

INFLATABLE WORLD



ERIC SHANFIELD

INFLATABLE WORLD

Eric Shanfield | ENS.2004.3r | 20'

lyrics by Saul Wheeler

Soprano

Piano

Inflatable World is a fun, mostly lighthearted cycle, and should be performed with a pop or musical theater sensibility.

Saul Wheeler is one of my oldest friends. In high school we discovered everything from music to movies together, and when as a teenager I decided to start setting words to music I turned repeatedly to him and his unusual sense of humor.

Although he had never written lyrics before, his contributions are small wonders of weird whimsy. Our largest project together was *Inflatable World*, originally intended to be an album of pseudo-pop songs, now a cycle for soprano and piano. From the remarkable chorus of *There is No Rain (When You Love Me)* to his masterpiece, *Something Sad to Wear*, I have tried to do justice to Saul's inspired lyrics.

Originally composed as a simple skeleton of melodies over chord symbols intended for later realization by instruments, through the next decade I made numerous versions of *Inflatable World*, but none of them really worked. Finally in 2014 after years of neglect I returned to them and made these definitive straightforward versions.

Inflatable World includes eight songs and lasts about twenty minutes.

INFLATABLE WORLD

lyrics by Saul Wheeler

1. Inflatable World

Come here my son and listen to me
I'll take you on a strange journey
There is a place where I attest
That once you see you'll be impressed

I mention this to you because
I know that you are like I was
Tired of toys you soon outgrew
Look here the perfect place for you

At inflatable world you can dance on air
At inflatable world you can bounce if you dare
At inflatable world you can skip and play
When you live your life the inflatable way

A smiling purple dinosaur
Looks down upon a rocket ship
A dragon bridge and racing car
A carbon rat with a sneering lip

Are all inflated for your fun
By a diesel fueled injector pump
They stand and wait for a boy like you to enter
And start to jump
Start to jump!

At inflatable world you can dance on air
At inflatable world you can bounce if you dare
At inflatable world you can skip and play
When you live your life the inflatable way

Your father says don't you jump on that
Your mother says you're being a brat
So in despair they take you to
The place where they take kids like you

At inflatable world you can dance on air
At inflatable world you can bounce if you dare
At inflatable world
An inflatable world

No temper tantrums or arson
You smiled and played and hit no one
You bounced all day without bloodshed
Your grateful parents take you home to bed

At inflatable world
An inflatable world
An inflatable world every day
An inflatable world

Why don't you live your life
The inflatable way

2. Despondent in Des Moines

Routine lists of misguided dreams
Brandishing transcripts of halfhearted screams
He slowly laid down her resonant head
And mumbled aloud he wished she was dead

Despondent in Des Moines

Opulent structures and ramshackle lives
Where throw pillows glisten with bristling knives
Apathy stronger than cumulative hate
Sanguinary hearts conspired by fate

Despondent in Des Moines

Exhaustion kept the anger at bay
He knew in his heart that one day she'd pay
Despondent ashamed alone in Des Moines
Plotting her death and icing his loins

3. Because I Was So In Love With You

Since we last spoke you seemed so strong
And I so awful weak
I missed you so, those lonesome days,
A tear ran down my cheek

But now I know you had to go
'Cause I took too long to see
Because I was so in love with you,
You weren't in love with me

My heart was pounding in my throat
I didn't know what to say
I tried so hard to make you mind
I only pushed you away

My eyes were fixed so straight on you
I plainly couldn't see
Because I was so in love with you
You weren't in love with me

Our love my dear was headed south
Since you first stopped my heart
I've thought and thought and come to know
That we are best apart

The clouds are gone and now I know
What before I could not see
Because I was so in love with you
You weren't in love with me

4. *There Is No Rain (When You Love Me)*

There is no rain when you love me
There is no dark which I can't see
There is no pronoun besides we
There is no rain when you love me

The darkest hours are over
The morning light is upon us
The diffused glow softly cupreous
The dew-speckled fields of clover

Where little wonders are sleeping
Where warm noses tickle their mother
Where whiskers tickle their brother
Where newborns stay for safekeeping

There is no rain when you love me
There is no dark which I can't see
There is no pronoun besides we
There is no rain when you love me

The stardust streaks through the black sky
The moonglow lightens my pathway
The night owl staves off the new day
The rooster crows in reply

These hours are not forever
These moments tender and fleeting
These feelings are like a chance meeting
These bonds I feel I will shatter

What is left will soon be a new day
What once was never again will be
What will you say if you love me?
What would you do if I did stay?

These are the things that I know now
These are the things that I'll show you
These are the things that I will do
These are the things that are enow

There is no rain when you love me
There is no dark which I can't see
There is no pronoun besides we
There is no rain when you love me
When you love me

5. *The Bad and the Ugly*

I made a discovery
I found that my loving man
Had committed adultery
He did me the wrong and ran

Salty tears and gnashing teeth
Pulling hair, despondency
Distraught with unending grief
None of that happened to me

The man just was not worth it
Not that cute, or smart, or rich
I don't really give a shit
In truth he deserves the bitch

Some think I should forgive her
Be divine, forgive her sin
But not this adulterer
For alas she is my kin

A sisterly reunion
Don't think I am surprised
I once caught her in communion
With a boy that I'd baptized

Men are men or so they say
They can be fun to have around
But there is a price to pay
Every man is first a hound

As long as you understand
The rules as they are laid out
That every man in the land
Is at heart a lout

You can have some fun with them
You can make them do your will
You can even play the femme
Just please use the imbecile

6. *On Razor's Edge*

She said: I used your razor
I hope you don't mind
Stuck in a haze or stupor
I replied in kind

I kissed your sister I said
I did not want to
Listen up mister
You jerk I used to love you

Why can't it be
The way it was when we met
Why can't you say to me
My dear it's our secret?

La da da da da da
La da da da da da

We made up that night in bed
It was pure magic
No, this is not right,
She said, our love is tragic

Get out of my bed
And quick before I kill you
I wish you were dead she said
I know you do

7. *Geraldine*

Ping-pong bellows
And gargoyle hollows
In the light of the moon
Miss Geraldine wallows

Ringed turtledoves
Desperate and sallow
Geraldine slinks through fields
Long since fallow

Speak now or forever hold your peace
Speak now or forever hold your peace

Rain-soaked chasms
And twice-shattered rifts
Down on all fours
Through coarse slag she sifts

Speak now or forever hold your peace

Torment and treasure
At once in her hand
Geraldine exhumes
Her once cast-off band

8. *Something Sad To Wear*

I want to wear your heartache
You model it so well
It's right out in the open
Right under your lapel

Where can I buy that sadness
Melancholy off the rack
It's what everyone is wearing
They say it's the new black

The cut's a little bit rakish
The lines are very clean
It makes a certain statement
You wear it to be seen

I want to wear your sorrow
It won't make me look fat
I want to wear your anguish
With black pumps and a hat

The blues are always in fashion
Hot off the runway
You can wear them in any weather
Before or after Labor Day

Please don't think I like begging
For any misery you can spare
Just pass me a little bit of heartache
I need something sad to wear

INFLATABLE WORLD

1. INFLATABLE WORLD

Saul Wheeler

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 176$
f

Soprano

Come here my son and listen to me I'll

Piano

6 9

Sop.

take you on a strange journey There is a place

Pno.

10

Sop.

where I attest that once you see you'll be impressed

Pno.

14 15

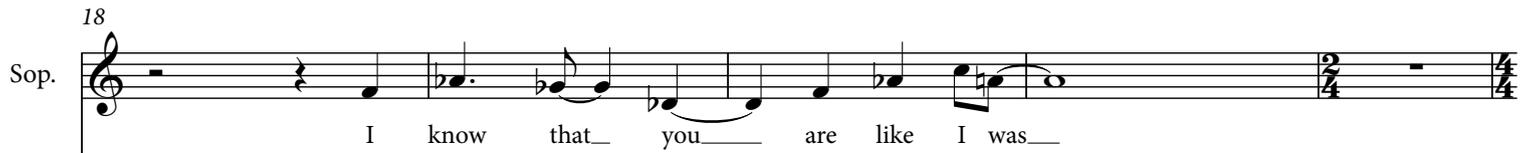
Sop.

I mention this to you because

Pno.

INFLATABLE WORLD - 1. INFLATABLE WORLD

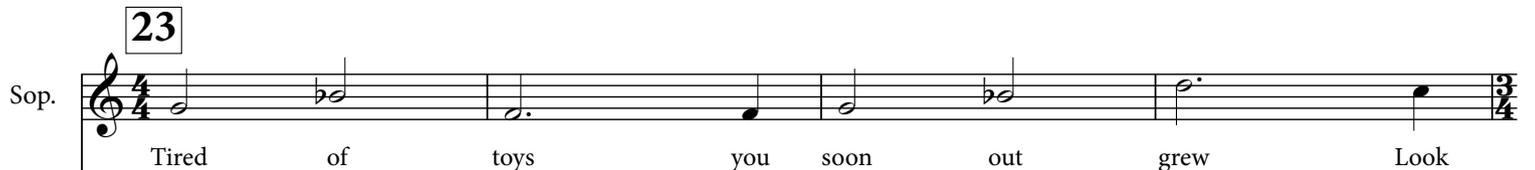
18

Sop. 

I know that you are like I was

Pno. 

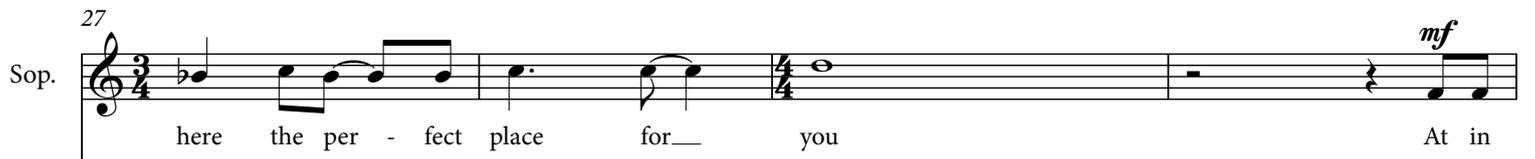
23

Sop. 

Tired of toys you soon out grew Look

Pno. 

27

Sop. 

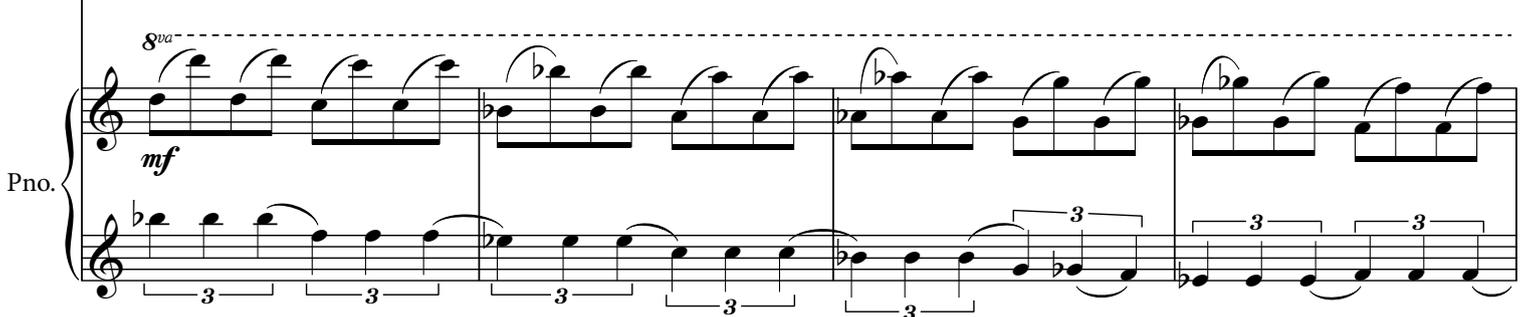
here the perfect place for you At in

Pno. 

31

Sop. 

flatable world you can dance on air at in flatable world

Pno. 

35

Sop. You can bounce if you dare. At in fla ta ble world you can skip and play_ when you

Pno. *p* *mf*

39

Sop. live your life the in fla ta ble way_

Pno. *f* *mf* *f*

41

43

Sop. A smi - ling_ pur - ple_

Pno. *mf* *f*

47

Sop. di - no - saur looks down up - on a rock - et ship A

Pno. *mf*

51

Sop. dra - gon_ bridge and_ ra - cing_ car a_ car - bon_ rat with_ a

Pno. *mf*

Sop. sneer - ing_ lip Are all in fla - ted for your fun by a

Pno. *ff*

63

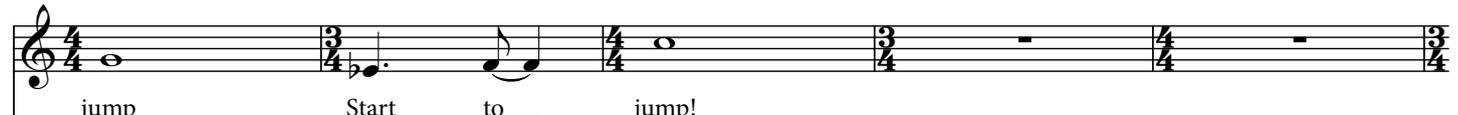
Sop. die - sel fueled in - ject - or pump They stand and wait for a

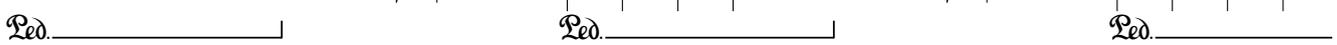
Pno.

Sop. boy like you_ to en - ter_ and start to_

Pno. *non Ped.*

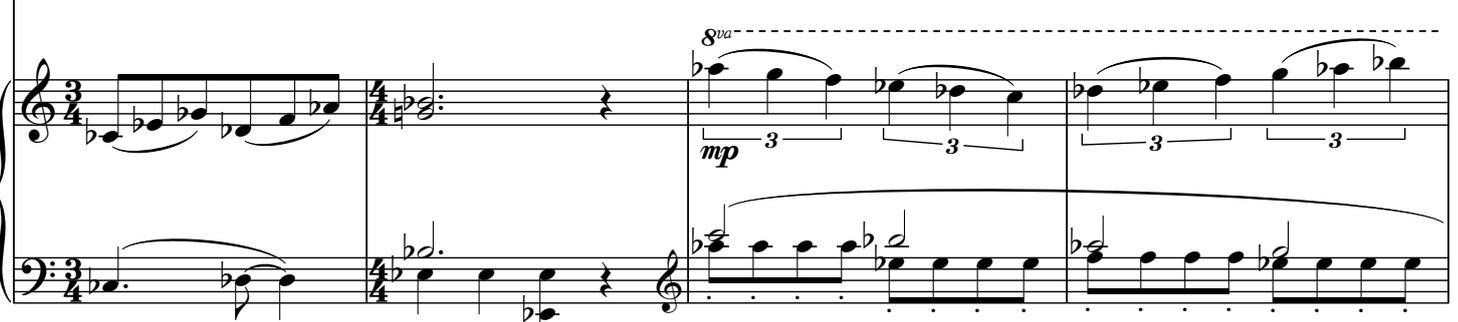
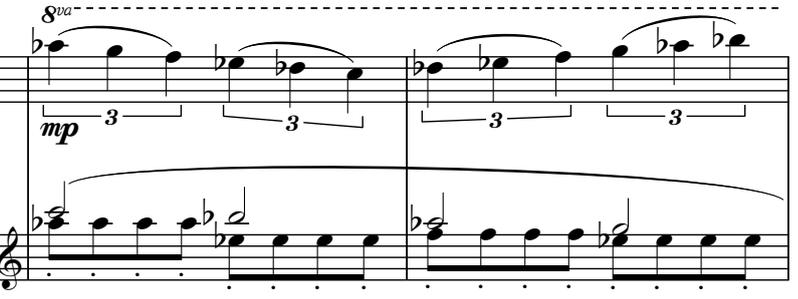
68

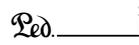
Sop.  jump Start to jump!

Pno.  Ped. 

73

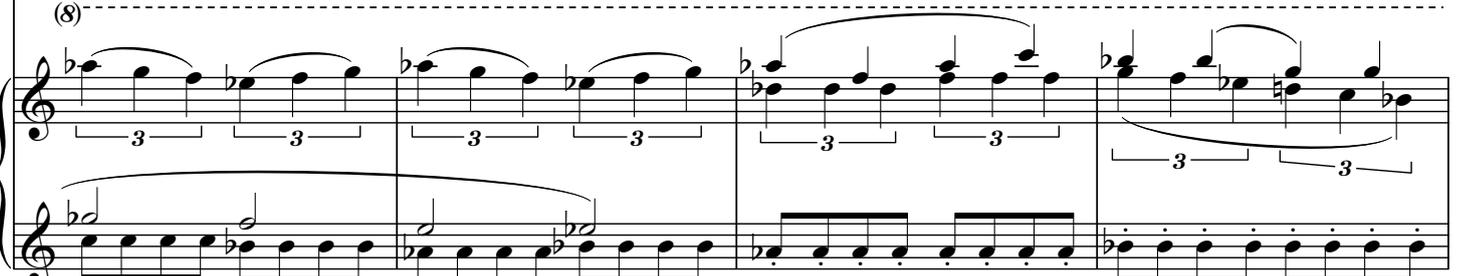
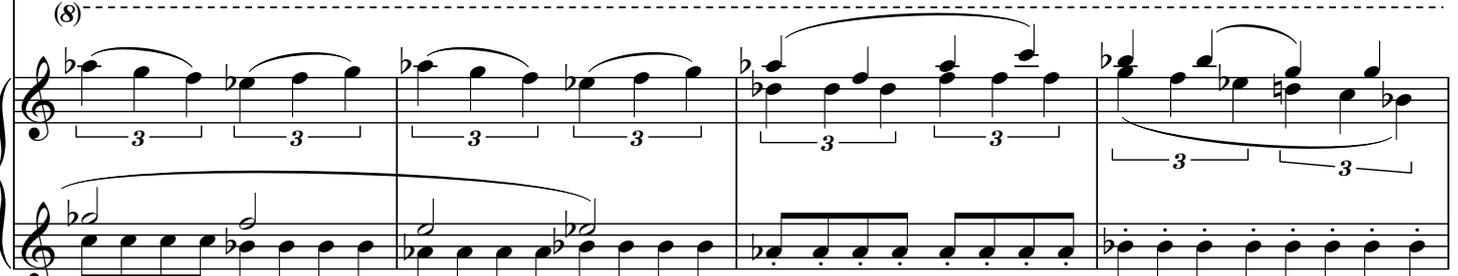
Sop.  At in - fla - ta - ble world you can dance on air at in -

Pno.  *mp*  *8va* 

Ped. 

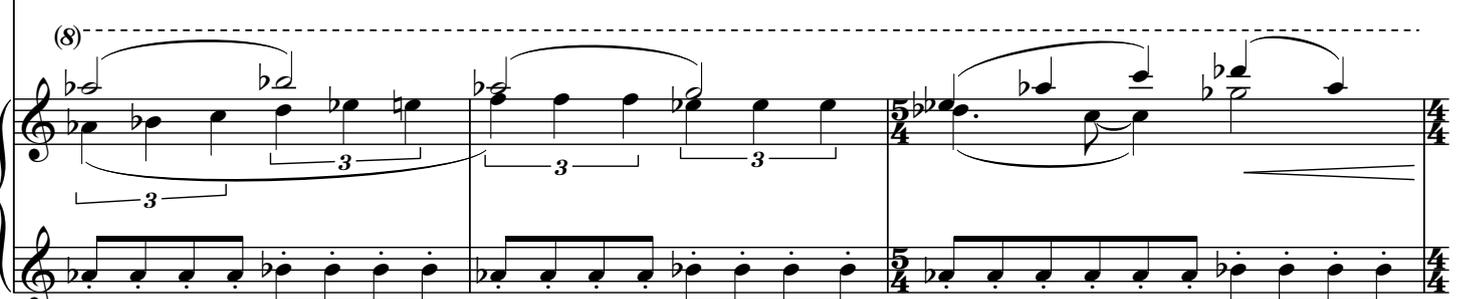
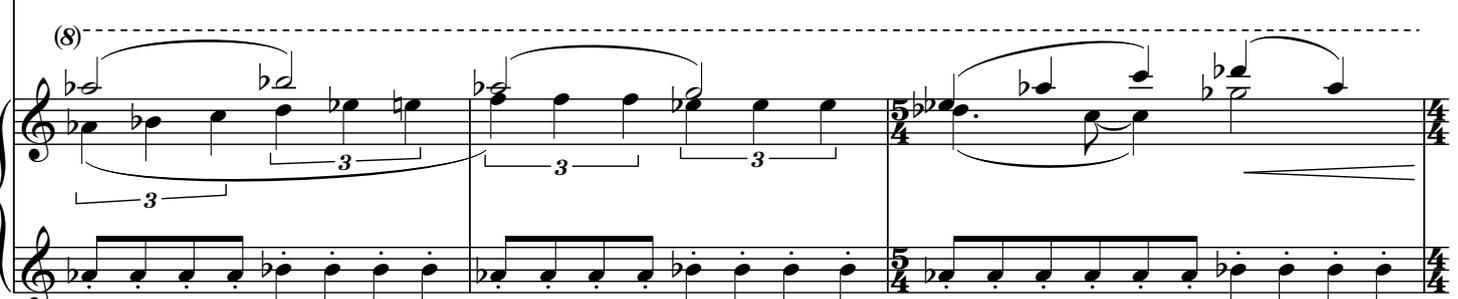
77

Sop.  fla - ta - ble world You can bounce if you dare. At in -

Pno.  

81

Sop.  fla - ta - ble world you can skip and play when you live your life

Pno.  

84 85

Sop. *f* the in - fla - ta - ble way *f* Your fa - ther_ says_

Pno. *f* *f* *p* *f*

88

Sop. don't you jump on that_ Your mo - ther_ says_

Pno.

92 95

Sop. you're be - ing a brat So in des -

Pno.

96

Sop. pair they take you to the place where they take kids like_

Pno.

101 ♩=108 *p*

Sop. you At in - fla - ta - ble world_ you can dance on air_ at in - fla - ta - ble world_

Pno.

105 **108**

Sop. — you can bounce if you dare At in - fla - ta - ble world_

Pno.

109 *accel.* *f*

Sop. — an in - fla - ta - ble world_ No

Pno.

114 ♩=176

Sop. tem - per_ tan - trums_ or ar - son_ You

Pno. *f*

118

Sop. *smiled and played and hit no one*

Pno.

121

Sop. *You bounced all day with out blood - shed.*

Pno.

p *f*

ben f

123

Sop. *Your grate - ful par - ents take you home to bed At in -*

Pno.

126 $\text{♩} = 132$ *mp*

128

Sop. *fla - ta - ble world an in - fla - ta - ble world an in - fla - ta - ble world*

Pno.

133

Sop. *f*
 ev - ery day__ an in - fla - ta - ble world _____ Why don't you live your_ life

Pno. *f*

137

Sop. *ff*
 the in - fla - ta - ble way _____

Pno. *ff*

INFLATABLE WORLD

2. DESPONDENT IN DES MOINES

Saul Wheeler

Eric Shanfield

♩=160

Soprano

Piano

p

5

Sop.

f

Rou - tine__ lists__ of mis - guid - ed dreams

Pno.

f

4

4

9

Sop.

Brand - ish - ing__ tran - scripts of half - heart - ed

Pno.

4

4

13

Sop.

screams

Pno.

17 *f*

Sop. He slow - ly laid down her re - so - nant head

Pno.

21

Sop. and mum - bled a - loud he wished she was dead

Pno.

25 *p* *f*

Sop. Des - pond - ent in Des Moines

Pno. *p*

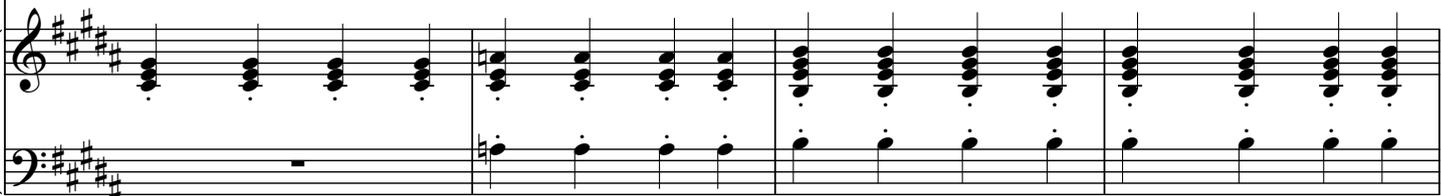
29 *mp*

Sop. Op - u - lent struc - tures and ram - shack - le lives where

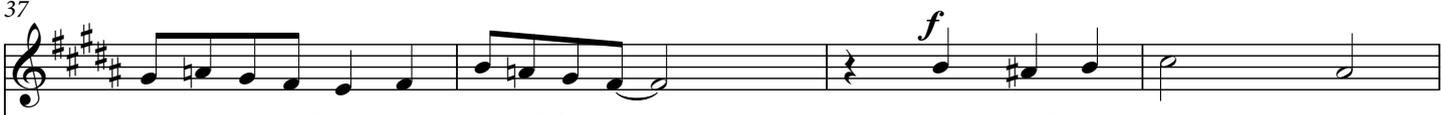
Pno. *f* *mp*

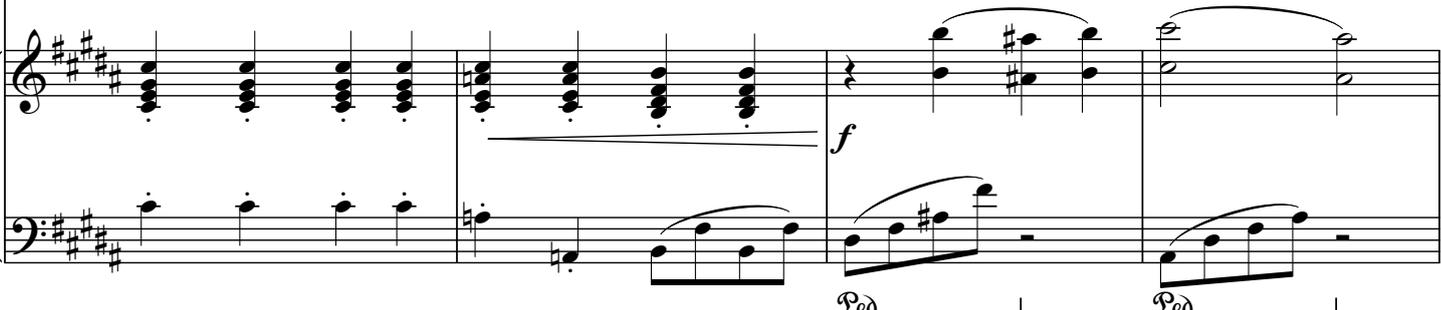
33

Sop. 
 throw pil-lows glist - en with bris tl - ing knives Ap - a - thy strong - er than cum - u - la - tive hate_

Pno. 

37

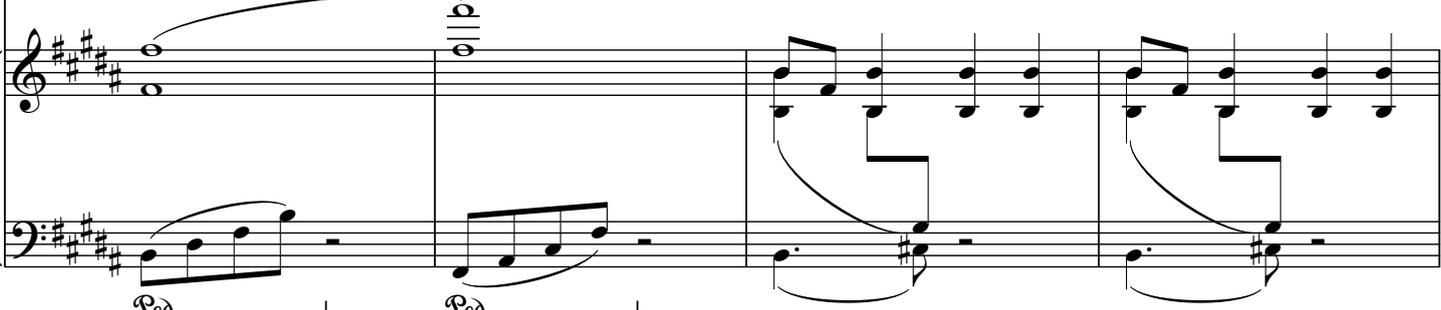
Sop. 
 San - guin - a - ry hearts con - spi - red by fate_ Des - pond - ent in Des

Pno. 

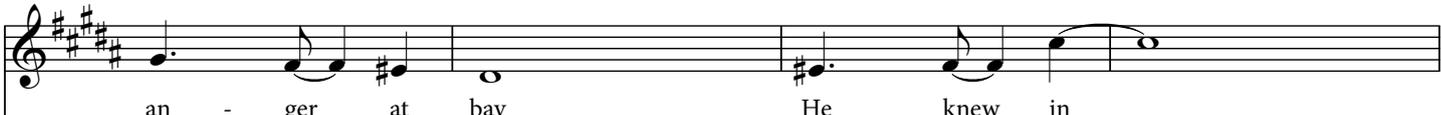
41

43

Sop. 
 Moines Ex - haus - tion_ kept the

Pno. 

45

Sop. 
 an - ger_ at bay He knew in_

Pno. 

49 *freeze*

Sop. his heart that one day she'd pay

Pno. *ff* *freeze*

53 **55** *f*

Sop. Des - pond - ent a - shamed a - lone in Des

Pno. *f*

57 *f*

Sop. Moines Plot - ting her death and ic - ing his

Pno. *f*

61 *ff* *8va*

Sop. loins

Pno. *ff*

INFLATABLE WORLD

3. BECAUSE I WAS SO IN LOVE WITH YOU

Saul Wheeler

Eric Shanfield

3
mf

Soprano

$\text{♩} = 168$

Since we last spoke you

Piano

5

Sop.

seemed so strong and I so awful weak. I

Pno.

10

Sop.

missed you so, those lone - some days, a tear ran down my

Pno.

15 16

Sop.
 cheek but now I know you had to

Pno.

19

Sop.
 go 'cause I took too long to see

Pno.

23 24

Sop.
 Be cause I was so in love with you, you were-n't in love with me.

Pno.

27 29

Sop.
 My heart was pound - ing

Pno.

31

Sop. in my throat. I did- n't know what to say.

Pno.

35

Sop. I tried so hard to make you mine I

Pno.

40

Sop. on - ly pushed you a way. My eyes were fixed so

Pno.

44

Sop. straight on you, I plain - ly could - n't

Pno.

48

Sop. *f*
see. Be cause I was so in love with you, you

Pno. *f*

52

Sop. CLAP 55 *f*
were-n't in love with me. Our love, my

Pno. CLAP *f*

56

Sop.
dear was head ed south since you first

Pno.

60

Sop. 62
stopped my heart. I've thought and thought and come to

Pno. *p sub.* *f*

68

65

Sop. know that we are best a - part The clouds are

Pno.

69

Sop. gone and now I know what be fore I

Pno.

76

73

Sop. could not see. Be cause I was so in

Pno. *ff*

77

Sop. *fp* love with you, *ff* you were-n't in love with me

Pno. *p* *ff*

9

INFLATABLE WORLD

4. THERE IS NO RAIN (WHEN YOU LOVE ME)

Saul Wheeler

Eric Shanfield

♩=126

Soprano

f

There

Piano

5

Sop.

is no rain_ when you love me There is no dark_ which I can't see_ There

Pno.

9

Sop.

is no pro - noun be sides we_ There is no rain_ when you love me_

Pno.

INFLATABLE WORLD - 4. THERE IS NO RAIN (WHEN YOU LOVE ME)

20

13 *mf* **15**

Sop. *mf* The dark est ho - urs are o ver_ The

Pno. *mf*

17 *mp*

Sop. *mp* morn ing light_ is u - pon us_ The dif fused_ glow soft ly cu - pre-ous

Pno. *mp*

21

Sop. The dew speck - led fields of clo - ver

Pno. *mf*

25 *mf*

Sop. *mf* Where lit tle won - ders are slee - ping_ Where warm no ses tick - le their mo - ther_ Where

Pno. *mf*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

29

Sop. whis kers_ tick le their bro - ther Where new borns stay for safe keep - ing

Pno.

33

Sop. *f* 36 There is no rain_ when

Pno. *f*

37

Sop. you love me_ There is no dark_ which I can't see_ There is no pro - noun

Pno.

41

Sop. be sides we There is no rain_ when you love me_

Pno. 44

INFLATABLE WORLD - 4. THERE IS NO RAIN (WHEN YOU LOVE ME)

22

45 *mf* *f*

Sop. The star dust streaks through the black sky

Pno. *mf* *f*

48 *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Sop. The moon glow light - ens my path way The night ow - 1 staves off

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *r.h.*

51 *mf*

Sop. the new day The roos ter crows in re - ply These

Pno. *l.h.* *r.h.* *5* *7* *mf*

54 *f* *mf*

Sop. ho urs are not for - e - ver These mo ments ten - der and

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf*

57 *f* *mf* *f*

Sop. flee - ting_ These feel ings are like_ a chance mee ting_ These bonds I feel_ I will

Pno. *f* *mf* *f* *r.h.* *l.h.* *r.h.* 5

Ped. Ped.

61 *mf*

Sop. shat - ter_ What is left_ will soon

Pno. 7 5 *mf*

Ped.

64

65

Sop. be a new day_ What once was ne - ver a - gain will be_ What will you_ say

Pno. Ped. Ped. Ped.

69

Sop. if you love me? What would you do if I did_ stay?

Pno. *sva*

INFLATABLE WORLD - 4. THERE IS NO RAIN (WHEN YOU LOVE ME)

24

74

73

Sop. *f*

These are the things that I know now These are the things

Pno. *f*

77

Sop.

that I'll show_ you These are the things that I will do_ These are the things

Pno.

81

Sop. *ff*

that are e - now_ There is no rain_ when

Pno. *ff*

Ped.

84

Sop.

you love me_ There is no dark_ which I can't see_ There

Pno.

87

Sop. is no pro - noun be sides we There is no rain_ when

Pno.

90

Sop. you love me_ When you love_

Pno. *p sub.* *ff*

Red.

93

Sop. me!

Pno.

95

Sop.

Pno.

INFLATABLE WORLD

5. THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Saul Wheeler

Eric Shanfield

♩=144

5 *mf*

Soprano

I made a dis

Piano

mf

6

Sop.

co - ver - y — I found that my lov - ing man. Had com - mit - ted a - dul - tery —

Pno.

11

13 *f*

Sop.

He did — me the wrong and ran — Sal - ty tears and gna -

Pno.

f

16

Sop.

shing teeth Pul ling hair, des pon - den - cy Dis - traught with un - end - ing grief.

Pno.

21 23

Sop. *mp*
None of that hap-pened__ to__ me__ The man_ just

Pno. *mp*

26 *coquettish*

Sop. was not_ worth it__ Not that cute, or smart, or rich_ I don't rea lly give a shit_

Pno.

31 33

Sop. *nasty* *f*
In truth he de-serves__ the bitch Some think I should for give her_ Be div ine. For

Pno. *f*

36

Sop. give her sin._ But not this a - dul - ter - er For a - las she is my kin_

Pno.

41

Sop.

Pno.

ff

Red.

45

Sop.

Pno.

mp

49 *mp*

Sop.

A sis - ter - ly — re - un - ion — Don't think I am sur prised

Pno.

53

Sop.

I once caught her in — com - mun - ion — With a boy that I'd bap - tized

Pno.

57

mf

Sop. *mf*
 Men are men or so they say They can be fun to have a-round But there is a price

Pno. *mf*

65

Sop. *f*
 to pay E very man is first a hound As long as you

Pno. *f*

66

Sop.
 un - der-stand The rules as they are laid out That ev ery man in the land is at heart a lout

Pno.

73

ff

Sop. *ff*
 You can have some fun with them You can make them

Pno. *ff*

76

Sop. do your will_ You can e - ven_ play_ the femme Just please

Pno.

80

Sop. use the im - - be - cile

Pno.

fff

fff

INFLATABLE WORLD

6. ON RAZOR'S EDGE

Saul Wheeler

Eric Shanfield

1 $\text{♩} = 184$ *f*

Soprano

She said: I used your razor I hope you don't mind.

Piano

6

Sop.

Stuck in a haze or stu por I re plied in kind.

Pno.

11

Sop.

I kissed your sis ter, I said... I did not want to...

Pno.

16 **20**

Sop.

Lis ten up mis ter, you jerk I used to love you... Why can't it

Pno.

INFLATABLE WORLD - 6. ON RAZOR'S EDGE

32

21

Sop. Sop. be the way it was_ when we met? Why can't you say to me:_ my

Pno.

26

28

Sop. Sop. dear it's our se cret? La da da da da

Pno.

30

Sop. Sop. La da da da da Dah da da

Pno.

33

35

Sop. Sop. dum We made up that night in

Pno.

37

Sop. bed. It was_ pure ma gic. No, this is

Pno. *p sub.*

Ped.

41

Sop. not right, she said. Our love_ is tra gic.

Pno. **43** *ff*

45

Sop. *ff* Get out_ of my bed, and quick, be fore_ I kill you.

Pno.

49

Sop. I wish you were dead, she said. I know you do - .

Pno. *8va* *Miss.*

INFLATABLE WORLD

7. GERALDINE

Saul Wheeler

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 84$ rit. **3** a tempo *p*

Soprano

Piano

Ped.

Ping pong bel lows and gar goy le

6

Sop.

Pno.

hol lows in the light of the moon Miss Ger al dine wal lows.

11 *mp* *mf*

Sop.

Pno.

Ped.

Ringed tur tle doves desper ate and sal low

14 *mp* *mf*

Sop. Ger al dine _____ slinks through fields long since fal low _____

Pno. *mp* *mf* Ped.

19 ♩=120 più mosso *mf*

Sop. Speak now or for - e - ver hold your

Pno. *mp* *mf*

27 *f* **31**

Sop. peace _____ Speak now or for - e - ver hold your

Pno.

35

Sop.

peace

Pno.

mp

Ped.

42 $\text{♩} = 108$ meno mosso

Sop.

mp

Rain soaked chams_ and twice shattered rifts Down on all fours through coarse slag she sifts

Pno.

mp

50

Sop.

f

Speak now or for - e - ever hold your peace

Pno.

f

58 rit.

Sop.

Pno.

ff 2nd x *p*

64 ♩=84 tempo one 68

Sop. *p* *pp sotto voce*

Tor ment and trea sure at once in her hand Ger - al - dine ex - humes her

Pno.

pp

Red.

71 74

Sop.

once cast off band.

Pno.

p

p Red.

INFLATABLE WORLD

8. SOMETHING SAD TO WEAR

Saul Wheeler

Eric Shanfield

7 *mf*

mf

mf

9 *Ped.*

Sop. heart-ache You mo-del it so well It's right

Pno.

17

Sop. out in the o-pen Right un-der your la - pel

Pno. *f*

Ped.

24 **27** *mf*

Sop. Where can I buy that sad-ness Mel - an -

Pno. *mf*

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 168. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into four systems. The first system starts at measure 7, marked with a box containing the number 7 and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. The soprano part has a rest for the first six measures, then enters with the lyrics 'I want to wear your'. The second system starts at measure 9, marked with a box containing the number 9 and a *Ped.* marking. The piano part continues with similar accompaniment. The soprano part continues with 'heart-ache You mo-del it so well It's right'. The third system starts at measure 17. The piano part has a dynamic marking of *f*. The soprano part continues with 'out in the o-pen Right un-der your la - pel'. The fourth system starts at measure 24, marked with a box containing the number 24 and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piano part continues with similar accompaniment. The soprano part continues with 'Where can I buy that sad-ness Mel - an -'. The score ends with a *Ped.* marking.

32 35

Sop. cho-ly off the rack _____ It's what ev-ery one is wear-ing _____

Pno.

39 43 *f*

Sop. They say it's the new black _____ The cut's _____ a lit - tle bit

Pno. *f*

45

Sop. rak-ish _____ The lines are ve - ry clean _____

Pno. *ben f*

p sub. _____ *f*

51

Sop. It makes a cer - tain state-ment _____ You wear it to be seen

Pno.

INFLATABLE WORLD - 8. SOMETHING SAD TO WEAR

40

63

59

Sop. *mf*
I want to wear your sor-row

Pno. *ff* *mf* *p*
ped.

66

Sop. *f* *mf*
It won't make me look fat I want

Pno. *f* *p sub.* *mf*

73

Sop. *f*
to wear your an-guish with black pumps and a hat The blues are

Pno. *f*

80

Sop.
al-ways in fa-shion Hot off the run-way

Pno. *ben f* *p sub.* *f*

86 87

Sop. You can wear them in a - ny wea - ther Be - fore or af - ter

Pno.

93 97 *molto rit.* *a tempo*

Sop. La - bor Day Please don't think I like beg - ging

Pno. *ff*

Red.

101 105 *mf* *molto rit.* *a tempo*

Sop. for a - ny mi - se - ry you can spare Just pass me a lit - tle bit of heart - ache

Pno. *mf*

1/2 tr *1/2 tr*

108 *molto rit.* 109 *ff* *a tempo*

Sop. I need some - thing sad to wear

Pno. *ff* *fff*

Red.