

gregory emfietzis

Mirror, mirror on the wall:
the crucial moment
for a female singer and three musicians

Mirror, mirror on the wall: the crucial moment [2011]

*Mirror Mirror on the wall
True hope lies beyond the coast
You're a damned kind can't you see
That the winds will change*

*Mirror Mirror on the wall
True hope lies beyond the coast
You're a damned kind can't you see
That tomorrows bears insanity*

[From Blind Guardian's "Mirror Mirror"]

Mirror, mirror on the wall: the crucial moment

Duration: approx. 3'

Instrumentation: Female Singer, Piano, Cello, Percussion
(playing on the piano strings with a plastic/metal object)

General notes

- The score is the scenario which should be followed for the performance.
- Further input from the performers is requested.
- Scores should not be used during the performance (as possible).

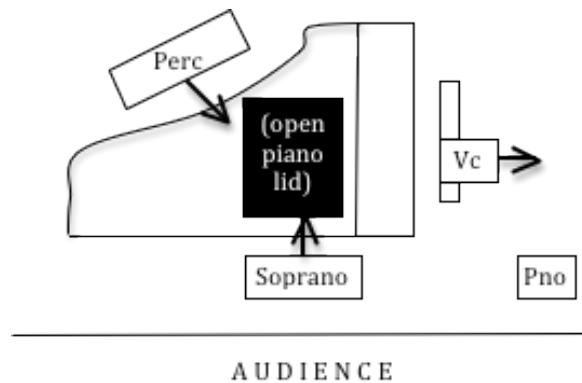
Mirror, mirror on the wall: the crucial moment

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SCENE DESCRIPTION

Placement as in the following picture.

Soprano uses the open piano lid as her mirror. **Percussionist** plays inside the piano. **Cellist** sits on the piano stool, facing away from the piano. **Pianist** is in the front right corner.



SHOT 1 - DESCRIPTION

Everybody is frozen. Cellist always looks forward and ignores whatever is happening around. Single spotlight on the Pianist.

PIANIST

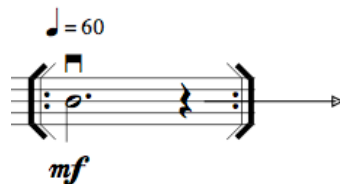
Holding a pack of papers. All blank, except the top one which he reads out loud:

Once upon a time...

He turns the page... and the next... and the next... they are all empty... he keeps turning the pages...

CELLIST

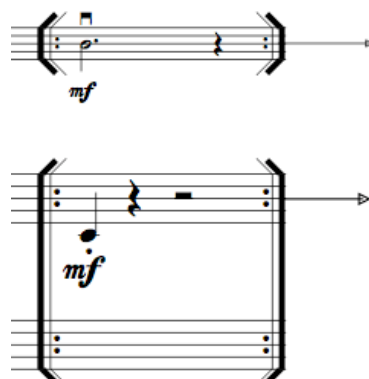
(after the 5th or 6th page the pianist turns - lights on the whole stage) **She starts (almost mechanically) repeating the following...**



PIANIST

He looks at the cellist, while keeps turning the pages.

(after a few of the repeated notes) **He starts moving around (carrying the pack of papers with him). He goes around the piano, looks at the cellist again, sits right next to her (facing at the same direction), starts "playing" with her, mimicking her bow movement. (She doesn't reply). Finally, he turns around (facing the piano) and while keep mimicking her movement he starts playing the following...**



SINGER

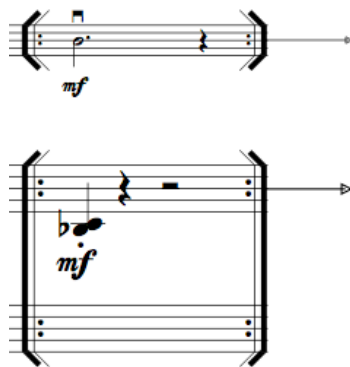
(attacca on the first piano note) She starts moving while looking at the mirror; she fixes her hair... She looks at the mirror, checking her appearance... A few seconds later she is ready to ask the question:

Ahhhhh... ..

...but she jibs, almost as she would do if she had forgotten the question... she is waiting for a reply though. She gets closer to the mirror, knocks on the piano lid twice very gently, and steps back.

PIANIST

(attacca on the first knock) He keeps mimicking the cellist's bow movement and starts playing the following...



SINGER

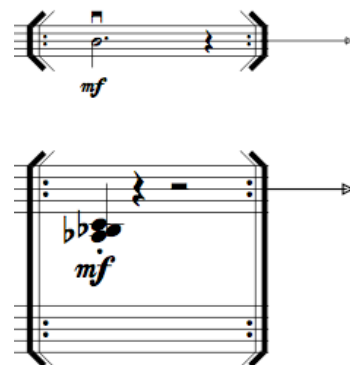
She still looks at the mirror. She starts fixing her hair again... She looks at the mirror, checking her appearance... A few seconds later she is ready to ask the question again:

Ahhhhh... ..

...but she jibs again, almost as she would do if she had forgotten the question... she is waiting for a reply once again though. She gets closer to the mirror, knocks on the piano lid twice with more confidence, and steps back.

PIANIST

(attacca on the first knock) He keeps mimicking the cellist's bow movement and starts playing the following...



SINGER

She is still looking at the mirror. She starts fixing her hair again... She looks at the mirror, really crossed! A few seconds later she is finally ready to ask the question once more:

Ahhhhh... ..

...but she jibs yet again... She steps back and almost immediately gets closer to the mirror, knocks on the piano lid really loudly. She gets frightened from the piano resonance and freezes for a few moments.

PIANIST

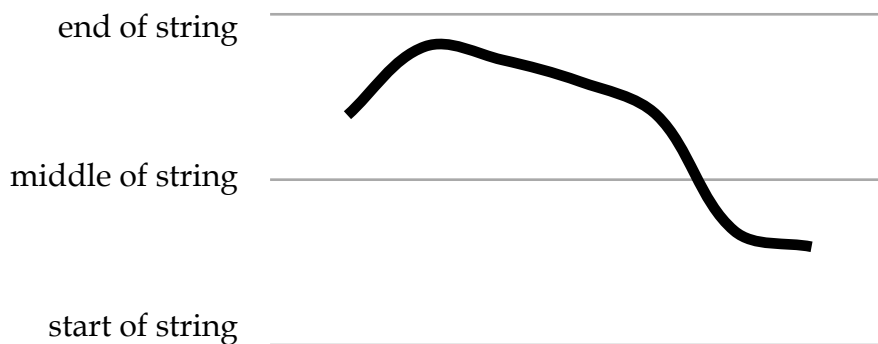
(just before the knock) He secretly presses the sustain pedal and holds it down.

PIANIST & CELLIST

(attacca on the first knock) They both stop playing (pianist still holds the pedal though) and freeze.

PERCUSSIONIST

(a few moments later) He runs a metal or plastic object on one of the very low piano strings as in the following diagram.



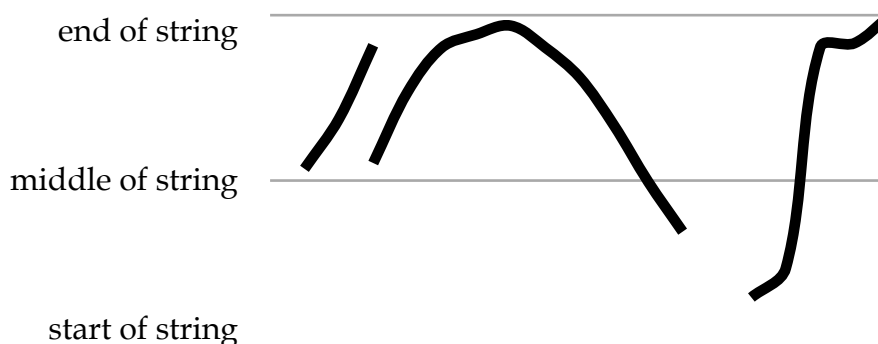
SINGER

She wonders:

Ahh?? (as in "What?")

PERCUSSIONIST

(a few moments later) He runs a metal or plastic object on one of the very low piano strings as in the following diagram.



SINGER

She gets frightened... Still frozen...

ALL

Remain frozen

PIANIST

(still holding the pedal down; *a few moments later*) He starts turning the pages again... and the next... and the next... they are all empty. He keeps turning pages...

PERCUSSIONIST

He runs metal or plastic objects on the very low piano strings. The sound gets gradually louder (*as the pianist turns the pages*). He keeps going non-stop...

PIANIST

(*when the strings resonate loud enough*) He finds a page with a single word on it. He gets excited. He releases the pedal for a moment to say:

Once...

... and immediately press it again. He keeps turning pages, but in a slower tempo. He expects to find more words soon.

SINGER & CELLIST

(*attacca on the second time the pedal is pressed*) They start playing / singing on a single pitch. They use such low dynamics, so to be out-sounded by the piano strings. They can only be heard during the single moments the pianist releases the pedal. They keep going non-stop...

PIANIST

He gradually discovers more pages with single words on them. He releases the pedal only while reading each one of them:

...upon...

...a...

...time....

He keeps turning pages, even slower. He is almost sure of what it is to follow. He is irritated by the sounds everybody is making. He releases the pedal a few times, but immediately regrets it and presses it down again.

He finally turns one more page. It is what he was afraid it would be. He releases the pedal and stands up.

SINGER & CELLIST & PERCUSSIONIST

(*when the pianist stands up*) They all stop and freeze.

PIANIST

He reads...

...the... ...end...