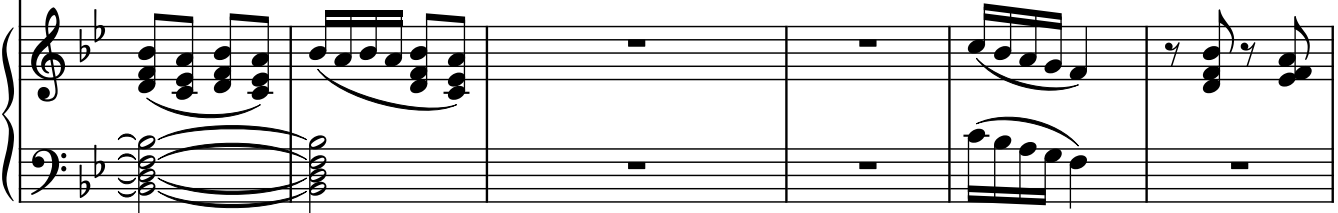
Pno. *mp*

accel. - - ♩ = 120
Lucas grabs the soccer ball.

1634

L. 

I'm gon-na give them the soccer ball! I'll be right

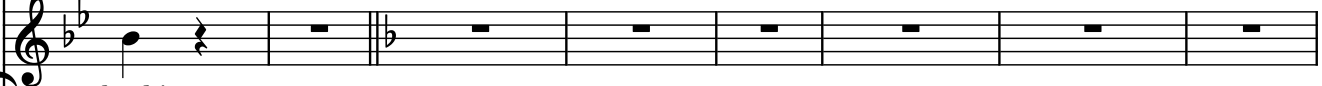
Pno. 

rit. - - - - - ♩ = 80
Lucas enters the closet.

1640

O. 

Lu-cas is so gen-er-ous and kind.

L. 

back!

Pno. 

1648 - - - - - ♩ = 60

O. 

Let's put on our danc-ing pants and

Pno. 

1654

O. 

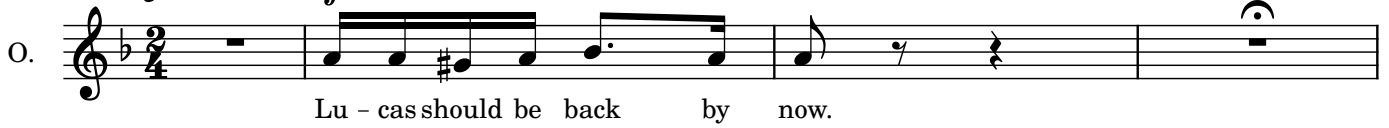
do a fun-ny lit-tle dance! Right foot first, left foot then, round a-bout and...

15. More Panic

1660

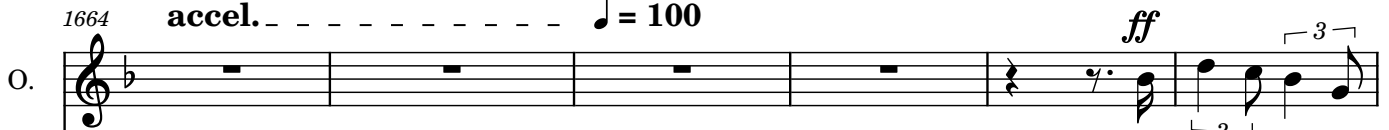
Olivia looks inside the closet.


1660 $\text{♩} = 60$ *mf*

O. 



1664 **accel.** $\text{♩} = 100$

O. 

Pno. 



1670

O. 

Pno. 



1676

O. 

Pno. 

1680

O. I must save him! I must o-pen the mag-ic door a - gain!

Pno.



1686

O. I must be calm. A book is a mag-ic key that

Pno.



Olivia opens the dragon book.

1694

O. o-pens a mag-ic door! I'll try sing-ing loud-er and fast-er...

Pno.

1702 *ff* ♩ = 120 **Olivia opens the dragon book.**

O. A book is a mag-ic key that o-pens a mag-ic door!

Pno.

1710 *fff* ♩ = 136

O. A book is a mag-ic key that

Pno. *mp*

Olivia opens the dragon book. rit. ♩ = 120

O. o-pens a mag-ic door!

Pno. *ff* *dim.*

1725 *mp*

O. I can't do it a-lone! One voice is not e-nough!

Pno. *p*

1734

O. How can I bring my brother home?

Pno.



1743

Olivia looks out toward the audience.

1743

Pno.

She speaks to the audience:

One voice is not enough to open the magic door. I need some children to sing with me.
Who will help?

She waits for a response.

Great! Let's practice a couple of times.

She goes to the keyboard.

1748 ♩ = 120 *f*

O. A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

Kbd. *ff*

Aud. *f*

A book is a magic key that opens a magic door!

16. Happy Ending

1785

♩ = 120

Lucas emerges from the closet.

1785 *ff*

O. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Lu - cas, Lu - cas, I'm



1792

O. *f* *ff*

L. *f* *ff*

Pno.

so glad to see you!

O - liv - i - a! I saw drag-ons fly!



1802

♩ = ♩

1802 *f*

L. *f*

Pno. *f*

Their par-ents were not at home, so

1804 *ff*

L. FAH-fee-nar and Shee-SHAH-zhah took me out-side, and they flew for me!

Pno. *ff*

|| *♩. = 80*
meno mosso
mf

1807

L. And it was won-der-ful to see! But, when I tried to come

Pno. *mf*

||

1810

L. home, the mag-ic door was gone, and I was a-fraid I was stuck there for-ev - er!

Pno.

||

1813 *f*

L. I

Pno. *mf* *ff* *mf*

1814

L. *thought I would nev - er see you, or Mom, or Dad a-gain.*

Pno. *f*

1816

Pno. *mf ff mf*

1817

L. *There I was in a drag - on cave, so scared! So scared!*

Pno. *f mf*

1819

L. *Then the ma - gic door o-pened in front of me. And*

Pno. *mf f*

1822

L. *I camethroughthe door. But... howdidyou o-penthe mag-ic door?*

Pno. *sf*

1827

O. *I was not a - lone.*

L. *All by your-self, with on-ly one voice?*

Pno. *ff*

1831

1835

Olivia directs Lucas's attention to the audience.

O. *Thesechil-dren helped me!*

L. *Thankyou!*

Pno. *mf*

1847

1843 *mp* *rit.*

L. Thankyou so much.

Pno. *mp* *p* *f dim.*



♩ = 60
Both address the audience.

1849 *f*

O. Whenthose drag - ons came to play, it was such a big sur - prise!

L. *f*
Whenthose drag - ons came to play, it was such a big sur - prise!

Pno. *mf* *p*



1851

O. We could not be - lieve our eyes. What an a - maz - ing day!

L. We could not be - lieve our eyes. What an a - maz - ing day!

Pno.

1853

O.
Now when drag-ons come to play, we will know just what to do.

L.
Now when drag-ons come to play, we will know just what to do.

Pno.



1855

O.
And we hope to see you too, when drag-ons come to play!

L.
And we hope to see you too, when drag-ons come to play!

Pno.

ff

ff

cresc.

ff

Red.

Other operas by Ashley Hastings

Free Men

Premiered in full production (Cascadia Chamber Opera, 4/23/2023)

A wounded gay Confederate veteran and a gay ex-slave meet in the American South, shortly after the Civil War. They fall in love and discover that together, they can be happy and free. Then, when their freedom and lives are threatened, they are compelled to kill their oppressors.

1 SOPRANO, 1 MEZZO-SOPRANO OR COUNTERTENOR, 1 TENOR,
1 BASS-BARITONE, PIANO

DURATION: ONE HOUR 10 MINUTES

The Dream

Premiered in full production (Cascadia Chamber Opera, 4/23/2023)

A novelist struggling with writer's block takes a nap. Hearing someone at the door, she gets up and is confronted by her main character, who has a bitter complaint. Together, they solve their problems, with the help of a little wine and poetry. Or was it a dream? And whose dream?

1 SOPRANO, 1 MEZZO-SOPRANO, PIANO

DURATION: 55 MINUTES