

Stephen Eddins

Why I Live at the P.O.

an opera
based on the story by
Eudora Welty

Libretto by Michael O'Brien
with Stephen Eddins

Prologue, Scenes 1-6

Vocal Score

Why I Live at the P.O.

Characters (in order of appearance)

Sister 1/Narrator	Lyric Soprano
Sister 2/Actor (Sister is 30-ish, Postmistress to the town of China Grove, Mississippi)	Lyric Soprano
Stella-Rondo , Sister's sister, exactly twelve months to the day younger	Coloratura Soprano
Shirley-T. , Stella-Rondo's adopted (?) child, two years old	Non-Singing Role
Mama	Mezzo/Contralto
Papa-Daddy , Mama's papa	Bass Baritone
Uncle Rondo , Mama's brother, the town pharmacist	Character Tenor

Notes on casting

Sister 1/Narrator and Sister 2/Actor: Two singers portray Sister, the narrator and protagonist of the opera. They should be costumed identically, and if possible, have the same hairstyle, but here the resemblance may stop. Sister 2/Actor is Sister1/Narrator's idealized self - the image she wants to project to the audience. The director may exploit the contrast between Sister 1/Narrator - eccentric, opinionated and quirky - and Sister 2/Actor - attractive and reasonable, the innocent, put-upon victim of her family's craziness.

The distinction between Sister 1's narrative and the action is permeable. There are points at which Sister 1 will impulsively abandon her role as narrator, and rush into the action onstage, to clarify a point, or even alter the course of the action, in order to cast herself in a more flattering light, creating the surreal spectacle of two Sisters enacting parallel versions of the same event.

Shirley-T.: Shirley-T. may be played by as young and small a child as possible, or by an adult skilled in portraying children. If Shirley-T. is played by a very young child, Stella-Rondo may sing the line attributed to her, in a childish voice, with her back to the audience.

Setting

China Grove, Mississippi, 1941.

Prologue and Epilogue: A few days after the Fourth of July

Scenes 1-6: The Fourth of July

Single set:

Prologue and Epilogue: The back room of China Grove Post Office, downstage right.

Scenes 1-6: The family home (kitchen, living room, Stella-Rondo's bedroom) upstage center, and the yard with a hammock, downstage left.

Duration: 70"

Why I Live at the P.O.

a chamber opera based on the story by Eudora Welty

Libretto by Michael O'Brien and Stephen Eddins

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Prologue

Setting: China Grove Mississippi. Early July 1941. Midmorning, the back room of a small post office (downstage right), set up with all the amenities of a comfortable home -- easy chair, radio, sewing machine, electric fan, ironing board, lamps, house plants, etc. Sister 1, our narrator, tells her story right to the audience.

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80 \text{ (2+2+3)}$
swung $\text{♩♩} = \text{♩}^{\text{3-2}}$

Sister 1 *mf* indignantly **3**
Fine, I was get-ting a-long

Piano *f* **3** *mp* **3**

Sister 1 **3** *f*
fine, fine, I was get ting a-long fine til Stel - la

sim. **3**

Sister 1 **5** *ff*
Ron - do came home.

8va *mf* **3** *f* **3** *mp*

The musical score is written for Sister 1 (soprano) and Piano. Sister 1's part begins with a tempo and meter indication of quarter note = ca. 80 (2+2+3) and a 'swung' feel where two eighth notes are equivalent to a dotted quarter note. The first system shows Sister 1 singing 'Fine, I was get-ting a-long' with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and an indignantly expression. The piano accompaniment starts with a forte (f) dynamic and features triplet patterns. The second system continues the vocal line with 'fine, fine, I was get ting a-long fine til Stel - la', with dynamics ranging from mezzo-forte to forte (f). The piano accompaniment continues with triplet patterns and a 'sim.' (simile) marking. The third system shows Sister 1 singing 'Ron - do came home.' with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The piano accompaniment features a mezzo-forte (mf) section with triplet patterns and an 8va (octave) marking, followed by a forte (f) section with triplet patterns. The piano part concludes with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic.

Sister 1

7 **1**

f

ff (train sounds)

Sister 1

9

mp

mp

6

Sister 1

11 **mf** **2** exasperatedly

Stel - la Ron - do, my sis - ter, Stel - la Ron - do

mf **mp** *cresc.*

8^{va}

Sister 1

14 **f** incredulously

home a - gain. Stel - la Ron - do

f 8^{va}

21

f cresc.

ff

Sister 1

Whi - ta - ker? _____

That pho - to - graph - er _____ from Il - li - nois?

cresc.

3

3

3

23

Sister 1

f

p

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

This musical score is for a piece titled "Sister 1". It begins at measure 23. The score is written for three staves: a vocal line (Sister 1) and two piano accompaniment staves (treble and bass clef). The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by a whole rest. The piano accompaniment features a complex texture. The right hand plays chords and moving lines, including a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure. The left hand plays a continuous eighth-note triplet pattern. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) at the beginning, *p* (piano) in the middle, and a series of *mp* (mezzo-piano), *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, and *mp* markings at the bottom, indicating a rhythmic pattern of dynamics. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 4/4.

25 **Molto meno mosso**

Sister 1

Molto meno mosso
languidly, espr.

f *mf* *mp*

27 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$
4 **swung** ♩ s spoken naturally (The entire speech should end in measure 38.) Sister 1
may need amplification for this speech.

Course, I went with Mister Whitaker first, when he first appeared here in
China Grove, taking "Pose Yourself" photos, and Stella Rondo broke us up.

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$
4 **swung** ♩ s

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

30 (2+2+3)

Sister 1

(2+2+3)
swung ♩ s

Told him I was one-sided. You know,
bigger on one side than the other? A
falsehood; a deliberate calculated
falsehood: I'm the same!

mf (straight ♩ s) *mf* *pp* *mp*

32

Sister 1

mf

Sister 1

34

Stella Rondo is exactly twelve months to the day younger than I am, and for that reason she's spoiled...

mf

Sister 1

36

rall.

p

Sister 1

39

sadly, wearily
mp **Meno mosso, freely**

Always had every-
thing in the world
she wanted...

I was get-ting a-long

fine.

Meno mosso, freely

mp

Scene One

Sister 1

5

Languidly ♩ = ca. 60
accel. ... ♩ = ca. 72

Sister 1 moves upstage toward the family home and
fondly watches Sister 2 fixing dinner.

Languidly ♩ = ca. 60
accel. ... ♩ = ca. 72

pp

mp

indicating Sister 2

46 *mp*

Sister 1

Me. That's me, fix-ing din-ner for my fam'-ly last Fourth of Ju

mp *legato, espress.*

49

Sister 1

ly.

match vowel with Sister 1.

p

Sister 2

Ah

mf (Feel free to improvise in character with the lazy mood.)

mf

mf

52

Sister 2

sim.

accel. angrily breaking in, gesturing offstage

ff

And SHE comes home! And

fading out

accel.

ff

mf

58

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88 \text{ swung } \text{♩s}$

SHE comes home from Il - li - nois! _____

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88 \text{ swung } \text{♩s}$

ff

60

f seething

straight ♩s

Sep - a - rat - ed from Mis - ter Whit - a - ker, _____

(swung)

62 *f* swung ♩ s

Sister 1

sep - a - rat - ed first thing she did. — Bring-ing,

p straight ♩ s

64 accel.

Sister 1

bring-ing to our com - plete sur - prise, bring-ing — to our com -

swung ♩ s

mf *mp*

accel.

p

66 ♩ = ca.120 *Meno mosso* *ff* straight ♩ s ♩ = ca.72 subito

Sister 1

plete sur - prise — this child, — this child of

♩ = ca.120 *Meno mosso* straight ♩ s ♩ = ca.72 subito

mf *ff*

Stella Rondo enters with Shirley-T., carrying an impossible amount of luggage. They stop in the yard and Stella-Rondo calls into the house.

69 **8**

Stella Rondo

Mama? Mama, I'm home!

Sister 1

two.

Mama runs up the hall from the back of the house. She and Stella Rondo run to each other and hug.

72 Spoken, calling from the back of the house **accel.**

Mama

Stella Rondo?

accel.

74 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 90$ (swung ♩ s) **mp** **f** *tr*

Sister 1

You ought to see Ma-ma: two hun-dred pounds and

Mama

spoken joyfully

Here you are! Here you are!

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 90$ (swung ♩ s) **p** **mp** **f** *tr*

77 *tr* 9 ♩=124

Sister 1
real ti - ny feet.)

Mama
Mama fusses over Stella Rondo and Shirley-T.

tr 9 ♩=124 *8va*

mp *pp* *mp* *mf* Like an accordion

81 *mf*

Mama
delicato Here you are, here you are!

Stella Rondo and Sister 2 give each other a perfunctory peck on the cheek.

86 *rubato* *A tempo*

Mama
Like to make me drop dead for a sec-ond. Here you had this mar - ve-lous

rubato *A tempo*

91 **rubato** **A tempo**

Mama *child!* And nev-er so much as a word wrote home a-bout it,

rubato **A tempo**

95 **f**

Sister 1 But—

Mama to your Ma - ma! I'm thor - ough - ly a - shamed of you!

100 **10** **mf**

Stella Rondo Why, Ma - ma ...

Sister 1 — of course she was - n't!

Mama

10 **f** **p**

103 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 102$
f brassily *mp* *f*
 Sister 1 And Stel - la Ron - do just takes off this hat, I wish you could see it, she just

106 *accel.* 11 (straight ♩s) $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 84$
 Sister 1 takes off this hat.

109 *mp* *mf*
 Stella Rondo Why, Ma - ma, Shir - ley - T. is a - dopt - ed. I can

115 (short)

Stella Rondo
prove it.

Sister 1
mf
Said Ma-ma. Was all I said from the kit-chen.
spoken, suspiciously

Sister 2
H'mm.---

Mama
spoken, curiously
How?

(short)

120 12

Sister 1
mp angrily
Me, ov - er a hot stove.

12
p

124

Sister 1
mf
Me, ste-retch-ing two chick-ens ov - er five peo-ple,

mf *p*

swung *mp* 3

128

Sister 1

f

and a com - plete - ly un - ex - pect

mf

f

131

Sister 1

- ed child, with - out one mo - ment's

(swung ♩s)

133

Stella Rondo

f spoken, indignantly

What do you mean, "H'mm?"

f rit. . . . ♩ = ca.66

"H'mm?"

Sister 1

no- tice.

f mocking

Sister 2

H'mm!

f sternly

Mama

I heard that, Sis- ter!

p *mp* *mf*

rit. . . . ♩ = ca.66

Sister 2

13 *swung* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$
mf innocently $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 98$

Who, me? Why, I did - n't mean a thing! On - ly Shir - ley - T., _____

13 *swung* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$
mp $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 98$
mf

Sister 2

143 (enunciate this line very clearly)

— who - ev - er ³ she is _____ seems the spit im - age of Pa - pa - Dad - dy if

Sister 2

148

he'd cut off his beard, if Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd cut off his beard. _____

153 14

Sister 1 *f* Which of course he'd nev - er do, *mp* he'd nev - er do, 'course Pa-pa-Dad-dy's

Sister 2 *f* he'd nev - er do, *mp* 'course Pa-pa-Dad-dy'd

Mama *f* Which of course he'd nev - er do, *mp* 'course Pa-pa-Dad-dy'd

f *p*

158 15 *mf*

Sister 1 nev - er cut off his beard in the world. *mf* Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd

Sister 2 nev - er cut off his beard in the world. *p* No, no, no!

Mama nev - er cut off his beard in the world. *p* No, no, no!

mp *p* *mf*

15

163

Sister 1 *f* nev-er cut off his beard but that Shir-ley-T., who-ev-er she

Sister 2 *mf* cut off his beard

Mama *mf* cut off his beard

168

Sister 1 to the audience is seems the spit im-age of Pa-pa-Dad-dy, who-ev-er she is

Sister 2 *f* who-ev-er she is *f* to Stella Rondo who-ev-er she is

173

ff *f*

Sister 1 if Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd cut off his beard. which of course he'd

Sister 2 which of course he'd

Mama spoken, negative Unh - unh! he'd

f

178 **16**

f *mp*

Sister 1 nev - er do, nev - er, nev - er do. Pa - pa - Dad-dy'd

Sister 2 nev - er do, nev - er, nev - er do. Pa - pa - Dad-dy'd

Mama nev - er do. which of course he'd nev - er, nev - er do. Pa - pa - Dad-dy'd

f *mp*

16 *f* *mp*

182

Sister 1 *mf* *mp*
nev - er cut off___ his beard in the world. (not one inch.)___

Sister 2 *mf* *mp*
nev - er cut off___ his beard in the world. (not one inch.)___

Mama *mf*
nev - er cut off___ his beard in the world.

186

Mama 17 spoken, but highly inflected,
close to regular rhythm.

Papa-Daddy'd *never* cut off his beard!

17

192

Sister 1 *mp*
Pa - pa-Dad - dy's Ma - ma's Pa - pa and sulks.____

Mama *f*
Pa - pa start-ed

196

rit. *f*

Sister 1 No!

Sister 2 *f* No!

Mama *f* No!

grow - ing that beard out on the coast when he was fif - teen.

mf *f*

18 *fervently* *p* $\text{♩} = 72$ *rit.* $\text{♩} = 60$ *f* *perkily* $\text{♩} = 92$

Sister 1 Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd nev - er cut off his beard. Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd

Sister 2 *p* *fervently* *f* *perkily* Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd nev - er cut off his beard. Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd

Mama *p* *fervently* *f* *perkily* Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd nev - er cut off his beard. Pa - pa - Dad - dy'd

18 *fervently* *p* $\text{♩} = 72$ *rit.* $\text{♩} = 60$ *f* *perkily* $\text{♩} = 92$

204 **19** (swung )

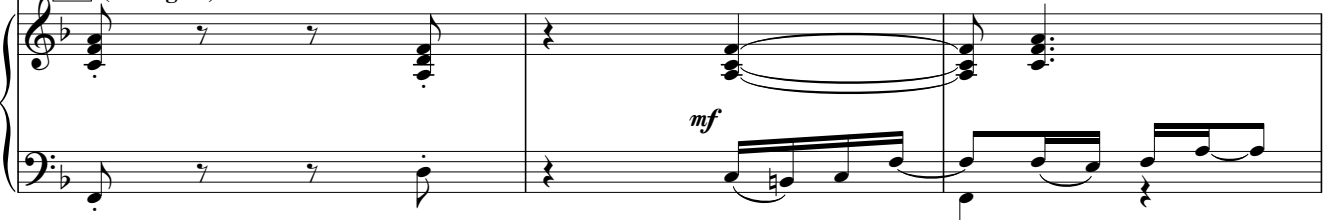
Sister 1
nev - er cut off,___ nev - er cut off,___

Sister 2
nev - er cut off,___ nev - er cut off,___ *f* nev - er cut off,___

Mama
nev - er cut off,___ nev - er cut off,___ nev - er cut off,___

19 (swung )

mf



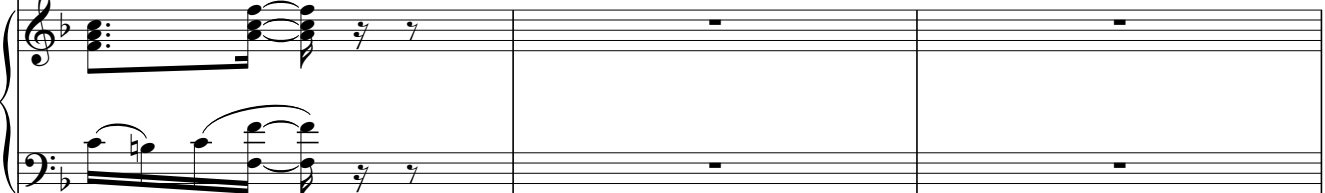
207 *f* *p* **20**

Sister 1
nev - er cut off,___ nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off,___ nev - er cut off,

Sister 2
nev - er cut off, *p* nev - er cut off,___ nev er cut off,

Mama
nev - er cut off, *p* nev - er cut off,___ nev - er cut off,

20



210

Sister 1

nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off,

Sister 2

nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off,

Mama

nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off,

cresc. poco a poco

pp legato *p*

213

Sister 1

nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off,

Sister 2

nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off,

Mama

nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off, nev - er cut off,

mp *mf*

216 **more broadly** **21** **A tempo**

Sister 1
nev - er cut off his beard.

Sister 2
nev - er cut off his beard.

Mama
nev - er cut off his beard.

mf **mf** **pp** **8va**

222 **straight** **22** **furiously**
♩ = ca. 78 ♩ = ca. 104, strict rhythm **mf**

Stella
Rondo
Sis - ter, I don't need to tell you you've got a

straight **22** **♩ = ca. 78** **♩ = ca. 104, strict rhythm**
ff **f** **mp**

225 **f** **mf** **f** **ff**

Stella
Rondo
lot of nerve, you've got a lot of nerve and al - ways did have.

mf **f** **ff**

228 **23** *f* freely, quasi-recit., menacingly
 = ca.72 subito **senza misura**

Stella Rondo

and I'll thank you to make no fu - ture ref - rance to my a - dopt - ed child

23 = ca.72 subito **senza misura**

pp *mf* lunga

Ped. * Ped. *

230 *mp* seething

Stella Rondo

no fu - ture ref - rance to my a - dopt - ed child,

pp *8va* lunga

Ped. *

231 *f* more slowly and deliberately *ff* exploding
 = ca.60 = ca.80

Stella Rondo

make no fu - ture ref rance to my a - dopt - ed child_ what - so - ev - er!_

pp *8va* lunga *f* *p*

Ped. *

233 **24** straight ♩ s

Sister 1 *mf* of course I not-iced...

Sister 2 *mf* straight ♩ s
Ver - y well, ver - y well, — ver - y well, on - ly

24 ⁽⁸⁾ straight ♩ s

fp *p*

235 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$ *f*

Sister 2 That frown, that frown why, — that's Mis - ter Whi - ta - ker, — Mis - ter

ff (straight ♩ s)

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$ (swung ♩ s)

mp *mf*

8va *3*

238 *accel.* triumphantly

Sister 2 Whi - ta - ker! — She looks like a cross be - tween

accel. ⁽⁸⁾ *3* *3*

240 ♩ = ca.104

Stella Rondo

swung ♩s **ff** *furiously*

Sister 2

Well, _____

Pa - pa - Dad - dy _____ and Mis - ter Whi - ta - ker! _____

♩ = ca.104

(8)

swung ♩s

f

3 3

242 [25] *straight ♩s*

Stella Rondo

_____ she is - n't _____ she's _____ a - dopt - ed. _____

[25] *straight ♩s*

pp subito **mp**

8va

245 *rall.* *emphatically* *swung ♩s*

Stella Rondo

That's all I can say. _____

(8) *rall.* *swung ♩s*

mf

3 3 3

2+3 Stella Rondo gathers Shirley-T. and her luggage and flounces up the stairs to her bedroom.

247 ♩ = ca.88

3 3 3 3 3 3

3

Mama looks tenderly up the stairs after Stella Rondo and Shirley-T.

248

Mama

mp dolce

Looks like Shir - ley Tem - ple to me.

8va

p

3 3

3 3

This musical score is for a vocal and piano piece. The vocal line, labeled 'Mama', is in 4/4 time and begins at measure 248. It features a melodic line with a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note, and a final phrase 'Looks like Shir - ley Tem - ple to me.' The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time and starts at measure 248. It includes a bass line with triplets and a treble line with a melodic line. The tempo is marked 'mp dolce' and the dynamics include 'p' (piano) and 'mp' (mezzo-piano).

Interlude: Mama and Sister 2 set the table

250

Mama

26 (swung ♩s)
= ca. 88

26 (swung ♩s)
= ca. 88

leggero
mp

This musical score is for an interlude. The vocal line, labeled 'Mama', is in 4/4 time and begins at measure 250. It features a melodic line with a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time and starts at measure 250. It includes a bass line with triplets and a treble line with a melodic line. The tempo is marked '26 (swung ♩s) = ca. 88' and the dynamics include 'mp' (mezzo-piano) and 'leggero'.

252

mf

This musical score is for an interlude. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time and starts at measure 252. It includes a bass line with triplets and a treble line with a melodic line. The tempo is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte).

254

3 3 3

3 3 3

This musical score is for an interlude. The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time and starts at measure 254. It includes a bass line with triplets and a treble line with a melodic line. The tempo is marked '3 3 3'.

256

Measures 256-257. Treble and bass staves. Measure 256 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 257 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass.

258

27

suavely
mf

mp

Measures 258-259. Measure 258 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 259 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. The dynamic *mf* is marked in measure 258, and *mp* is marked in measure 259.

260

mf

Measures 260-261. Measure 260 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 261 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. The dynamic *mf* is marked in measure 260.

262

28

mf

Measures 262-263. Measure 262 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 263 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. The dynamic *mf* is marked in measure 262.

264

Measures 264-265. Measure 264 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass. Measure 265 features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a triplet of eighth notes in the bass.

266

mf *f*

268

Mama

spoken, calling up the stairs
molto rit.

Dinner! Dinner!

molto rit.

mp

(Papa-Daddy slowly makes his way down the hall to the dining room)

270

29 ♩=60
plodding

p

Scene Two: at the dinner table

273

Repeat ad lib. until Papa-Daddy has taken
his seat at the head of the table

275 $\text{♩} = 104$ *mp* very freely, quasi-recitative *mf* *mp*

Sister 1

And the first thing Stel-la Ron - do did was turn Pa - pa

Papa-Daddy (spoken)

Almighty God ... (mumble unintelligibly) - - - -

$\text{♩} = 104$ *mf* *p*

Ped. l.v.

282 *stringendo ---* *f* *A tempo* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ *swung* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 128$

Sister 1

Dad - dy a - gainst me.

Papa-Daddy (spoken)

A - men.

stringendo --- *A tempo* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ *swung* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 128$

mf *f*

Ped. ad lib.

286 30 *p delicato* *brashly* *f*

Ped. ad lib.

*

290 *spoken (sweetly)* *more insistently*

Stella Rondo

Papa-Daddy ... Papa-Daddy ...

Papa-Daddy

Papa-Daddy keeps trying to cut up his meat and ignores her.

p *delicato*

296 *mf* To Papa-Daddy, indicating Sister 2

Stella Rondo

Sis - ter Sis - ter

mf *p* *gliss.*

301

Stella Rondo

fails to un-der - stand, Sis - ter fails to un-der-

fp

306

Stella Rondo

stand _____ why _____ you don't cut off your

rall. *deliberately*

p

310

Stella Rondo

beard.

A tempo *molto rall.* **[31]** ♩=60

Papa-Daddy

What? _____

f

A tempo *molto rall.* **[31]** ♩=60

dim. *pp*

313

Sister 1

straight ♩s *mf* 3 shocked!

Took me com-plete-ly by sur-prise!

Molto meno mosso *mp* freely, dramatically

And Pa-pa-Dad-dy just

Papa-Daddy

ff

straight ♩s *ca.72*

ff *p*

straight ♩s *ff*

Molto meno mosso

(freely) (approximate pitches)
 accel.
 315 *f* *swung* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$
 Sister 1 *lays* down his knife and fork and...
 Papa-Daddy *ff* What? What?...
 (freely) accel.
 A tempo $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$
 swung $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$
p *f*

318 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 98$ *f* indignantly, portentously
 Papa-Daddy Have I heard cor - rect - ly? The post - mis - tress
 32 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 98$ ponderously sim.
mf

322 broadly
 Papa-Daddy fails to un - der - stand why I
 broadly

325

mf **indignantly straight**

Sister 2 Pa-pa-Dad-dy, why of course I un-der-stand.

Papa-Daddy don't cut off _____ my beard?

mf **straight**

329

Sister 2 — I did not say an-y such of a thing, the i-dea!

ff *sfz*

334 $\text{♩} = 72$

f $\text{♩} = 98$ **33** *3* **flustered** **imploring**

Sister 2 Pa-pa-Dad-dy noth-ing was fur-ther from my mind! You know I'd

f **spoken, hoarsely** *f* **more fiercely**

Papa-Daddy Hus-sy! Have I heard cor-rect - ly? _____

$\text{♩} = 72$ *sfz* *mf* **33** *mf*

338

Sister 2

no more want you to cut off your beard_____ than the man in the moon!

Papa-Daddy

The post - mis - tress fails to un - der -

341

Sister 2

angrily

Stel-la Ron-do sat there_____ and made that up while she was eating breast chick en.

Papa-Daddy

stand why_ I don't cut off my beard?

345

Stella Rondo

(straight ♪s) ♩=104 *f* furiously, self-righteously

Yes, you did say it!

(white note gliss.) gliss.

(straight ♪s) ♩=104 *f*

ffz

5

348

Stella Rondo

An - y - bod - y could have heard you! An - y - bod - y could have

351

Stella Rondo

heard you that had ears!

Sister 2

f

I

354

Sister 2

did - n't say an - y such of a thing! Stel - la Ron - do

mf

357 **Meno mosso** 35 ♩=50

Sister 2
made that up! choked with fury; very freely, quasi-recit.

Papa-Daddy
falsetto
ff
"Bird's nest," did you call it?

Meno mosso 35 ♩=50

ffz 5

360 *f* *f* ♩=60 (Everyone is transfixed by Papa-Daddy's outburst.)

Papa-Daddy
"Bird's nest?" "Bird's nest?" as fast as possible

8va

mf *ppp* *f*

mf R.H.

362 falsetto; clear, piercing normal ♩=ca. 90, freely falsetto

Papa-Daddy
Who got you that job at the P. O.?

♩=ca. 90, freely

falsetto normal falsetto normal
 (3+2) **stringendo** - - - - -

365 Papa-Daddy *mf* *spoken slowly, furiously*
 Who, _____ who? _____ Who got you that job at the Post Office
 through is influence with the government?

(3+2) **stringendo** - - - - -

367 Sister 1 *mp* (aside) *swung* *ca. 98*
 (Not that it is - n't the next to small - est P. O. _____ in the en -

369 Sister 1 *f* *shocked* *ca. 112*
 ti - re state_ of Mis-sis-sip- pi.) To be

Papa-Daddy *ff* *spoken*
 Hus - sy! _____ Hus - sy! _____

ff *ca. 112*

371 (straight ♪s)

Sister 1

called such a thing by my own

8va

37 (straight ♪s)

p *delicato*

f *mf*

373

Sister 1

grand - fath - er! I do not en - joy ————— be-ing

375

Sister 1

called a huss-sy! ————— To be called such a

f indignantly

Sister 2

I

mp

377 **38** *f* furiously, self-righteously

Stella Rondo
Yes, you did say it! An - y bod - y could have heard you,

Sister 1 *f* shocked
thing! To be called such a

Sister 2 *3*
nev - er said an - y such of a thing I nev - er

38 *f*

379 *ff*

Stella Rondo
an - y - bod - y could have heard you that had ears! Heard

Sister 1 *ff*
thing by my own grand - fath - er! I do

Sister 2 *ff*
3 dreamed it was a bird's nest. I have

38 *ff*

(8)

381

Stella Rondo

you, heard you! An - - y - bod - y could have heard you!

Sister 1

not en - joy be-ing called a huss-sy!

Sister 2

al - ways been grate - ful, though this is the next to small - est P. O. in the en

(8)

383

Stella Rondo

An-y-bod-y could have heard you that had ears!

Sister 1

To be called such a thing!

Sister 2

ti - re state of Mis - sis - sip-pi. to Sister 2, pointedly

Mama

Stop right

(8)

386 39 ♩=ca.76 3+2 *mf* primly

Sister 1 (Stand-off between Mama and Sister 2.) So I

Mama there!

f *sfz*

fp *8vb*

Sister 2 gets up huffily and goes into the hallway to sulk.

392 *Meno mosso* *stringendo* ♩=120

Sister 1 pulled my nap-kin straight back through the nap-kin ring and left the tab-le.---

Meno mosso *stringendo* ♩=120

mp

395 40 ♩=ca.72 subito *f* (to Papa-Daddy)

Mama Call her back, she'll starve,--

Papa-Daddy *f* (oblivious to all) I will

40 ♩=ca.72 subito *f subito*

399 (Shirley-T. has spit up.) *f*

Stella Rondo

Mama

Papa-Daddy

Oh, _____

call her back, call her back she'll starve, call her back or she'll starve, _____

nev - er cut off this beard! I will nev - er cut

403 *poco accel.*

Stella Rondo

Mama

Papa-Daddy

Shir - ley - T.! Oh, _____ Shir - ley - T.!

call her back or she'll starve, call her back, call her back or she'll starve, _____

off this beard! Nev - er cut off this

poco accel.

407 *ff* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$

Stella Rondo Oh! _____

Mama *ff* call her back, call her back, call her back, call her back!

Papa-Daddy *ff* beard! No! No! _____

41 rit.

411 *mf* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$

Papa-Daddy Nev - er, _____ nev - er cut off this beard. Nev - er! _____ I start - ed grow-ing this

mf $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$

414

Papa-Daddy beard when I was fif - teen! _____ Nev - er, _____ ne - ver, nev - er,

416 *p subito* *f subito*

Papa-Daddy

nev - er, nev - er! No, I'll nev - er, nev - er, nev - er cut off this beard! No

419 **42**

Papa-Daddy

nev - er, not one inch. Nev - er, not as

42 gliss.

422 *ff* *mf*

Papa-Daddy

long as I live! Nev - er, nev - er, nev - er, nev - er, no! And I

425 *Poco più mosso*

Papa-Daddy

don't ap - pre - ci - ate it in you at all!

Poco più mosso *mf*

427 **43** ♩=ca. 94 *f*

Papa-Daddy

And you can all sit here— and rem-em-ber my words.——— And

431

Papa-Daddy

now—— I—— am go - ing,—— go - ing—— out,——

rall.

434

Papa-Daddy

go - ing out,——— and

rall.

437 ♩=ca. 94 **44** ♩=ca.100

Papa-Daddy

lie in—— the ham - mock.

♩=ca. 94 **44** ♩=ca.100

mf *p*

440

f *p* *mf*

443

p *pp*

446 45 $\text{♩} = \text{ca } 92$

Stella Rondo

p *mp*

Oh, Shir-ley - T. lost the

Sister 1

p *p* *sarcastically*

Oh, poor Shir - ley - T.

Mama

p *p* *sympathetically*

Oh, poor Shir - ley - T.

45 $\text{♩} = \text{ca } 92$ soulfully

p *pp* *mp*

R.H. Ped.

450

Stella Rondo *mf*
Milk - y___ Way___ she ate in

Sister 1 *mp*
lost___ the Milk - y___ Way___

Mama *mp*
lost___ the Milk - y___ Way___

*

454

Stella Rondo *Più mosso ff*
Cai - ro,___ in

Sister 1 *mf ff*
Cai - ro,___ in

Mama *mf ff*
(pronounced Kayro) Cai - ro,___ in

Più mosso f

458 **46**

Stella Rondo
Cai - ro. _____ bitterly, thinking of Mr. Whitaker

Sister 1
Cai - ro, _____ *mf* Il - li - nois.

Mama
Cai - ro. _____

46 *8^{va}*

462 ♩=ca. 124 **Meno mosso**

Sister 1

mp ♩=ca. 124

Meno mosso *8^{va}* *ff* *sfz*

Scene Three

Sister 2, Stella-Rondo and Mama are transfixed by the long, harrowing sound.
Mama hurries off through the kitchen.
Stella-Rondo gathers up Shirley-T. and scurries off through the yard.

(Anguished, not a lovely tone. Any pitch is fine. The first sustained note should last a ridiculously long time, long enough to cause astonishment and concern, and as much of the line as possible should be done in the first breath. After the first breath, the breathing is ad lib, and should sound labored and difficult. Uncle Rondo is feeling very bad.)

offstage **fff** > **p**
vary dynamics ad lib.

466

Uncle Rondo

Aaaa! (any open vowel) (ng) anh aa-aa-aa-aa-aa-aa rhgn aa - aa eh-eh-eh-eh

Piano

VERY FREELY! The singer should develop a virtuosic vocal expression of Uncle Rondo's physical distress, using any extended techniques, including nasal and guttural sounds. The notation is not to be followed precisely; it is only a suggestion of some possibilities. The whole display should sound spontaneous and surprising.

467 ♩ = 112-120

Sister 1

Sister 2

Uncle Rondo

Percussion

Piano

Just then

Wha(t)?_ What in the....

Uncle Rondo, wearing Stella-Rondo's kimono, runs in from the back, weaving up the hall toward Sister 2

(rhythmically freely)

fff

aaa ak - ak - ak - ak aaaack!

Oh... _____

straight ♩s

p

mf

mf

very freely

p

471 *swung* 

Sister 1
Just then, not five min-utes af-ter...

Uncle Rondo
8 *f* *very freely (feel free to improvise)*
(guttural gagging sounds)
Aack! _____ Aack! Aack! Aack! _____

Percussion

Piano




475 *f*

Sister 1
Un - cle Ron - do! _____ Un - cle

Sister 2
mf Un - cle Ron - do? _____ *f* Un - cle

Uncle Rondo
8 Arrrrr! _____

Percussion
Triangle

Piano
cresc.



478

Sister 1 *mp* Ron - - do! _____ Un cle

Sister 2 Ron - - do! _____

Uncle Rondo Uncle Rondo may continue moaning.

Percussion

Piano *ff* $\text{♩} = 98$

482

Sister 1 Ron - do in Stel - la - Ron - do's peach col - ored ki - mo - no,

Piano *p* 8^{va}

484

Sister 1 *ad lib.* a peach col - ored ki - mo - no, _____ (all cut on the bi - as,) _____ like

Piano *(8)*

486

Sister 1

some-thing, some - thing Mis-ter Whit-ak-er_____ Mis-ter

Piano

swung 

[illegible]

The musical score for 'Uncle Rondo' consists of three staves. The top staff is for the vocal part, 'Uncle Rondo', with a tempo of 112-120. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The lyrics 'Out of my way, Sis-ter, I'm pois-soned.' are written below the notes. The bottom staff is for the piano accompaniment, also with a tempo of 112-120. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The piano part includes a (8)-l marking and a forte (f) dynamic. The middle staff is for the percussion, showing a series of eighth notes and rests. The score is marked with a double bar line and a repeat sign at the end.

495

Sister 1

Uncle Rondo

Piano

mf

He'd

wildly

fff

$\text{♩} = 98$

498

Sister 1

drunk a whole bot - tle_____ of his pre-scrip- tion;_____ He

Piano

mf

8va

500

Sister 1

does it ever - y Fourth of Ju - ly,_____ then

Piano 2

f

Piano

8va

503

Sister 1

runs a-round and runs a-round and falls o-ver

Percussion

Piano

(8)

506

Sister 1

in the

Sister 2

No! Not the

Percussion

Piano

$\text{♩} = 106$

p *ff* *mp*

509

Sister 2

swung
ham-mock! Un-cle Ron-do, stay a-way from Pa-pa-Dad-dy

Piano

512

Sister 2

Not if you're poi-soned, Un-cle Ron-do, not the ham-mock!

Piano

515

Sister 1

f But sure as

Uncle Rondo keeps veering toward the hammock,
and Sister 2 keeps trying to steer him away from it.

Sister 2

Pa - pa-Dad - dy will beat you on your head!

Piano

swung *♩*

p

517

Sister 1

shoot- ing, — ever-y Fourth of Ju ly, — Un-cle Ron-do must have his pre-scrip- tion,

Sister 2

f Not the ham-mock!

Piano

f

520 *f*

Sister 1 the whole bot - tle, that whole hor - rid - ly ex -

Sister 2 Not the ham-mock, not the ham-mock!

Piano

522 *ff*

Sister 1 pen - sive pre-scrip - tion, and then heads for the ham - mock.

Sister 2 No, not the ham - mock!

Uncle Rondo

Papa-Daddy

Papa-Daddy wakes up shouting *freely* *ff*

What!_____

Percussion

Piano

ff

525 $\text{♩} = 116$ *disoriented, swatting at Uncle Rondo* *spoken freely*

Papa-Daddy

Get away! Get away!

Piano

$\text{♩} = 116$ *ff* 5 3 3 8^{va}

530 *mf* $\text{♩} = 108-112$ *f*

Papa-Daddy

Oh, it's you. I would ad -

Piano

$\text{♩} = 108-112$ *p*

Papa-Daddy swings back and forth in the hammock.

533 *Spoken, genuinely curious*

Uncle Rondo

Who?—

Papa-Daddy

vise you to watch out for that hus- sy!—

Piano

536

Sister 1

Uncle Rondo

Papa-Daddy

Piano

...Says Un-cle Ron - do...

Why, Sis-ter, of course. That

ff

59

539

Papa-Daddy

Piano

hus- sy said I should cut off my beard! (Right there at the table! Right there!) And af-ter

p

straight *♪s*

3

542

Papa-Daddy

Piano

ev' - ry thing I've done for her! If you could only fath-om the lengths I had to

545

Uncle Rondo

mp

ff *falsetto, wildly* Please, _____

Papa-Daddy

go to to get her that job at the P. _____ O.! _____

Piano

549

Uncle Rondo

p

—please, Pa-pa-Dad-dy, please slow down, please don't rock so, please slow down, please,

Percussion

p

Piano

mp

554

Uncle Rondo

mp *mf*

— slow down, _____ Please. _____ You're mak-ing me

Percussion

mp

Piano

mp *8va*

(Don't worry too much about precise enunciation on the ♪s.

The audience will catch on when you get to the ♪s at the end of the phrase.)

61

559

Uncle Rondo

diz - zy as a witch, diz - zy as a witch, diz - zy as a witch, you're mak - ing me

Piano

561

Uncle Rondo

diz zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch. (enunciate clearly)

Piano

564

Papa-Daddy

Papa-Daddy is on a rant, oblivious to Uncle Rondo's distress and pleas. *f*

But Stella - Ron-do has a brilliant mind! She has

Piano

f *p*

567

Papa-Daddy

al ways been the one with all the brains. She's the one who had the com-mon sense to get

Piano

571

Uncle Rondo

mp *p*

Please, — please, Pa-pa-Dad-dy, please slow down, please don't rock so,

Papa-Daddy

out of town. —

Percussion

p

Piano

mp

576

Uncle Rondo

mp

please slow down, please — slow down, — please! —

Percussion

Piano

mp *8va*

582

Uncle Rondo

mf

— You're mak-ing me diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, you're mak-ing me

Percussion

Piano

mf (8) —

585
Uncle Rondo
8
diz - zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch.

Piano

588
Papa-Daddy
But Sis - ter did - n't learn to read til she was

Piano
f *p*

591
Papa-Daddy
eight. Could - n't read til she was eight years old. Don't know how she gets the

Piano

595
Uncle Rondo
8
ff *mp*
Please, _____ please, Pa - pa - Dad - dy,
Papa-Daddy
mail put up, much less read it all. _____

Piano

599 *p*

Uncle Rondo

please slow down, please don't rock so, please slow down, please— slow

Percussion

p

Piano

mp

604 *mp* *f*

Uncle Rondo

down, please! You're mak-ing me

Percussion

Piano 2

8va *mp*

Piano

mp *mp*

608

Uncle Rondo

diz - zy as a witch, diz - zy as a witch, diz - zy as a witch, you're mak - ing me

Piano 2

f (8)

Piano

f

610

Uncle Rondo

diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, you're mak-ing me

Piano 2

Piano

613

Sister 1

Poor Un cle Ron - do,

Uncle Rondo

diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, diz-zy as a witch, diz zy as a witch!

Piano 2

Piano

(Don't worry too much about precise enunciation on the *♫*s.
The audience will catch on when you get to the *♫*s at the end of the phrase.)

616

Sister 1

he was too diz-zy to get turned, diz-zy to get turned, diz-zy to get turned, He was too

Piano

(enunciate clearly)

619

Sister 1

diz-zy to get turned, diz-zy to get turned, diz-zy to get turned, diz-zy to get turned, diz zy to get turned, he was too

Piano

poco rall.

622

Sister 1

diz-zy to get turned, he was too diz-zy to get turned, he was too diz-zy to get turned a - gainst me, —

Piano

p

8va

poco rall.

swung *♩s*

627

Sister 1

— for — the time be - ing. He's a good case of a

Piano

mf

swung *♩s*

3

mp

631

Sister 1

one-track mind. Ask an-y bo dy. — A cer-ti-fied

Piano

p

8va

3

3

3

3

635

Stella-Rondo is in her bedroom upstairs,
looking out the window.

f $\text{♩} = 88$ (wail of shock and despair,
very freely)

Oh! _____

Sister 1

phar-ma- cist.

Percussion

f $\text{♩} = 88$

Piano

f *swung* $\text{♩} = 88$

639

Stella-Rondo

(wail)

Oh! _____

f

Sister 1

Just then, just then, Stel-la Ron - do, _____

f *3*

Sister 2

Why? _____ What in the... Stel-la -

Percussion

Piano

tr *mf* *f* *fp*

643 *ff*

Sister 1 Stel - la Ron - - - do!___

Sister 2 Ron - do,___ Stel - la Ron - - - do!___

Piano *ff*

8va

645

Sister 1

If it's possible with the set,
Sister runs up to Stella-Rondo's room.
If it's not possible, Sister can continue
the conversation from the yard, calling
up to Stella-Rondo's window. *ff*

Sister 2 Stel - la-Ron-do,___what's the mat - ter? Are you mor - tal - ly

Piano *ff*

648 *ff* *mf*

Stella-Rondo Sis - ter:___ do me a fav - or. Look out of that win - dow (Please take a look out there)

Sister 2 wound - ed?_

Piano *ff* *pp* *molto legato*

Ed. ad lib.

652

Stella-Rondo

and tell me what you see. No!! See an-y hu-man be-ings?

Sister 2

...the yard?

Piano

ff *mf* *pp*

8va

ff *pp*

Red. ad lib.

655

Stella-Rondo

See an-y-thing differ-ent

Sister 2

mf

Pa - pa Dad - dy, and Un cle Ron - do, yes, I see them.

Piano

8va *8va*

p sempre legato

658

Stella-Rondo

a - bout Un - cle Ron - do?_

Sister 2

Why no, on - ly he's

Piano

(8)

660

Sister 2

got on some ter - ri - ble hor - rid _____ peach - col ored con - trap - tion, _____

Piano

(8)

662

Stella-Rondo

Well, _____

Sister 2

_____ a hor - rid con - trap - tion, _____ some - thing I would - n't be _____ found dead in. _____

Piano

(8)

ff

665

Stella-Rondo

_____ you won't be! _____ You won't be! That _____

Piano

straight *mp*

668 $\text{♩} = 76$ *swung* ♩

Stella-Rondo

hap-pens to be part of my_ trous- seu, that hap pens to be part of my_ trous- seu! Mis-ter

(high wood, light stick)

Percussion

p *swung* ♩

Piano

$\text{♩} = 76$

mp

670

Stella-Rondo

Whit-a ker took sev'_ ral doz - en pho - to graphs of me in that_ ki - mo - no. What

Percussion

Piano

672

Stella-Rondo

ev - er could Un - cle Ron - do mean wear-ing part of my_ trous - seu?_____

Percussion

Piano

674

Stella-Rondo

Out in the broad o - pen day - light with-out so much as say-ing "Kiss my foot."

Percussion

Piano

676 *dramatically*

Stella-Rondo

Here I on - ly got home this morn ing, - af - ter my sep - a - ra - tion, - and hung my

Percussion

Piano

8^{va}

678

Stella-Rondo

ne - gli - gee up - on the bath-room door, just as nerv-ous as could be? -

Percussion

Piano

(8)

680

Stella-Rondo

What-ev - er could Un - cle Ron - do mean? _____

Sister 2

Well, _____

Percussion

3 3 3

Piano

(8)



682

Stella-Rondo

Well, _____ he looks like a

Sister 2

_____ I'm sure I don't know!

Percussion

♩ = 60

ritmically very freely

ff

as fast as possible

lunga

8^{va}

f

p

Piano

685

Stella-Rondo

fool. *mf* *3* Makes me sick to my stom- ach. *f* He looks like a fool. *accel.*

Piano

(8) *accel.*

688 - - - - - ♩=92

Stella-Rondo

Sister 1 *mp* *swung* Please re-mem ber_ who said that!

Sister 2 *f* Well, I say Un - cle

Piano *p* *f* *swung*

690

Sister 2 Ron - do looks a - bout as good as he can,

Piano

692 75

Sister 2

or as an - y - bod - y could, with - in

Piano

694

Sister 2

rea - son, wear - ing that thing, he looks a - bout as good as he can.

Piano

696 *mp*

Sister 1

I _____ stood up for him, _____ please _____ re - mem - ber! _____

Sister 2

And who are

f

Piano

p

698

Sister 2

you? Who are you— to crit-i cize?—

Piano

f

700

Sister 2

Home a - gain, _____ with a two - year - old child! _____ A child you

Piano

702

Sister 1

...Not ev - en a post - card!

Sister 2

nev - er said a word a - bout to your Mama, with

Piano

mf

704 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 72$ *ff* *lunga* 77

Stella-Rondo Well, _____ well, I

Sister 2 no ex - plan - a - tion what - ev - er.

Piano *ff*

707 **senza misura**
Rhythmically very freely and expressively and furiously

Stella-Rondo asked you the in - stant I ent - ered this house not to re - fer one more time to my a - dopt - ed child

Piano **senza misura**
f
Ped. ad lib.

708 $\text{♩} = 60$ *dramatically*

Stella-Rondo not to re - fer one more time to my a - dopt - ed child! But Sis - ter, you

Percussion large tam - tam
p

Piano *pp* $\text{♩} = 60$ *as fast as possible* *8va* *pp*

710 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$ *very intensely*

Stella-Rondo

gave me your word of honor, your word of honor that you would never a gain, never a gain, never a gain referto my...

Percussion

f *l.v.*

Piano

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$ *ff*

711 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$ *f* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 64$

Sister 1

So I mere-ly slammed the door, _ slammed the door. Slammed the door.

Percussion

fff

Piano

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 92$ *fff* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 64$ *p*

714 *mp* *swung* ♩

Sister 1

Stel-la Ron-do pulled out ever-y one of her eye - brows

Piano

swung ♩

716

Sister 1

with some cheap Kress tweezer - ers.

Piano

717

Sister 1

I went down, and made some green to - ma - to

Piano

legato

718

Sister 1

pick - le. Some-bod-y had to do it.

Piano 2

Piano

pp

8^{va}

Scene Four

♩. = 72

720 *8va*

Piano 2

ppp

Piano

mp

721 (8)

Piano 2

Piano

722 (8)

Piano 2

Piano

p *legato, espress.*

724

Piano

Sister 2 sings to herself while she works, improvising, as she does at the beginning of Scene 1. This time her improvisation is less free and relaxed, more anxious.

726

Sister 2

Piano

mf

mf

729

Sister 2

Piano

sim.

Mama, sniffing the air, comes down
the hall and into the kitchen

732

Sister 1

Sister 2

Piano

p

f

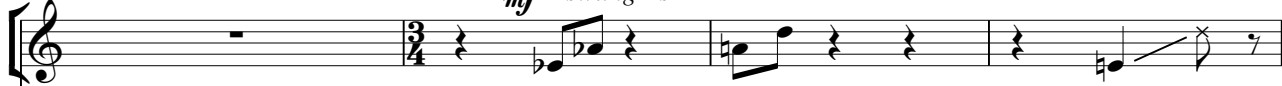
$\text{♩} = 94$

f

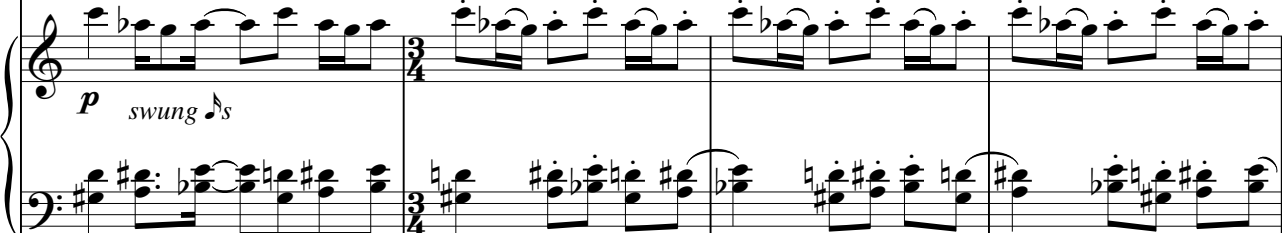
$\text{♩} = 94$

Soin trots Ma ma...

735 *mf* *swung* 

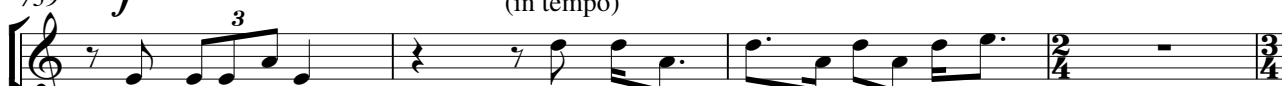
Mama 

Sister? Sis ter? What? —

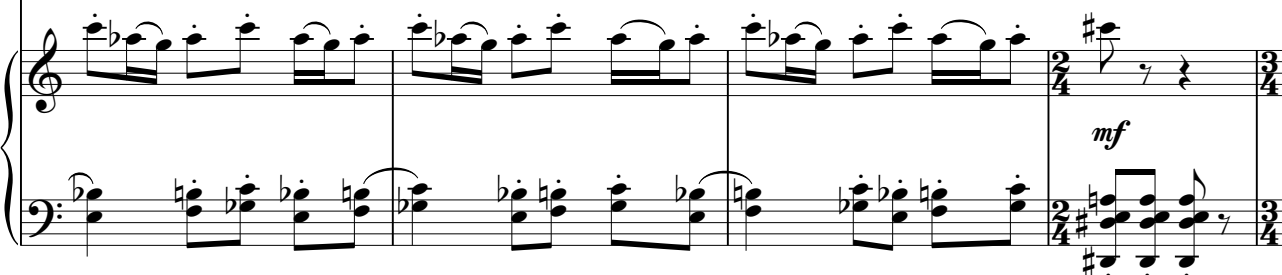
Piano *p* *swung* 



739 *f* *very freely, almost unmetered* (in tempo)

Mama 

What do I smell? You're mak-ing green to-ma-to pick-le?

Piano *mf* 



743

Mama 

Not ver-y good for your Un-cle Ron-do in his con-di-tion, I must say! Or —

Piano *mp* 

747 $\text{♩} = 94$ 83 *f*

Sister 1 *f* That

Mama *f* lit-tle a dopt-ed Shir - ley T. Shame on you!

Piano *f*

752

Sister 1 made me tired.

Sister 2 *mf* *swung* Well, Stel-la Ron-do'd bet-ter thank her luck-y

Piano *mf*

755

Sister 2 stars it was her in - stead of me, in- stead of me come trot-ting

Piano

758 rit. . .

Sister 2

home from Il-li - nois with some pe - cu liar - look - ing child, that pe - cu - liar look - ing child of

Piano

761 ♩=78 ♩=88

Sister 2

two.

Mama

mp (patiently explaining)

But — you must re - mem - ber,

Piano

p *mp*

ped. * *ped.* *

763 *mf* swung ♩s

Mama

Sis - ter, — You were nev - er mar - ried to Mis - ter

Piano

swung ♩s

765

Mama

Whi-ta ker. I'd be just as ov - er-joyed to see you,

Piano

767

Mama

— with your lit - tle ad - opt - ed girl, as I am to see Stel - la -

Piano

straight

769

Sister 2

ff You would not! *ff* I will, and you would

Mama

f Ron - do. Don't con - tra-dict me!

Piano

f *mp* *ff*

772 *mf*

Sister 2 not! Be-sides, you know as well_ as

Piano *mp* swung *mf* 3

774 *f*

Sister 2 I do That child_____ is not a -

Piano 3 3

776 *f*

Sister 2 dopt - ed. That child is not a- dopt - ed!

Mama *f* 8va ad lib. ("stiff as a poker") 3

She most cer - tain - ly is!

Piano *mf* 3 3

778

Sister 2

That is no a - dopt-ed child! Stel-la-Ron - do's too stuck up

Piano

780

Sister 2

To ad mit she had that child, But she had that child! You know that!

Piano

$\text{♩} = 120$
lunga f
782 *very freely and dramatically*

Mama

I pre - fer to take my children's word for an - y thing when it's hu - man - ly pos - si - ble.

Piano

784 $\text{♩} = 88$ *mp*

Mama

And here I thought we were going to have a pleas - ant

Piano

swung $\text{♩} = 88$ *mp*

88

786

Sister 1

Sister has a terrible thought. $\text{♩}=104$ *mp*

Just then... Just then,

Mama

Fourth of Ju - ly. —

Percussion

p

Piano 2

gliss.

f (black note)

Piano

(8)

ff subito

p

$\text{♩}=104$

==

789

Sister 1

mf

Some-thing hor - ri-ble, some-thing

Piano

p

==

792

Sister 1

per-fect - ly hor - ri ble oc - curred tome. Dare I say it?

Sister 2

Ma - ma, oh,

Piano

mf

p

795

Sister 1

f

I could bare - ly put such a

Sister 2

Ma - ma!

Piano

p *cresc.*

797

Sister 1

no - tion in - to words.

Sister 2

Oh,

Piano

799

Sister 2

Ma - ma! Oh, _____

Piano

f cresc.

8va

801

Sister 2

Ma - ma!

Mama

f

Sis - ter, what?

Piano

(8)

ff

803

$\text{♩} = 44$

Sister 2

pp freely

Ma ma,

Piano

$\text{♩} = 44$

8va

pppp molto legato

Ped.

804 **rit.**

Sister 2

Percussion

Tam tam

ppp **rit.**

Piano

(8)

*

805 **faster** *rhythmically freely* $\text{♩}=72$ *spoken, whispered*

Sister 2

can that child talk? Talk? Can she talk?

Percussion

stick on rim l.v.

ppp

faster 8^{va} $\text{♩}=72$

Piano

ppp

809 **mp** *freely*

Sister 2

She has-n't spok-en one sin-gle word since she ar-rived, and she looks like

Piano

mp

811 *mf* ♩=88

Sister 1
And I looked like that.

Sister 2
this...

Mama
Mama has a terrible thought.

Piano 2
f white note
gliss.

Piano
f subito ♩=88
ff
pp
Ped.



814 *mf* *anxiously* swung ♩s

Mama
I re-mem ber that Joe Whit-a-ker drank like a fish,

Piano
p straight ♩s

817

Mama

f

and I be lieve to my

Piano

ff

mf

8^{va}

820

Mama

soul

he drank

Piano

ppp

p

(Distressed, Mama runs to the foot of the stairs.)

822

Mama

chem - i - cals.

Piano

f

8^{va}

straight *♩*s

(8)

824

Piano

825 $\text{♩}=72$ *straight* ♩ *f*

Mama

Stel-la-

(8)

Piano

ff

Ped.

827 $\text{♩}=80$

Stella-Rondo

from her bedroom, unseen by the audience
mf flatly, quasi-spoken

What?

Sister 1

mf *swung* ♩

Not ev-en the grace to

Mama

Ron- do! Oh, _____ Stel-la-Ron - do! _____

(8)

Piano

mf

* *Ped.* *

832

Sister 1

get up off the bed. _____

Mama

swung ♩

Can that child of yours

Piano

f *swung* ♩ *straight* ♩

p

834 *f*

Stella-Rondo

Can she what?

Mama

talk? Talk! Talk!

Piano

swung 3s *straight 3s*

836

Stella-Rondo

Who says she can't?

Mama

straight 3s

Bur - dy-bur-dy-bur-dy-bur-dy!

Piano

swung 3s

838

Stella-Rondo

straight 3s

You did n't have_ to tell me.

Mama

Sis-ter.

Piano

f *3* *(swung 3s)* *straight 3s*

840

Stella-Rondo

I could a guessed. I know whose word of hon-or

Piano

8^{va}

842 *swung* ♪s

Stella-Rondo

don't mean a thing._

Piano

(8) *swung* ♪s

p *f*

♩=44

844

Stella-Rondo

VERY freely. Sung, with any pitches, in natural speaking rhythm. Feel free to repeat phrases ad lib.

Oh Shirley-T? Shirley-T, honey? Shirley-T, honey?

Piano

molto legato
pppp

845 rit. 97

Stella-Rondo

Will you talk? Come on baby, talk! Come on, baby...

Piano

rit.

846

Stella-Rondo

Come on... Come on...

Mama and Sister 2
look at each other
anxiously

Piano

n

848 *Very freely, any pitches are fine*

Shirley-T

ff

OE'm Pop OE the Sail -orrrr Maaan!

Piano

p

8va

850 $\text{♩}=66$ **rall.** $\text{♩}=60$

Piano



852 *broadly, triumphantly* **f** $\text{♩}=72$ *swung* ♩

Stella-Rondo

Oh _____ that's my girl!

Percussion

swung ♩ (high wood, light stick)

Piano



854

Stella-Rondo

My lit-tle a - dopt - ed girl, My lit - tle a - dopt - ed girl and she's as

Percussion

Piano

856

Stella-Rondo

smart as she__ can be!__ Oh,_____ that's my girl!_

Percussion

Piano

858

Stella-Rondo

My lit-tle smart, a - dopt-ed girl!_ And you wantto know some-thing else?

Percussion

Piano

860

Stella-Rondo

She can tap - dance too! Which is

(Shirley-T. is heard stomping and jumping up and down.)

Percussion

Piano

862 *poco accel.*
 =78

Stella-Rondo

more than some peo - ple I won't name_ can do!

Percussion

3 3 3 3

Piano

poco accel.
swung 8va
 =78

864 (optional fermata) =92

Mama

Oh,...that dar-ling prec ious thing! Mm. _____

espressivissimo -- Mama is overwhelmed with happiness and relief

Piano

mp *f*

Ped. **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* *

868

Piano 2

mp

Piano

rall. *rall.*

Ped. **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* **Ped.* *

873 $\text{♩}=90$

Mama *f* *mf*

Sis-ter you ought to be a - shamed! Run up- stairs! Run up- stairs this

Piano *f* *mf*

877 $\text{♩}=64$

Sister 2 *mf*

A -

Mama

in-stant and a - pol - o - gize! A - pol-o- gize to Stel-la- Ron - do and Shir-ley - T.---

Piano $\text{♩}=64$

880 *freely* *straight* *3*

Sister 2

pol-o- gize for what? I mere-ly won - dered, I mere-ly won-dered a - bout the child, if she was

Piano *swung* *mp* *3* *3*

882 *freely* 3 3 3

Sister 2

nor - mal. Now that she's proved that she is _____ I have noth-ing fur - ther to

Piano

8va

884 *accel. poco a poco* *mf* swung *♪s*

Sister 1

You should' veseen Mama: Turn on her heel,

Sister 2

say.

Piano

accel. poco a poco

f *mp* *mp*

887 *♩=102* *f*

Sister 1

run right up stairs, hug _____ that child, Furi - ous at me!

Piano

straight *♩=102* *swung* *♪s*

8va

mf *f*

890 *ff* *Poco meno mosso* 103

Sister 1

Furi - ous at me, sim- ply fu - ri - ous. at me! Me, stand ing

Piano

straight 8va

ff *mp*

Poco meno mosso

893 *rall.*

Sister 1

help - less, help - less, while Stel - la - Ron - do had n't done a thing but turn Ma ma a -

rall.

Piano

NOTE TO BOB AND DENNIS: Even though it makes most sense dramatically for Sister 1 to sing the lament, given the casting, it might work better for Sister 2 to sing it, and I think it would still be dramatically plausible. (Sister 1 would take over in the 3/4 measure). Also, it would be easy to raise the whole lament a whole step, by omitting this 2/4 measure. The 5/8 measure would start back at the notated pitch.

Sister is testifying. Improvise very freely on the notes and the text. The notes are merely suggestions -- the singer should develop a passionate improvisatory lament.

896 *p* *senza misura* *p*

Sister 1

gainst me. So, that made Ma - ma, Pa - pa - Dad - dy and the ba - by

senza misura
(Feel free to improvise an accompaniment)

Piano

p

899

Sister 1

All _____ on Stel-la Ron - do's side. _____

Piano

900

Sister 1

Pa - pa-Dad-dy. Ma - ma. Ba - by. All on Stel-la-Ron - do's side. _____

Piano

901

Sister 1

All _____ a-against me. All a-against me, all a-against me.

Piano

902

Sister 1

All a-against me, all a-against me, all on Stel-la-Ron do's side. And all _____ a-against me.

(cadenza ad lib.)

Piano

903 $\text{♩}=60$ *mf* $\text{♩}=120$ 105

Sister 1

Next, Un cleRon - do.

Piano

ppp *ff* *f*

Scene Five

Mama, Sister 2, Stella-Rondo and Shirley-T, and finally Uncle Rondo, are gathering in the kitchen for a makeshift supper of leftovers.

908 *8va*

Piano

913

Piano 2

ff

Piano

ff

Piano

918 8va



Sister 1

rit. *mf* swung *ss*

Well, I must say

Percussion

brushes

p

Piano

rit.

922 (8)



Sister 1

$\text{♩} = 92$

— there have been times when Un-cle Ron-do has been mar-vel-ous to me.

Percussion

$\text{♩} = 92$

Piano

mp

p

924

Più mosso
♩=112

Sister 1

Percussion

Piano

Più mosso
♩=112

8va

f ♩=92

Sister 1

One time, he sent me to Mam-moth Cave, — all ex - pens-es paid. —

Percussion

Piano

mf ♩=92

swung ♩s

Poco meno mosso
mf

Sister 1

But

Percussion

Piano

f **Poco meno mosso**

934 $\text{♩} = 82$

Sister 1

this would be the day when he was drink - ing that pre-scrip - tion,

Piano *mp*

936 $\text{♩} = 108$ **Poco più mosso accel.**

Sister 1

the whole pre-scrip tion, the Fourth of Ju - ly. —

Piano *f*

939

Piano

942 $\text{♩} = 112$ **swung ♩s**

Piano *p* *mf* *p*

947 *mp*

Stella-Rondo

brashly Un-cle Ron - do? Ought-n't you

Piano *p* *ped. ad lib.* *p* 3

952 *straight*

Stella-Rondo

try and eat a lit-tle some - thing? Un-cle Ron - do? A

Piano 2 *p*

Piano *p*

957 3

Stella-Rondo

lit-tle some thing? Some bis-cuits and ket- chup?

Piano 2 *p*

Piano

to Stella-Rondo

961 $\text{♩}=92$ *mf* swung ♩ s

Sister 2

Do you think it wise__ for Un-cle Ron-do to dis - port with ket-chup,

Piano 2

mf

Piano

$\text{♩}=92$ *mf* straight ♩ s



964 $\text{♩}=120$ $\square$ $\triangle$

Sister 2

ket-chup and that ki mo - no?__ Do you think it wise?__

Piano 2

ff straight ♩ s

Piano

$\text{♩}=120$ *ff*

967 **ff** $\triangle$ $\square$

Uncle Rondo

An - y ob-jec - tions? An - y ob - jec - tions? — An-y ob- jec - tions?

Piano 2

Piano

973 $\square$ $\triangle$ **Meno mosso** $\text{♩}=106$ **mp** sweetly, to Stella-Rondo

Uncle Rondo

Yes, please, I do be lieve I'll try some cold bis-cuits and ket- chup.

Meno mosso $\text{♩}=106$

Piano

979 $\text{♩}=104$ $\text{♩}=102$ **Broadly** *gliss.* **f** Stella-Rondo gloats triumphantly at Sister

Piano 2

Broadly $\text{♩}=104$ $\text{♩}=102$ **f** *espress.*

Piano

*Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. **

accel.

♩=112

984

Stella-Rondo

p

Now, don't you mind what Sis-ter says, Un-cle

accel. swung ♩s

♩=112

mp

p

gliss.

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

989

Stella-Rondo

Rondo! She's been de - vot - ing the en - tire af - ter - noon

fp

994

Stella-Rondo

To sneer ing, sneer-ing, sneer ing, sneer-ing out my win - dow, just sneer - ing at the

rall.

p

rall.

999 - - - - - **accel.** - - ♩=160 ♩=112

Stella-Rondo
way you look.

Uncle Rondo
fff shouted, freely
What's that!?

Percussion
ffff

Piano
dim. *p* *swung* ♩=112
Ped. *



1004 *p*

Stella-Rondo
Sis - ter, Sis - ter says you look a fool, _____

Sister I
mp
Re - mem - ber

Percussion
pp

Piano

1009 *cresc. poco a poco* Uncle Rondo begins seething. *rall.* . . .

Stella-Rondo

Sister 1

Percussion

Piano

fp

Sis-ter says you look a fool, wear-ing that ki-

who said that?

1014 ♩=120

Stella-Rondo

Uncle Rondo

Percussion

Piano

mo- no. . .

In a rage, Uncle Rondo spills out the ketchup all over the kimono.

fff

dim.

fff

8va

3 3

1018

Uncle Rondo

Piano

(8)

3₃ 3₃ 3₃ 3₃

1021

Uncle Rondo

Percussion

Piano

$\text{♩} = 60$

very freely!
(any low pitch)

(any high pitch;
falsetto is fine)

To Stella-Rondo

So ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho ho! So

Tam-tam

f

$\text{♩} = 60$

(8)

ff

ff

8^{va}

1025

Uncle Rondo

Piano

straight ♩ s

$\text{♩} = 108$

that's her o-pin- ion?

Uncle Rondo tears off the kimono in a rage
and throws it on the floor and stomps on it.

ff

$\text{♩} = 108$

(Under the kimono, I imagine Uncle Rondo is wearing an oversized wife-beater, boxers, long black dress socks with garters, and black dress shoes. He probably has bushy eyebrows.)

1028

Uncle Rondo

Piano

straight 8s

1031

Uncle Rondo

Piano

To Sister *f* *furiously* $\text{♩} = 112$

So that is your o - pin ion of

mf $\text{♩} = 112$ *mf*

1034

Uncle Rondo

Piano

me? Your o-pin ion? That is what you real-ly think of me, your "favo-rite uncle!"

1037

Uncle Rondo

Wear-ing Stel-la Ron-do's pink ki-mo-no? _____ You think your

Piano

mf

mp

mp

1040

Sister 1

You know who said that.____

(Don't worry too much about precise enunciation on the ♪s.
The audience will catch on when you get to the ♪s at the end of the phrase.)

Uncle Rondo

un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, you think your

Piano

mf

1042

Sister 1

You know, you know, you know.

(enunciate clearly)

Uncle Rondo

un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a

Piano

1044

Uncle Rondo

fool!

Piano

p

1049

Sister 2

f

I nev - er said an y such of a thing! And I'm not say - ing who

Piano

mf

1053

Sister 2

did. What I said was that you look all right; you look all right, is what I

Piano

1057 *f*

Sister 1 Please re mem- ber— who said what!

Sister 2 said.

Uncle Rondo *f* But you think your

Piano



1059 *f*

Sister 1 You know, you know, who said that!—

Sister 2 *f* No, no no, no no, no no, I nev - er said that!

Uncle Rondo *f* un - cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a fool, you think your

Piano *f* *mf*

1061

Sister 1

You know, you know, you know who said

Sister 2

No, no no, no no, no no, no no, no

Uncle Rondo

un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a

Piano

f



1063

Sister 1

that!

Sister 2

no!

Uncle Rondo

fool!

Piano

p

1068

Sister 1 *mf* 3 (Ex-cept his pre scrip tion.)

Uncle Rondo *f* 3 3 A whole day stuck in this house, with noth ing to do,

Piano *mf*

1071

Uncle Rondo 3 3 then to hear you make a re-mark like that be-hind my back! To hear you make a re-mark like

Piano

1074

Sister 2 *f* I said no such thing!

Mama *f* 3 You ought-n't have, Sis- ter. *mf*

Uncle Rondo 8 that! You think your

Piano *mf* *mp*

1077

mf

Sister 1

You know, you know who said that!—

mf

Sister 2

No, no no, no no, no no, I nev - er said that!

mf

Mama

Oh, — Sis - ter, — you ought - n't have said — that.

Uncle Rondo

un - cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a fool, you think your

Piano

mf *mp*

1079

Sister 1

You know, you know, you know, you know

Sister 2

No, no no, no no, no no, no no, no no, no

Mama

Oh, — Sis - ter, — Oh, — Sis - ter, — you

Uncle Rondo

un - cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a fool, un - cle looks a

Piano

f

NOTE: I originally planned to leave Stella-Rondo out of this ensemble, having her on the sidelines thoroughly enjoying watching everyone else squabble. But I decided it would be fun to have her involved, and besides, she probably couldn't resist joining in. The part is outrageously demanding -- it will probably need to be modified, which is fine. I've provided an ossia possibility, but it's also pretty demanding. Feel free to mix and match, or devise something else -- whatever is a workable part.

1081

Stella-Rondo

Oh_____

Oh-ho-ho - ho - ho hoh_____

Sister 1

who said that!_____ You know, you know

Sister 2

no I nev - er said that! No, no no, no no, no

Mama

ought-n't have said_____ that. Oh,_____ Sis - ter,_____ you

Uncle Rondo

fool, you think your un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a

Piano 2

8^{va}_____

Piano

The musical score is written for a scene involving several characters. Stella-Rondo's part includes a main line and an ossia (alternative) line. Sister 1 and Sister 2 have vocal lines with lyrics. Mama and Uncle Rondo also have vocal lines. Piano 2 and Piano provide accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'f' (forte) and '8va' (octave). The lyrics are written below the corresponding vocal lines.

1083

ff

Stella-Rondo

Yes, she did!____ Oh_____ 3

ff

Yes, she did!____ Oh-ho-ho - ho - ho hoh_____ 3 3 3 3 3

Sister 1

who said that!____ *ff* You know, you know

Sister 2

ff

no I nev - er said that! No no, no no, no no, no

Mama

ff

ought-n't have said____ that. Oh,____ Sis - ter,____ you

Uncle Rondo

ff

fool, you think your un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a

Piano 2

(8)

ff

Piano

ff

1085

Stella-Rondo

Yes, she did! Oh, Oh,

Yes, she did! Oh-ho-ho - ho - ho hoh Oh - ho-ho - ho - ho

Sister 1

who said that! You know, you know,

Sister 2

no, I nev - er said that! No no, no no, no no, no

Mama

ought-n't have said that. Oh, Sis - ter,

Uncle Rondo

fool, you think your un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a

Piano 2

(8)

Piano

1087

Stella-Rondo

Oh, _____ Oh! _____

hoh _____ Oh-ho-ho-ho-ho hoh _____ oh-ho-ho ho-ho - ho!

Sister 1

you know, you know, you know, you know who said that!

Sister 2

no, no no, no no, no no, no no, no no! *mp* Un cle Ron-do,

Mama

Oh, _____ Sis-ter, _____ Oh, Sis-ter, _____ you ought-n't have!

Uncle Rondo

fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool, un-cle looks a fool!

Piano 2

(8)

Piano

mp

1090 *p*

Sister 2

I think you bet - ter go lie down, I think you bet - ter go lie down, I think you...

Uncle Rondo

Piano

p

8va



1093 *ff* **Meno mosso**

Uncle Rondo

Lie down, my foot! Lie- down, my foot! That's the last

Percussion

ff

Piano

pp

8va

5

Ped.

(Any pitches are fine from
here on, as long as they
sound wild and unhinged.)

fading out as he exits down the hall

1096

Uncle Rondo

straw, _____ straw, _____ straw, _____ that's the last straw, _____ straw, _____ straw, _____

Piano

(8)

ff

*

1099

Uncle Rondo

— straw, _____ straw, _____ straw, _____ straw, _____ straw, _____ straw... _____

Piano

1102

Mama

mf reproachfully

You ought-n't have, Sis - ter.

Piano

recit. VERY freely and dramatically

1105 *mf* 3 3

Sister 1

I ought to of known that he was fixing to do some-thing per-fect-ly hor - ri-ble

Piano

f *p* 8va

freely

1108 *mp* 3 3

Sister 1

but he did -n't right a-way, in the pre-ca - ri - ous state he was in.

Piano

(8) (independent of the vocal line)

1109 accel. ♩=92

Sister 1

accel. ♩=92

Piano

straight *mf*

Scene 6

Sister 2 is in the kitchen.

Uncle Rondo, Mama, Stella-Rondo and Shirley-T. are in the living room.

1111

f

Sister 1

While I cleaned up the mess from sup per, _____

Piano

mf

1114

Sister 1

Un-cle Ron-do just played cards. He played Ca - si - no with Ma-ma and

Piano

1117

Sister 1

Stel-la - Ron do__ and Shir ley - T. He gave Shir - ley - T. a

Piano 2

p

Piano

mf

1120

Sister 1

nick-el; _____ it near-ly tick-led her__ to

Piano 2

Piano

131

1122 **poco rall.** **f**

Sister 1 death. She called him "Pa- pa." — "Pa pa?" —

Piano 2

Piano

(If you think there is any possibility that this second "Papa?" might suggest that Uncle Rondo is the father, we should omit it.)

The musical score for 'Sister 1' and 'Piano' is presented in two systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, with a tempo of 1124 and a key signature of one flat. The second system shows the continuation of the piece, with a tempo of 76 and a key signature of one flat. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a 'swung' feel. The 'Sister 1' part is a simple melody.

Sister 1

1124

Piano

swung

ff

accel.

76

76

1126

Piano

1127 $\text{♩} = 84$

Piano 2

mf

Piano

p

1128

Piano 2

f

accel.

Piano

f

accel.

1129

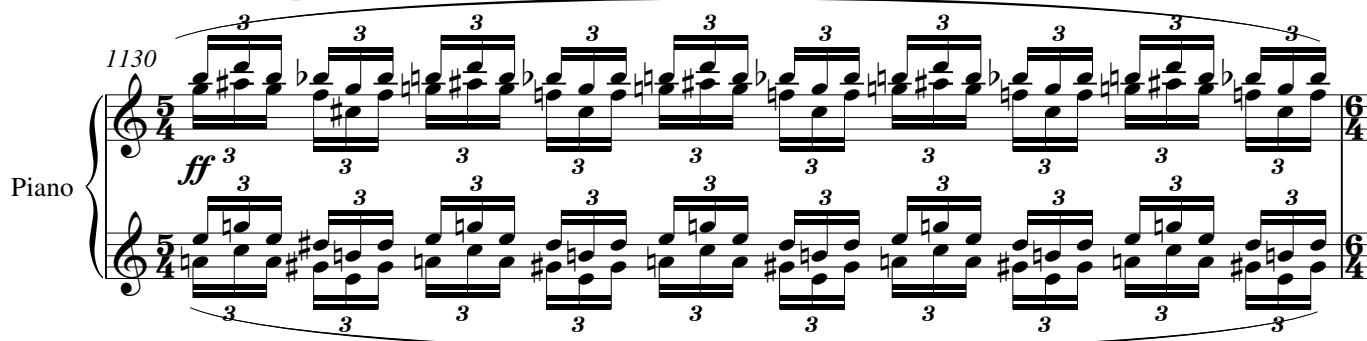
Piano

f

as fast as possible

133

Piano

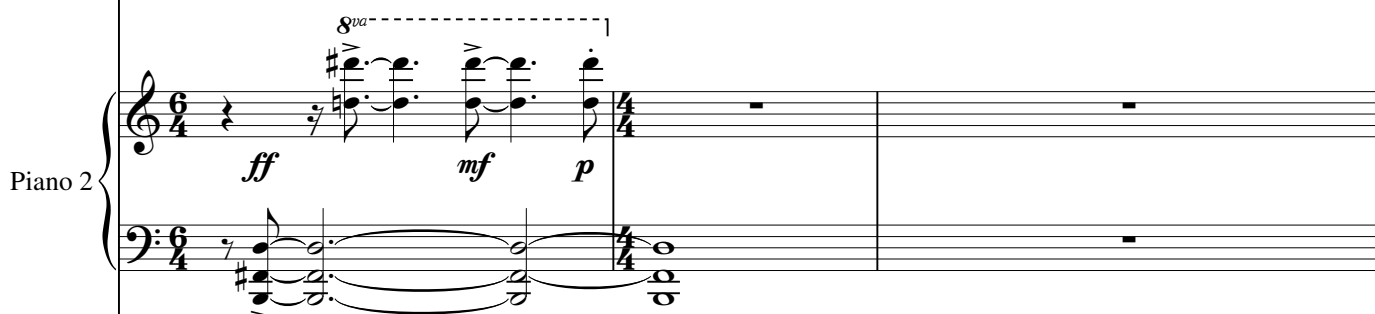


Sister 1



I was worn out. I was get-ting a long

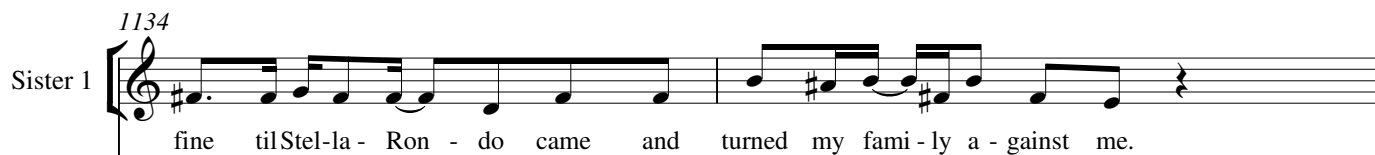
Piano 2



Piano



Sister 1



fine til Stel-la - Ron - do came and turned my fami - ly a - gainst me.

Piano



1136

Sister 1

I was get-ting a-long fine but now I was worn out, I was worn

Piano

1139

Sister 1

out and sim-ply fell a - sleep on the so - fa.

poco accel.

Piano

1142

$\text{♩} = 70$
molto legato

Piano

pp

pp

Ped. ad lib.

1146

Piano

pp

Poco più mosso

135

Piano

1150

ppp



Sister I

1154 *p*

And whoshould creep back in but Un-cle Ron do...

Percussion

mp

Piano

pp

Ped. *



Uncle Rondo

1157 Uncle Rondo comes in furtively and looks around to see is the coast is clear.

Percussion

molto legato

Piano

1161 He has a string of firecrackers which he lights.

Uncle Rondo

Percussion

Piano

f

p sempre

p



There are some options for this spoken line for Uncle Rondo:
 1. He could say it here before he throws the firecrackers under the sofa: " So ... Asleep, are we? ... Wakey wakey ... hussy!"
 See measure 709 for other options.

1164 He throws them under the sofa.

Uncle Rondo

Percussion

Piano

p sempre

fff

f

(very freely) Sister 2 screams, jumping awake,
almost climbing the walls.

137

1167 $\text{♩} = 120 \text{ or faster}$ *ad lib.* *fff*

Sister 2

Uncle Rondo

They all explode!

Percussion

ffff

Piano

$\text{♩} = 120 \text{ or faster}$

1169

Sister 2

Percussion

Piano

Other options for Uncle Rondo's spoken line:
 2. On the fermata, say "Rise and shine, Hussy!"
 3. Or, omit it altogether.

1171

Uncle Rondo

Percussion

Piano

The score for measures 1171-1174 shows Uncle Rondo with a fermata. The Percussion part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets. The Piano part also features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets, mirroring the Percussion part.



Mama, Stella-Rondo and Shirley-T., and Papa-Daddy come running into the living room when the firecrackers start going off. Shirley-T. might be screaming and crying -- it should be a chaotic scene. (Uncle Rondo might retrieve the string of burnt firecrackers from under the sofa and wave it around. They all laugh.)

Sister 2 freezes and thinks. At first agitated, then she becomes calm and resolute.

1175 ♩=72

Sister 2

Vibraphone

Percussion

Piano

The score for measures 1175-1178 shows Sister 2 with a fermata. The Vibraphone part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets. The Piano part also features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets, mirroring the Vibraphone part. The Piano part includes a dynamic marking of *pp* and a tempo change to ♩=96.

1180

f *swung* 

Sister 1

And I'll tell you, it did-n't take me

Piano

ff



1183

Sister 1

long-er than a min-ute to make up my mind. what to do. It did-n't take me

Piano



1186

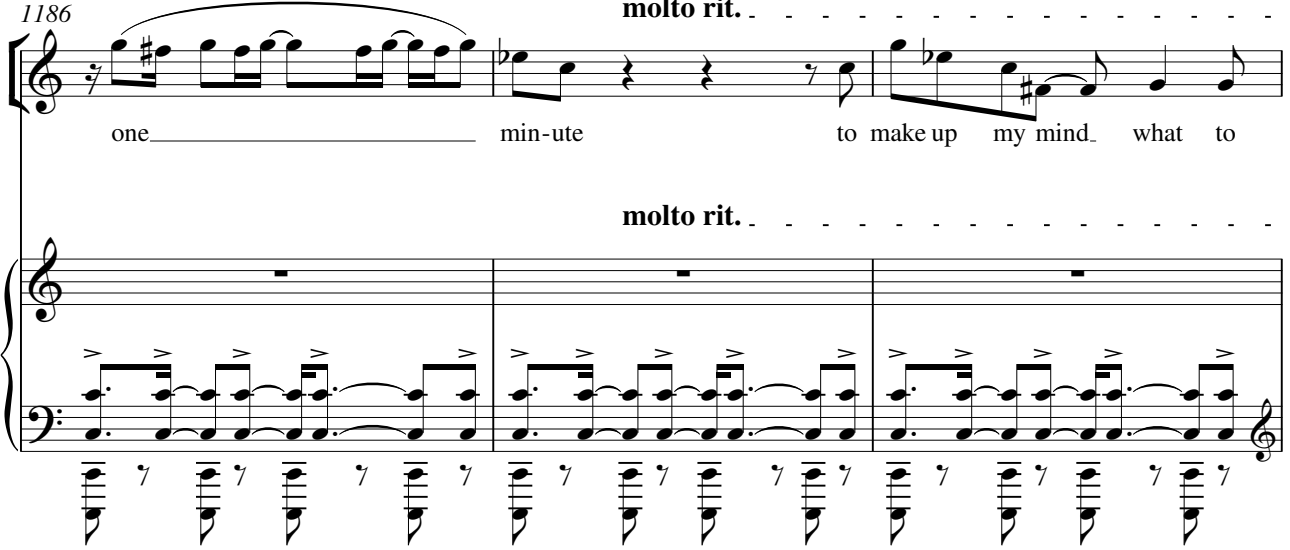
molto rit.

Sister 1

one _____ min-ute to make up my mind. what to

molto rit.

Piano



118 $\text{♩} = 60$ **resolutely**

Sister 1

do.

swung $\text{♩} = 60$ **resolutely**

Piano

ff

8va-----|

3 3

1190

Piano

8va-----|

3 3 3 3

1191

Piano

8va-----|

3 3

accel.

1193

Sister 2

$\text{♩} = 98$ **ff**

I've de-

$\text{♩} = 98$

Piano

ff

3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3

1196

Sister 2

cid - ed, I've de - cid - ed I'll just go

Piano

1198

Sister 2

straight on down to the P. O.! There's plent-y of room for me

Piano

1201

Sister 2

there in the back! I'll live from now on at the P. O.!

Piano

Pointing to various members of her family

1204

Sister 2

Now— you and you— and you and you have turned a gainst me, now

Piano

1207

Sister 2

you and you— and you and you have turned a - gainst me,— now

Piano

(this last to Shirley-T.,
who covers behind
Stella-Rondo)

1209

Sister 2

you and you and you and— you— have turned a - gainst me,

Piano

Poco meno mosso

143

1211

Sister 2

mf

and now this whole en- tire_ house has tak-en

Piano

mp

8va

1214

Sister 2

Stel la - Ron - do's side, this whole en tire_ house has tak-en Stel-la- Ron-do's side, this

Piano

(8)

Poco più mosso

1217

Sister 2

f

whole en- tire_ house, this whole en- tire_ house...

Piano

f

(8)

4

poco accel. ♩=120

Sister 2

Piano

ff

p

3

3

Sister goes to Papa-Daddy on the couch,
and grabs the cushion from behind him.

The image shows a musical score for two parts: 'Sister 2' and 'Piano'. The 'Sister 2' part is a single melodic line in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a rest, followed by a series of notes, and ends with a rest. The 'Piano' part is a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, starting with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a rest, followed by a series of notes, and ends with a rest. The score includes dynamic markings such as 'ff' (fortissimo) and 'p' (piano), and a tempo marking of 'poco accel.' (poco accelerando). The tempo is indicated as ♩=120. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 in the final measure. The 'Sister 2' part is written on a single staff, while the 'Piano' part is written on a grand staff. The score is for a piece titled 'Sister goes to Papa-Daddy on the couch, and grabs the cushion from behind him.' The score is numbered 1221.

1224 *f*

Sister 2

That's my cush-ion! I did the need-le-work

Piano

The musical score is for a scene from 'The Needle and the Thread'. It features two parts: 'Sister 2' and 'Piano'. The 'Sister 2' part is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 7/8 time signature. It begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The lyrics are 'That's my cush-ion!' and 'I did the need-le-work'. The 'Piano' part is written in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. It features a complex, rhythmic accompaniment with many beamed sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and frequent use of triplets. The piano part includes various musical ornaments like trills and grace notes, and changes in dynamics and articulation throughout the piece.

1227

Sister 2

my - self!

Papa-Daddy

spoken *ff*

Uhh! Hey!

Piano

mf

1231 spoken ***ff***

Stella-Rondo

ff Sister goes to Stella-Rondo and pulls a bracelet off her wrist. Oww! Hey!

Sister 2

That's my charm brace - let! Un-cle Ron - do

Piano

1234 ♩ = 122

Stella-Rondo

He did not!

Sister 2

gave it to me! Did so! Ask him!

Piano

f

1238 ♩ = 122

Uncle Rondo

So!

Piano

ff ***f***

Uncle Rondo

1243 *ff*

So! _____ So that's the way the land lies!_

Piano

ff



Uncle Rondo

1247

Want my ar - my cot?

Piano

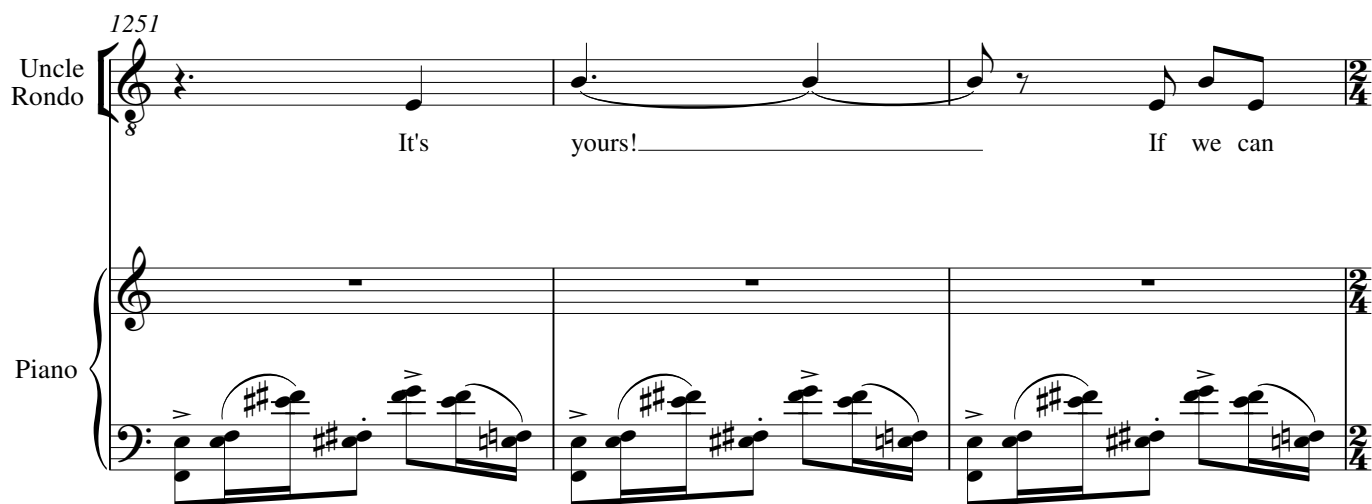


Uncle Rondo

1251

It's yours! _____ If we can

Piano



1254

Sister 2

mf

Well, thank you kind - ly for the

Uncle Rondo

get some peace!_____

Piano

8va

mf

147

1258

Sister 2

f

cot. But peace?_____

Piano

(8)

ff

1261

Sister 2

poco rall. . . . =118

f

Peace?_____ Peace

poco rall. . . . =118

Piano

f

1264 *Poco accel. (Sister is getting worked up)*

Sister 2

— is not a word I would se - lect if I had re-cent - ly — just flung a string of fire — crack-ers at

Piano

mp *mp cresc.*

1267 *ff*

Sister 2

— a sleep ing girl who was just ly - ing down and hop - ing for some rest, a lit - tle rest when her en -

Piano

1270 *♩=124-130* *poco rall. mf*

Sister 2

tire — fami - ly'd turned, when her en - tire — fami ly'd turned, when her en - tire — fami - ly'd turned a -

Piano

f *poco rall.*

1274 - - - - - ♩=106 149

Sister 2

gainst her... But,

Piano

mp *f*

1278 *f* *ff* ♩=.

Sister 2

but, have you for - got - ten? Have you for

Piano

ff

1281

Sister 2

got - ten? I am the Post - mis - tress of Chin - a

Piano

1283

Sister 2

Grove. I may not be wel - come here in my house, but I've

Piano

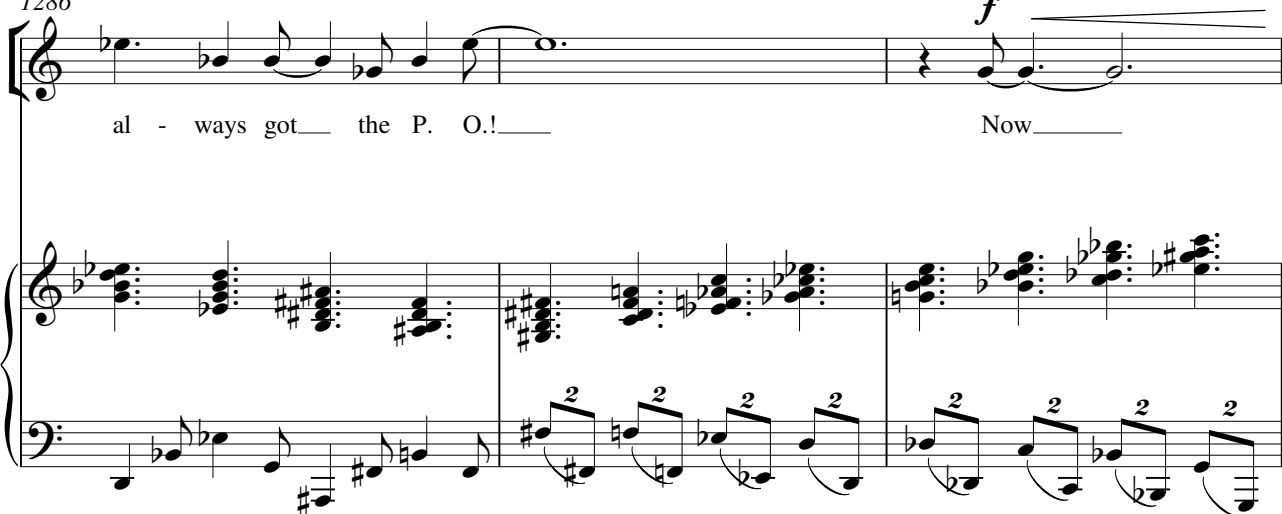


1286

Sister 2

al - ways got the P. O.! Now

Piano

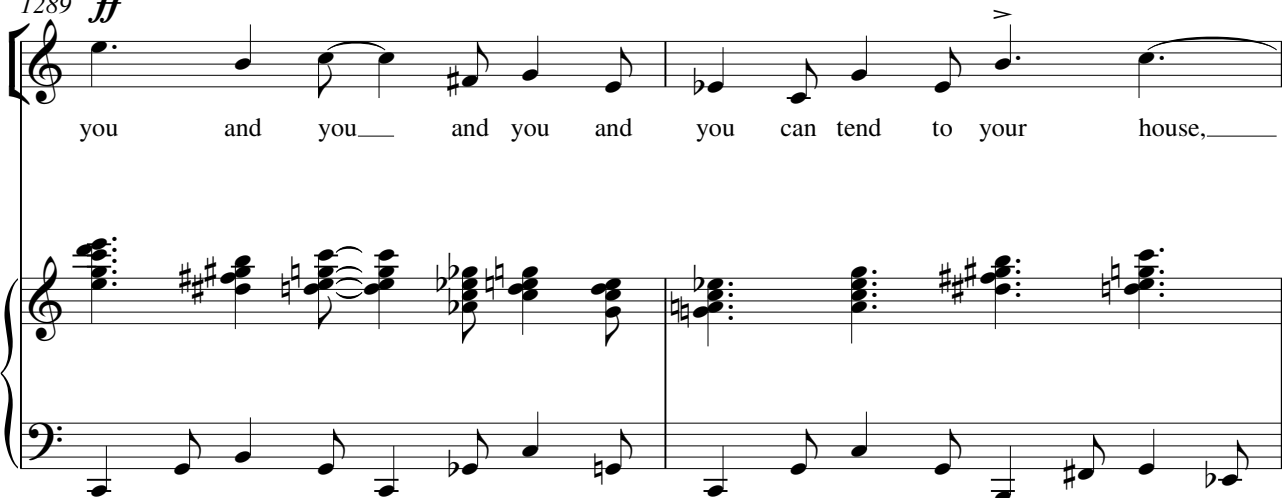


1289 *ff*

Sister 2

you and you and you and you can tend to your house,

Piano



1291

Sister 2

— and I will tend to mine, —

Piano

1293

Sister 1

triumphantly
f

So —

Sister 2

I — will tend to mine. —

Piano

1296

Sister 1

poco rall.

— I hope to tell you, — I hope to tell you —

Piano

f

poco rall.

1298 $\text{♩} = 68$

Sister 1

I marched right in, I marched right

Piano

swung $\text{♩} = 68$

f

3 3 3 3

Sister 2 unplugs the radio and begins assembling a pile of her belongings.

1300

Stella-Rondo

fp

No! No!

Sister 1

straight $\text{♩} = 68$

in and took the rad-i-o. They could of bit a nail in two.

Mama

fp

No! No

Uncle Rondo

fp

No! No!

Papa-Daddy

fp

No! No!

Piano

mf

3 3

1303 (quasi-gliss.) *fp* *fp*

Stella-Rondo

3 3 No! No!

Sister 1 *f*

But they knew that it was mine, a gift from Un-cle Ron do.

Mama (quasi-gliss.) *fp* *fp*

3 No! No! No!

Uncle Rondo (quasi-gliss.) *fp* *fp*

3 8 No! No!

Papa-Daddy (quasi-gliss.) *fp* *fp*

3 3 No! No!

Piano *ff*

1306 ♩=108 *swung* *f*

Sister 1

The sew-ing ma-chine. (I paid the most on the mot or.)

Piano *ff* *swung* ♩=108

1309

Sister 1

Mine. The ther - mo-me- ter. The

Piano

1312

Sister 1

cal-en- dar. The Ha-waii-an u - ke - le - le. Mine.

Piano

1315

Sister 1

The wat-er-mel-on rind pre- serves. (I made 'em all.) The fern. (Ev-en

mf *f* *mf*

Piano

1318 *f*

Sister 1

Ma-ma could -n't de- ny_ I wat-ered the fern.) The pair of blue-bird vas - es...

Piano

fff

1321 *Poco più mosso*

Sister 2

Mama

f

Who told you you could have those, Miss Priss?

Piano 2

f

Poco più mosso

Piano

f

1325 *mf* *swung* 

Sister 2

I'm the one who bought 'em, and I'll keep track_ of 'em. You can

Piano

mf *swung* 

mp



1328

Sister 2

see 'em ever - y time you come to get your_ mail.

Piano

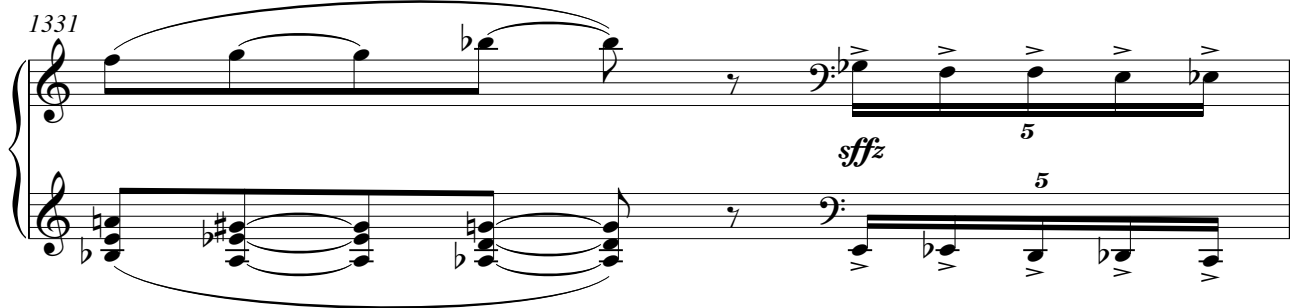
p



1331

Piano

ffz 5



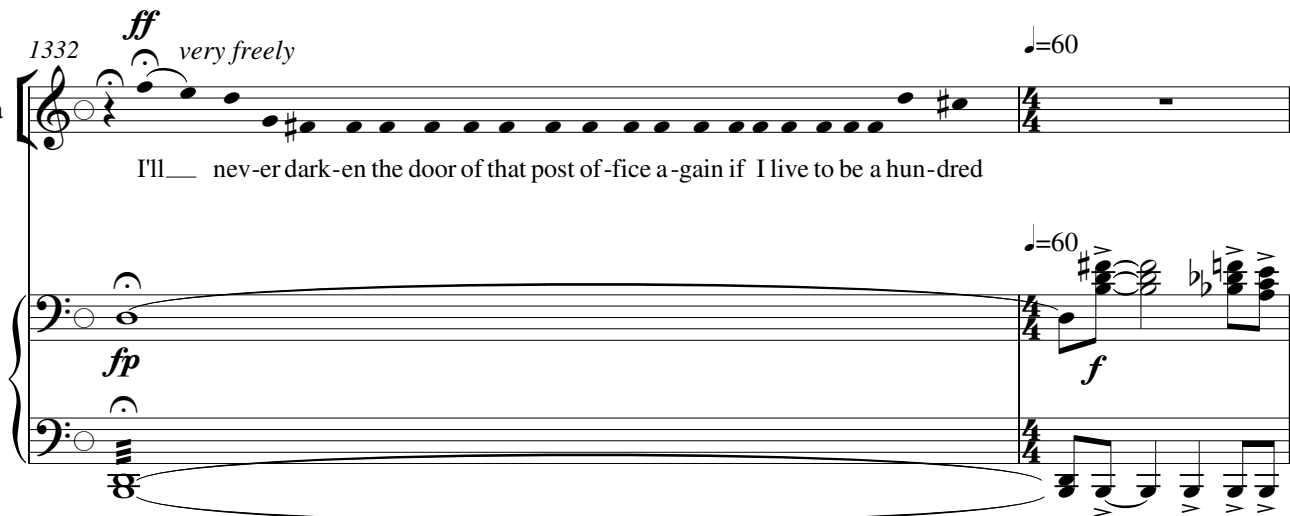
1332 *ff* *very freely*  $\text{♩} = 60$

Mama

I'll_ nev-er dark-en the door of that post of-fice a-gain if I live to be a hun-dred

Piano

fp $\text{♩} = 60$ *f*



poco accel.
1341 *swung* *ff*

Sister 2

Whi ta ker?_ Mis - ter Whi-ta ker?_ Mis-ter Whi ta ker?_ Mis- ter...

Piano

1344 She is speechless with exasperation.

Sister 2

Piano

f *8va*

1345

Sister 2

Piano

(8)

Sister 2

Piano 2

mp Poco meno mosso

Piano

fff

Measures 1346-1347. Sister 2 has a whole rest. Piano 2 plays a continuous eighth-note triplet pattern. Piano has a series of chords and single notes in the bass.

Sister 2

ff passionately

He was

Piano 2

Piano

Measures 1347-1348. Sister 2 enters with the lyrics "He was". Piano 2 continues the triplet pattern. Piano has sustained chords and moving bass lines.

Sister 2

mine be - fore he was

Piano 2

Piano

Measures 1348-1349. Sister 2 continues with the lyrics "mine be - fore he was". Piano 2 continues the triplet pattern. Piano has sustained chords and moving bass lines.

1349

Sister 2

yours. He was

Piano 2

Piano

1350

Sister 2

mine and then you got him un -

Piano 2

Piano

1351

Sister 2

fair - - ly. He was

Piano 2

Piano

f

1352

Sister 2

mine, and you got him un -

Piano 2

Piano

ff

8va

1353

Sister 2

fair - ly. And now

Piano 2

Piano

ff

(8)

8va

1354

Sister 2

you mys - ter - i - ous - ly

Piano 2

Piano

(8)

1355

Sister 2

home, with a child, giv - ing

(8)

Piano 2

Piano

1356

Sister 2

no rhyme or reas - on what - so - ev - er for your sep - a

(8)

Piano 2

Piano

1357 *accel.*

Sister 2

ra - tion. _____

(8)

Piano 2

accel.

Piano

1358 *ff* very freely

Sister 2

And you think that Mis ter Whi ta ker is going to sit down and write you a lengthy cor re- spon- dence?

as fast as possible
8va

Piano

1359

Sister 2

Would Mis ter Whitaker care to write, would Mis ter Whi ta ker care to write, would Mister Whita ker care to write to you?

Piano

1360 ♩ = 104 or faster

Sister 2

Haa! Well, well,

accel. *f*

♩ = 104 or faster

Piano

accel. *ff*

1363 $\text{♩} = 112$ *mf* $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

Sister 2

well, I am mov ing to the P. O.

Piano

ff $\text{♩} = 112$ *mf* $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *lightly*

1366

Sister 2

— and liv - ing there from now on. And if you wish to find me, if you wish to

Piano

8va

1369 *mp*

Sister 2

find me well that's where I'll

Piano

p

1372 Poco rall. $\text{♩} = 102$

Sister 2
be.

Papa-Daddy
ff
You will nev - er catch me set-ting foot in

Piano
Poco rall. $\text{♩} = 102$
ff
f

1375

Papa-Daddy
that P. O., ev-en if I should ev-er get a no-tion to write a let-ter, I won't

Piano

1378 *mf*

Papa-Daddy
have you reach in' out of that lit - tle old win - dow with a pair of shears, aim-in' to

Piano
mf
8va

Poco più mosso

♩.=108

1381

Poco più mosso $\text{♩} = 108$ *f*

Stella-Rondo

Mama

Uncle Rondo

Papa-Daddy

cut off my beard. I'm too smart for you!_ We

Poco più mosso $\text{♩} = 108$ *f* *gliss.*

Piano

1384

Stella-Rondo
all are! We're too smart for you!_____

Sister 2
Well,tell me one thing, if

Mama
all are! We're too smart for you!_____

Uncle Rondo
all are! We're too smart for you!_____

Papa-Daddy
all are! We're too smart for you!_____

Piano
gliss.
mf

1387 *poco accel.*

Sister 2

you're so smart.____ Where² is Mis-ter Whi ta ker?_

Piano

ff *gliss.* *poco accel.* *8va*

1390 *ff* *♩=112*

Uncle Rondo

And I'll thank you_____ to stop read - ing_____ all the

Piano

ff *f* *♩=112*

1393

Uncle Rondo

phar-ma-cy or - ders on post- cards,_____ and then tell - ing ever - y - bod - y in

Piano

1396

Uncle Rondo

Chi - na___ Grove_____ what you think is the mat - ter with them._____

Piano

8va

8

1399

Mama

Un - grate - ful___ child!_ We don't need you or the

Piano

$\text{♩} = 116$

$\text{♩} = 116$

ff

f

ff

f

gliss.

(8)

1402

Stella-Rondo

And if you think that I will ev - er write an - oth - er___ post - card,

Mama

U. S.___ mail!_

Piano

ff

gliss.

1405 *fp* *ff* poco rall. 169

Stella-Rondo

you are sad - - - ly mis-tak - en, sad - ly mis-tak - en, sad

Piano

1408 $\text{♩} = 92$ $\text{♩} = 92$

Stella-Rondo

- ly mis tak - en.

Sister 2

f *swung* ♪ s

Well, cut off your nose to spite your face! Cut off your nose to spite your face!

Piano

$\text{♩} = 92$ $\text{♩} = 92$ *f*

1411 *mf*

Sister 2

Cutoff your nose to spite your face! Well, I have an oth-er ques-tion for you...

Piano

mf

1414 $\text{♩} = 68$ *mf* *straight 8va*

Sister 2

Sup - pos-ing you ev - er care to write, sup -

Piano

mp

Poco accel.

1416

Sister 2

pos-ing you ev - er wish to write, sup - pos-ing you ev - er dare to write and

Piano

(8) *(sempre mp)*

mp

1418

Sister 2

beg Mis ter Whi-ta- ker _____ to come and get you. _____

Piano

(8)

ff

molto rall. ♩=50

171

1420

Stella-Rondo

Percussion

Piano

Stella-Rondo is fighting tears. she bursts into tears

molto rall. ♩=50

pppp

ppp

ff

1424

Shirley-T

Stella-Rondo

Sister 1

Mama

Percussion

Piano

spoken freely

Mama? Mama?

Stella-Rondo continues crying intermittantly.

Sing this melody, but starting on any pitch is fine.

mp

3

I knew she'd cry. Had a con-nip-tion fit right there in the kit-chen.

spoken freely

Stella-Rondo?

172

1425

♩=110

Stella-
Rondo

Sister 2

Percussion

Piano

f

So. It will be

p

♩=110

*p*Stella Rondo cries.
Shirley-T climbs onto her lap.Stella-
Rondo

Sister 2

in-terest ing_ to see how long she holds out.

Mama

spoken

Stella-Rondo?

Percussion

ff

Piano

ff

1432

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

Percussion

Piano

f

I told you. I

1435

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

Percussion

Piano

Stella Rondo cries.

said from the be-gin-ning he'd up and leave her. I

1438

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

told you. I for - told ever - y sin - gle thing that's hap - pened. See? _____

Percussion

Piano



1441

Stella-Rondo cries.

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

He left her, _____ you mark my words! _____

Mama

f

But

Percussion

Piano

1444

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

Mama

Percussion

Piano

The North Pole, I bet! And who can

— wheredid he go?

1447

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

Percussion

Piano

blame him? Who can blame him? Af-ter all, — I knew Mis-ter Whi-ta-ker

ff

f

$\text{♩} = 92$

1450

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

first, _____ I knew him first, _____ please re - mem ber _____ I knew him

Percussion

Piano



1453 **poco rall.**

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

looking hard at Stella-Rondo

first and I knew, _____ I knew, _____

Percussion

poco rall.

Piano

1455

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

Percussion

Piano

fff

I

(to chimes or bells)

8va



1457 ♩=82

Stella-Rondo

Sister 2

Percussion

Piano 2

Piano

Defeated, still crying, Stella-Rondo scoops up Shirley-T. and runs out of the room and upstairs.

knew.

Chimes or bells

f

f

♩=82

(8)

ff

1459

Percussion

Piano 2

Piano

The Piano part features a complex triplet pattern in both hands. The right hand has a series of triplets of eighth notes, while the left hand has a similar pattern. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

1460

Mama

Percussion

Piano 2

Piano

$\text{♩} = 82$

f

Now

l.v.

ff

ff

The Mama part has a vocal line starting with a rest, followed by a quarter note and a half note. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

The Percussion part has a short phrase consisting of a quarter note and a half note. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

The Piano 2 part has a short phrase consisting of a quarter note and a half note. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

The Piano part continues with a complex triplet pattern in both hands. The right hand has a series of triplets of eighth notes, while the left hand has a similar pattern. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

1462 *f*

Sister 2 I have-n't got time.

Mama look what you've gone and done, Sis- ter! You go a - pol-o- gize!-

Piano

1465 *f* *♩*=72

Sister 2 I'm bus-y. I'm pack ing. I'm leav - ing.

Piano *mf* *swung* *♩*=72 *Red. ad lib.*

1468 *f*

Uncle Rondo Well, why are you stand-ing a- round? Stop wast-ing our time.

Piano

Still defiant and triumphant, Sister continues to gather things to take and load them into a wagon or cart. But she is not unaffected by her family's recriminations.

1470

Mama *mf* Un -

Piano *mf*

1471

Mama grate - ful child. You ought to

Piano

1472

Mama be a - shamed.

Papa-Daddy *ff* spoken freely Hus- sy!

Piano *mf*

Poco meno mosso

straight *mf* swung *mf*

Shirley T. at the foot of the stairs,
or from Stella-Rondo's window, 181
blows a loud raspberry and sticks
out her tongue at Sister.
♩=78

1474 *rit.*

Shirley-T

Papa-Daddy

Hus- sy!

Piano

mf

rit.

sempre molto legato

♩=78

pp

Ped. ad lib

1477

Shirley-T

Sister 2

Sister 2 starts walking toward
the P.O. with the wagon.

Piano

sempre molto legato

1481

Sister 2

mf *angrily*

So that is the

Piano

sim.

mp

1485

Sister 2

last time, — the ver-y last time, — the last time, — the ver-y last time I laid

Piano

She arrives at the P.O.

Sister 1 steps forward, and
for the first time, they
acknowledge each other.

1489

Sister 1

rall. — — — — — *mf*

So

Sister 2

eyes on my fami - ly.

Piano

rall. — — — — — *p* *mp* *8va*

1494

Sister 1

that was the last time, — — — — — that — was the last time, the ver-y

(8) — — — — —

Piano

1498

Sister 1

last time that I laid eyes on my fami - ly.

Piano

The singers are encouraged to improvise freely in this section and develop a passionate, soulful lament.

1502

Sister 1

f 3 So that's the last time.

Sister 2

f 3 That's the ver-y last time.

Piano

1505

Sister 1

3 That was the ver y last time. 3 That's the last time. 3 That's the last

Sister 2

3 That is the ver y last time. 3 That's the last time.

Piano

1508

Sister 1
time. That was the last time._____

Sister 2
That's the last time. That's the last time.____ The last time._____

Piano

1511

Sister 1
The ver-³y last time my _ fami

Sister 2
The ver-³y last time My fami ly has laid eyes on me.____

Piano

1514

Sister 1
- ly has laid eyes on me,____ the last time,____ the last time____ the last time____ the last

Sister 2
The last time,____ the last time,____ the last time,____ the last

Piano

1517

Sister 1

time, — the last time, — the last time.

f *mf*

Sister 2

time, — the last time, — the last time.

f *mf*

Piano

Sister 2 exits, leaving Sister 1 alone

1520

Sister 1

Piano

Epilogue

1524

Sister 1

mp poco accel. 3

The last time my fami-ly's laid eyes on me for one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four,

molto legato

Piano

pp sempre

mp

1528 $\text{♩}=80$ $\text{♩}=72$ poco meno mosso

Sister 1

one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four, five. Five sol-id days and

Piano

mf *f* *ff*

meno mosso, more relaxed

1531 *mf* *swung ♩s*

Sister 1

nights... Oh, — but I like it here, I

meno mosso, more relaxed

swung ♩s

Piano

mf

1533

Sister 1

like it here. Oh, — but I like it here at the P.

Piano

1535 $\text{♩} = 74$ *f* 187 *mf*

Sister 1 O., at the P. O. I've got

Piano

1537 $\text{♩} = 72$ *swung* *mp*

Sister 1 ever - y thing here the way - I like, - ever - y thing here the way I like,

Piano

1539 *f* *mp*

Sister 1 ever - y - thing here the way - I like. Got my pi - an-o lamp, my sew-ing ma chine, my

Piano

1541

Sister 1

blue - bird vas es, — and cal-en dar, — my i-ron ing board, and u-ke-le-le, — and my pre

Piano

1543

Sister 1

molto rubato *molto rit.* *straight* $\text{♩} = 70$ **Più mosso** *freely* *poco più mosso* *swung* **mf**

ff

3

3

3

3

serves, — every one of my pre serves, — and the ra di o, — the ra-di o! — And folkscan

Piano

molto rubato *molto rit.* $\text{♩} = 70$ **Più mosso**

f *ff* *f*

3

3

1546

Sister 1

take which - ev - er side they want, they can take whose - ev - er — side they want,

Piano

mp *straight* $\text{♩} = 70$

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

1548 *mp*

Sister 1

which - ev - er side_ they want. I ___ know which is which.

Piano

p

1550 *più mosso* *f* *meno mosso*

Sister 1

I've got

Piano

più mosso
swung *mf* *straight* *8va* *meno mosso*

1552

Sister 1

ever - y thing here just the way I like, ever - y - thing here just the way I like, -

Piano

mf

1554 *poco rit.* ***ff*** *more broadly* ♩=ca.72

Sister 1
ever-y - thing here just the way I like. Here I am _____ and here I'll

Piano
poco rit. *more broadly* ♩=ca.72
f
ped. ad lib.

1556

Sister 1
stay at the P. O., _____ at the P.

Piano
8va
triplets

1558 *rall.* ***fff*** ♩=62 *più mosso* ♩=70

Sister 1
O. Here I am _____ and here I'll

Piano
fff *più mosso* ♩=70
ff
triplets

[illegible]

1562

Sister 1

O.

Piano

f

ff

Red. ad lib.

Tempo markings: $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$, poco accel.

Rehearsal mark: (8)

Performance instructions: *f*, *ff*, *Red. ad lib.*

Time signature: 3/4

Key signature: D major

Notes: The score for 'Sister 1' is a vocal line starting with a long note on 'O.' followed by a rest. The piano accompaniment features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a crescendo leading to a fortissimo section. The tempo is marked as approximately 80 beats per minute, with a 'poco accel.' instruction. A rehearsal mark (8) is placed at the beginning of the piano section. The piece concludes with a 'Red. ad lib.' instruction.

1569 poco rall.

Percussion

f

Piano 2

8^{va}

Piano

poco rall.

Percussion

1573 ♩=ca.82 Cymbal

ppp

Piano

♩=ca.82 swung ♩s

p

Percussion

1575 l.v.

Piano

p

1576 *swung* *mf* $\text{♩}=76$

Sister 1

And if Ste - la - Ron - do ev - er came on bend ed knee and at -

Piano

1578 *f* *mf*

Sister 1

tempt ed to ex plain to me_ all the in ci - dents in her life with Mis - ter Whi ta ker_ I'd sim - ply

Piano

1581 *f*

Sister 1

put my fin - gers in my ears, put my fin - gers in my ears, I'd simpl y

Piano

1583 *poco più mosso*

Sister 1

put my fin - gers in both my ears...

Piano

ff

poco più mosso
swung

1585 *poco meno mosso*

Sister 1

Piano

8va

poco meno mosso

mp

1587 *mf brightly*

Sister 1

I just want the whole wide world to know I'm

Piano

1590 poco accel. al fine

Sister 1

hap - py. _____

Hap - py. _____

Piano

mf

3

1592

Sister 1

Hap - py. _____

Piano

mp

3 3

Ped.

1594

Sister 1

Percussion

p swung *♩s*

Piano 2

p

Piano

1596 *mf* still brightly

Sister 1

Hap - py. —

Percussion

Piano 2

Piano

1598 ♩=ca.92 or faster

Sister 1

Sister turns on the radio.
She comes in in the middle
of a song.

She reacts to
the song.

She turns it off.

ca. 30"
Radio

Percussion

f

Piano 2

(8) ♩=ca.92 or faster

Piano

ff

*

This is the song that Sister hears on the radio. At the workshop, we can decide whether or not we want to use it.
 I think the first version of the ending could work with or without the song.
 I think the second version of the ending needs the song in order to work.
 The emotional impact of the song (and the tone of the end of the opera) will have a lot to do with Sister's reaction to hearing it.

We could:

1. Skip the song altogether if we go with the first version of the ending.
2. Use the song as is at the end of either version.
3. Use the music of the song with other lyrics. (I welcome any suggestions!)
4. Or, use a different song!

I Am Coming for You

(Fragment, Verse 3)

Recorded by Joey B. Eddington and his Orchestra
 with the Mellotonettes

Music and Lyrics by
 Joey B. Eddington

Sister turns on the radio.
 (The recording starts
 somewhere around here.)

Adagio
 Uncle Rondo *molto espress., very freely*
mf

Tenor

...And I hope you un-der-stand you're theon-lylove I'll-ev-er know, my dear, and my on-ly re-

Stella-Rondo,
 Mama,
 Papa-Daddy singing falsetto (or Sister 2) (Feel free to switch parts around to accomodate Papa-Daddy's falsetto.)

Voices

Adagio
mp

Piano

4

Tenor

gret is that af-ter we met I let you go, my dear, and I will cross o-ceans and des-erts and snow-capp'd peaks to

Voices

Piano

f

mf

7 *rit.* *A tempo*

Tenor *mp* *mf* *f*

hold you close a gain! Nev-er for- get I am com-ing for you, I am com-ing for

Voices *p* *mp*

Nev- er for- get, I am com-ing for you,

Piano *p* *mf*

Sister turns off the radio.
(The recording stops around here.)

10

Tenor

you, my dear!

Voices *mf* *f*

I am com-ing for you, I am com-ing for you, my dear!

Piano *f*

1517 185

Sister 1 *f* *mf*
time, the last time, the last time.

Sister 2 *f* *mf*
time, the last time, the last time. Sister 2 exits, leaving Sister 1 alone

Piano

1520

Sister 1

Piano

Epilogue Version Two

(Changes begin in m. 1574)

1524 *mp* poco accel. *3*

Sister 1
The last time my fami - ly's laid eyes on me for one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four,

Piano *molto legato* *pp* *sempre*

1528 $\text{♩}=80$ $\text{♩}=72$ poco meno mosso

Sister 1

one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four, five. Five sol-id days and

Piano

mf *f* *ff*

meno mosso, more relaxed

1531 *mf* swung ♩ s

Sister 1

nights... Oh, — but I like it here, I

Piano

mf swung ♩ s

1533

Sister 1

like it here. Oh, — but I like it here at the P. O., at the P.

Piano

1536 *f* *mf* $\text{♩} = 72$ *swung* 187

Sister 1

O. — I've got ever - y thing here_ the way_ I like, —

Piano

f *mp*

$\text{♩} = 72$

3 3 3

1538 $\text{♩} = 69$

Sister 1

ever - y thing here the way I like, ever - y-thing here the way_ I like. — Got my pi

Piano

f

$\text{♩} = 69$

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

8va

1540 $\text{♩} = 68$

Sister 1

an - o lamp, — my sew-ing ma chine, my blue - bird vas es, — and cal-en dar, — my

Piano

mp

$\text{♩} = 68$

1542 *3* *molto rubato* *freely* *molto rit.* *straight* $\text{♩} = 68$ **Più mosso** *ff*

Sister 1 i-ron-ing board, and u-ke-le-le, and my pre-serves, ever-y one of my pre serves, and the

Piano *f* *ff*

1544 *freely* *poco più mosso* *swung* $\text{♩} = 76$ *mf*

Sister 1 *3* ra-di-o, the ra-di o! And folks can take which-ev-er side they want, they can

Piano *f* *mp* *straight* $\text{♩} = 76$

1547

Sister 1 take whose-ev-er side they want, which-ev-er side they want.

Piano

1559 $\text{♩} = 70$
più mosso

Sister I

am and here I'll stay

am and here I'll stay at the P.

$\text{♩} = 70$
più mosso

Piano

ff

8^{va}

3

1569 poco rall.

Percussion

f

Piano 2

8^{va}

Piano

poco rall.

Percussion

1573 ♩=ca.78 Cymbal

ppp

Piano

♩=ca.78 *swung* ♩s

p

Percussion

1575 I.v.

Piano 2

swung ♩s

p

Piano

mp

1577 *mf* brightly, defiantly, trying not to think of Mr. Whitaker

Sister 1

And I just want the whole-wide world to know— I'm

Piano 2

Piano

1579

Sister 1

hap - py. Hap - py.

Piano

mf

3

1581

Sister 1

Hap - py.

Piano

3 3

mp

1583

Sister 1

Piano 2

Piano

p *>* *Ped.*

1585

Sister 1

Hap - py.

poco piu mosso

Piano 2

f 3

poco piu mosso

Piano

mf

1586

Piano 2

f 3

poco accel.

8va

Piano

poco accel.

1587 $\text{♩} = 76$ *swung* *mf* 195

Sister 1

And if Stel-la Ron - do

Piano 2

Piano

ff *mf*

tr *sfz* *ff*

tr

3

3

8

1589 $\text{♩} = 76$ *f*

Sister 1

ev-er came on bend-ed knee and at tempt-ed to ex-plain to me_ all the in-ci-dents in her life with Mis-ter

Piano

mf

3

3

3

1592 *mf*

Sister 1

Whi-ta- ker_ I'd sim- ply put my fin - gers in my ears,

Piano

3

3

3

3

1594 *f*

Sister 1

put my fin - gers in my ears, I'd sim-ply put my fin - gers in both my ears...

Piano

3 3 3 3 3 3

1596 ♩=78 accel.

Sister 1

accel.

♩=78 *swung* *ff*

Piano

3 3 3 3 3 3

1598

Sister 1

Piano

3 3 3 3

In this alternate version of the Sisters' Duet, the vocal parts are the same as in the original version. The rhythms in the accompaniment and the tempos are sometimes different, though. I made this version because I wanted it to be clear that when Sister 2 is leaving, she is still angry and defiant, not sad. She doesn't become wistful until the third verse of the duet.

Alternate Version The Sisters' Duet pp. 181-185

181

Shirley T. at the foot of the stairs,
or from Stella-Rondo's window,
blows a loud raspberry and sticks
out her tongue at Sister.

1474 *poco rall.* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 94$

Shirley-T

Papa-Daddy

Hus- sy!

poco rall. $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 94$

Piano *mf*

Red. ad lib

1477

Shirley-T

Sister 2

Sister 2 starts walking toward
the P.O. with the wagon.

Piano *f*

1481 *mf angrily*

Sister 2

So that is the

Piano *mf*

sim.

1485

Sister 2

last time, — the ver-y last time, — the last time, — the ver-y last time I laid

Piano

Sister 1 steps forward, and
for the first time, they
acknowledge each other.

She arrives at the P.O.

1489

Sister 1

rall. — — — — — *Meno mosso* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$ *mf*

So

Sister 2

eyes on my fami - ly.

Piano

rall. — — — — — *Meno mosso* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$ *p* *mp* *8va*

1494

Sister 1

that was the last time, — — — — — that — was the last time, the ver-y

(8)

Piano

1498

Sister 1

last time that I laid eyes on my fami - ly.

Piano

The singers are encouraged to improvise freely in this section and develop a passionate, soulful lament.

1502

Sister 1

So that's the last time.

Sister 2

That's the ver-y last time.

Piano

1505

Sister 1

That was the ver y last time. That's the last time. That's the last

Sister 2

That is the ver y last time. That's the last time.

Piano

1508

Sister 1
time. That was the last time._____

Sister 2
That's the last time. That's the last time.____ The last time._____

Piano

1511

Sister 1
The ver-³y last time my_ fami

Sister 2
The ver-³y last time My fami ly has laid eyes on me.____

Piano

1514

Sister 1
- ly has laid eyes on me,____ the last time,____ the last time____ the last time____ the last

Sister 2
The last time,____ the last time,____ the last time,____ the last

Piano

1517

f *mf*

Sister 1

time, the last time, the last time.

Sister 2

time, the last time, the last time.

Sister 2 exits, leaving Sister 1 alone

Piano

1520

Sister 1

Piano

Epilogue

1524

mp poco accel. *3*

Sister 1

The last time my fami-ly's laid eyes on me for one, two, three, four, one, two, three, four,

molto legato

Piano

pp sempre

mp