
Midnight at Frankie's

An Opera in One Act

(2023)

Tom Armitage

Midnight at Frankie's

Music and Words by Tom Armitage

Synopsis

In a world of struggle and sacrifice, single mother Amelia fights to keep her sick daughter alive. Balancing her exhausting job at Frankie's Jazz Club and caring for her ailing child, Amelia faces her ex-boyfriend's harassment and the threat of eviction. Under the weight of her mounting debts and a dangerous proposition, Amelia's resilience is put to the test. Will Amelia defy the odds and reclaim her strength?

Duration: 60 minutes

Roles

Amelia	_____	Soprano
Frankie	_____	Mezzo
Max Blackwell	_____	Mezzo/Baritone
Marjorie Whitwell	_____	Mezzo
Baby	_____	Soprano

Scenes

Amelia's Flat
Amelia's Flat - Outside on the Street
Frankie's Jazz Club - Kitchen
Frankie's Jazz Club - The Stage
A City Centre Canal

Characters

Amelia

A single mother struggling to get by. By day, she cares for her young, sick daughter, Baby. By night, she works in the kitchen of Frankie's seedy jazz club to earn enough money to pay the rent.

Frankie

The untamed and dynamic proprietress of Frankie's Jazz Club and a talented jazz singer.

Max Blackwell

Drug dealer, loan shark, and ex-boyfriend to Amelia.

Marjorie Whitwell

Amelia's elderly landlady, who is dying of cancer.

Baby

Young daughter of Amelia. She has suffered with a mystery sickness all her life, which often keeps her bed bound.

'Midnight at Frankie's' was commissioned by the School of Performing Arts, Malta for the SOPA Vocal Ensemble and received its premiere in Malta in March 2024.

The performance was directed by Lorraine Aquilina with the composer at the piano.

This opera is dedicated to SOPA and the singers of the SOPA Vocal Ensemble, who gave the first performance, who are, in order of role, Daphne Camilleri, Maria Krista Tabone Bartolo, May Bredahl, Martina Borg, and Hanna Felice.

MIDNIGHT AT FRANKIE'S

An Opera in One Act

Prologue

AMELIA'S FLAT

A small, dishevelled flat with a bed, a chair beside it, and a clock on the wall. BABY is in the bed struggling with her sickness. She cannot breathe. AMELIA is tending to BABY.

Tom Armitage
November 2023

Piano

(♩=50)

<math><fp</math>

più p

Pno.

4 **With lots of intensity** (♩=80)

pp

(poco)

Pno.

8 *8^{va}*

p

pp

Amelia

14 *mf*

Oh, Ba - by, poor Ba - by, — Stay strong, my dear; Keep

Pno.

(8)

mp

(pp)

20

Amelia

breath - ing, keep fight - ing, Ma - ma is here.

Baby

f It hurts, Ma-ma! Mylungs... feel

Pno.

ff *f*

8^{vb}

25

Amelia

f Oh, Ba - by, poor

Baby

hea- vy... My chest... feels tight... This pier - cing pain... all day... all night.

Pno.

mp *ff* *p*

32

Amelia

Ba - by, Stay strong, my dear; Keep breath - ing, keep fight - ing,

Pno.

f *p* *f* *p* *f*

8^{vb}

37

Amelia

Ma - ma is here.

Baby

Why me, Ma-ma? Why do I de-serve this pain? My

Pno.

ff *f*

(8) 3

43

Amelia

Oh, Ba - by, poor Ba - by, Stay strong, my dear; Keep

Baby

lungs... my chest... All night... all day. Make it

Pno.

mp *ff* *p*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

50

Amelia

breath - ing, keep fight - ing, Ma - ma is here.

Baby

stop, Ma ma!_

Pno.

mp

3 3 3

8^{vb}

BABY'S breathing becomes less laboured. She tries to stand up with AMELIA's assistance.

54

Pno.

3 3 3

p

59

Pno.

64

Pno.

BABY manages a few steps before her legs become weak.

69

Amelia

mf

You need to

Baby

mf *f*

It's get-ting ea-si-er, Ma-ma. I think I can walk. I

Pno.

74

Amelia rest, Ba - by. Try not to talk.

Baby *mf*
 can walk! Keep breath-ing, keep fight-ing, Like you al-ways say; I won't stay

Pno.

BABY collapses into AMELIA's arms.

81

Baby *rall.* *Meno mosso*
 like this all night and all day.

Pno. *pp* *ff*

AMELIA helps BABY back into bed. *Calm; Soothing*

87 *rall.* (♩=60) *rall.* *A tempo* *mp*

Amelia Sleep, Ba-by, Rest, Ba-by,

Pno. *mp* *p*

95

Amelia And fall in-to dream-ing, And fall in-to dream-ing of Green grass and fresh air, And

Pno.

102

Amelia

warm sun-shine gleam-ing. Sleep, Ba-by, Rest, Ba-by, Let

Pno.

109

Amelia

your-self be still, Let your-self be still;

Pno.

117

Amelia

I'll be here when you wake up, I pro-mise I

Pno.

124

Amelia

will.

Pno.

AMELIA kisses BABY on the forehead and tucks her in. She starts getting ready for work.

132

Amelia

Pno.

rall.

Overture

A clock strikes midnight. Over the music, a scene plays out where AMELIA goes to work at FRANKIE'S Jazz Club, where she washes glasses in the kitchen. She then comes home and tends to BABY.

A tempo *f*

140

Pno.

f *p* 6 6 6

f

mf

144

Pno.

6 6 6 rit. 6 3 *f* 3

Energetic

146 - **A tempo**

Pno.

fp *fp* *fp*

149

Pno.

fp *fp* *fp*

152

Pno.

rit. A tempo *f*

fp

155

Pno.

sub. ff

158

Pno.

p

160

Pno.

molto *p*

molto rall.

Softly; Delicately

162

Pno.

mp (*mp*)

molto *f*

167

Pno.

f *p*

rit.

(♩=50) (♩=70)

Pno.

Pno.

Impulsive

Pno.

AMELIA returns home to BABY.

Slow; Ominous

Pno.

Solemn; Worrisome

Pno.

AMELIA sits by BABY's bedside.

195 *mp*

Amelia

As tired-ness consumes me, Her pain cuts right through me;

Pno. *p*

202

Amelia

This cough ne-ver - end-ing shows no sign of mend-ing. I must

Pno. *mf* *mp*

210

Amelia

work for my Ba-by, But she needs me here; So, I work through the night clean-ing

Pno. *p* *mf*

217

Amelia

glas-ses for beer, Then by day, when she's rest-ed, I'll stay right be-

Pno. *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

225

Amelia

side her, Till her eyes grow wea - ry, Then I turn pro - vi - der.

f

Pno.

mf *f*

Sudden and Sinister

233

Whitwell

(offstage) *f* *con moto* 3

A - me - li - a! You're late with the rent a - gain!

Pno.

pp *ff*

237

Whitwell

pù f

A - me - li - a! A - me - li - a!

Pno.

f

240

Whitwell

O - pen the door!

Pno.

p

Scene 1

FRANKIE'S JAZZ CLUB - KITCHEN

A clock strikes midnight and AMELIA arrives at FRANKIE's Jazz Club, where she works as a dishwasher. She is noticeably exhausted and works slowly.

(♩.=60) **poco rall.**

Piano *ff*

Swing (♩.=50) *mf*

6 *p*

11 *f*

14

17 *Enter FRANKIE* *p*

21 **Straight** (♩=90) *f*

Frankie

A - me - li - a! You're slack-ing! I've got

24

Frankie

boys at the bar and noth-ing to pour their beer in - to! Where are the clean glass - es?!

Meno mosso

26

Amelia

Sor - ry, Fran - kie! I'm go - ing as fast as I can.

Frankie

Look at your

Meno mosso

28

Frankie

eyes! They're as grey as the ci - ga - rette smoke that clings to my

mf

p

30

Amelia

When I can, _ Fran - kie,

Frankie

cei - ling. Are you not sleep - ing? _

mp

mp

p

f

p

34

Frankie

Well, you'll have plen - ty of time to sleep if I don't get some clean glass - es in five min - utes, 'Cos

f

sub. f

36

Frankie

you'll be out of a job! Hur - ry up!

p

f

Exit FRANKIE

Menacing (♩=60)

Enter BLACKWELL through the back door

mp

Blackwell

Hey,

Menacing (♩=60)

p

Amelia

I don't have time for your tricks, Black - well.

stran ger. You're look-ing rough.

f

Blackwell

How rude! I on-ly came_ to see how you're do-ing. It's

mf

p *mf* *p*

49

Amelia *f* Well, things aren't so great, and you're

Blackwell *f* been a long time, A - me - li - a.

Poco meno mosso

52

Amelia *ff* not ma-king things a - ny eas-ier by hang-ing 'round here. Now,

Blackwell

mp

54

Amelia *rit.* get!

Blackwell *f* You ne - ver used to talk to me like this!

sim. *cresc.* *rit.*

56 (♩=40)

Amelia *f* Thanks to you!

Blackwell *mf* Fal- len_ on hard times, *p* have we?

(♩=40)

ff *p* *f*

60 **Energetic** (♩=70) *mp* *f*

Blackwell How cruel_ you've be- come, A - me - li - a.

mp *p* *sim.*

62

Blackwell Af - ter e - v'ry - thing I did for you.

f *p*

63

Blackwell

I loved you, I cared for you... and the kid! I e-ven



65

Blackwell

gave you that loan when you had no mo-ney for both the me-di-cine



67

Amelia

rall. A tempo

f

And I'm still pay-ing it

Blackwell

and the rent.

rall. A tempo

6 6 6 6

ffp

69

Amelia

back with in - - - terest!

Blackwell

rall. (♩=40)

70

Amelia

Now, please! I just need you to

Blackwell

rall. (♩=40)

ff *mp*

sffz *mp*

72 **Menacing**

Amelia

leave.

Blackwell

I can for - give your debts. You just need to

Menacing

mp *p*

74 *f* ($\text{♩}=60$)

Amelia I don't trust a word you say, Black-well.

Blackwell do one thing for me. *p* But it's so ($\text{♩}=60$)

77

Blackwell ea-sy! You just need to help-me, help me, help me push some gear

pp

p

83 *p* *mp*

Amelia Drugs? For-get it!

Blackwell out there, out there in the club.

sim.

90 *mp* *f*

Blackwell

Please your- self, dar-ling. I'll swing by la-ter for the

95 (♩=40) *f*

Amelia

Get out,

Blackwell

loan re - pay - ment. That is, if you still have a job!

(♩=40) *mp* *cresc.*

97 *fp* *f* *Exit BLACKWELL*

Amelia

Black-well! Get out of here, right now!

100 *p* *Exit AMELIA*

Attacca

Sinfonia

Slow; Devotional; Always in time (♩=60)

Piano

p

Pno.

p

Pno.

p

Pno.

f

rit.

Pno.

p *ppp*

Scene 2

AMELIA'S FLAT

BABY is asleep in her bed. AMELIA enters and sits by her bedside.

25 *(♩=♩)*

Amelia *p*

Your strength is phe - no - me - nal, You just keep on fight - ing;

Pno. *p* *sim.*

32

Amelia

As long as you're breath - ing, I'll still fight for you. —

Pno.

37 *f*

Amelia

E - ven as the hounds of cri - mi - na - li - ty are bi - ting, I'll re - sist their gnash - ing jaws, —

Pno. *f*

41 *rit.*

Amelia

and to you re - main true. — *rit.*

Pno. *p*

Scene 3

FRANKIE'S JAZZ CLUB - KITCHEN

A clock strikes midnight. AMELIA enters to start her shift.

Piano

(♩=60)

f

f

p 6 6 6

f

mf

Pno.

4

rit. 6 6 6

f

3

Sinister (♩=60)

6 - Enter BLACKWELL through the back door

mp

Have you ___ had time ___ to think

Pno.

p

sim.

10

Amelia

Blackwell

Pno.

For-get it, Black-well!

a- bout_ my of - - fer?

13

Blackwell

Pno.

Care-ful, A - me - li - a. I don't think this is an of-fer you should out-right re-

AMELIA appears to ponder the proposition

16

Blackwell

Pno.

fuse.

18

Blackwell

Pno.

accel.

I thought as much. Re - mem ber, Re mem - ber what you owe

accel.

A tempo

21

Amelia *f*
Leave, Black-well!

Blackwell *f* me. *mf* I'll be back.

Pno. *ff* *p*

A tempo

25

Frankie *f*
Exit BLACKWELL through the back door A - me - li - a! Cleanglas-ses, - now!

Blackwell

Pno. *f*

29

Amelia *freely*
It's no-thing, I'll be fine.

Frankie *freely*
A-me li - a, what's hap-pened? This no-thing is clear-ly some-thing!

Pno. *p colla voce*

32

Amelia

It's my ex boy- friend. He just won't leave mein peace.

Frankie

He's har ras- sing you?!

Pno.

In time (♩=90)

35

Amelia

Wher-ev-er I go, He's al- ways there!

Frankie

In time (♩=90)

Pno.

39

Frankie

mp

A - me- li a, — lis- ten...

Pno.

l.v. *mp*

Assuringly (♩=50)

42 *mp*

Frankie

I'll help you, I'll de-fend you, When you're in your hour of need; I'll pro-

Pno. *p*

47

Amelia

I

Frankie

tect you, I'll sup-port you, I will be your friend, in - deed.

Pno.

Urgently (♩=110)

51

Amelia

don't want to drag my worries Through your door for you to solve; Bit - ter tales

Pno.

54 **molto rall.** (♩=60)

Amelia *mf* *p*
 and haunt-ing stor-ies, You should - n't have to get

Frankie *mf*
 When a

Pno. *p*

59 *mp*

Amelia *mp*
 in- volved. You should

Frankie
 man in-vades our space, You and I must stick to-gether;

Pno.

65

Amelia
 - n't have to get in volved. You should

Frankie
 Side by side, we'll solve this case,

Pno.

71

Amelia

- n't have to get in volved.

Frankie

And, to you, I'll be your teth- er.

Pno.

77

Frankie

List-en, A - me - li - a. I'll make sure I keep you safe.

Pno.

82

Frankie

From now on, there'll be se-cu-ri-ty out-side your door

Pno.

87

Frankie

for as long as you need it.

Pno.

FRANKIE and AMELIA hug. *Exit AMELIA.*

FRANKIE steps downstage into a spotlight.

92

Pno.

m.g.

repeat ad lib. until ready.

97

Pno.

Spiritedly (♩=100)

f

100

Frankie

f

They_ think they own us, just_

Pno.

sim.

103

Frankie

_ be-cause they think they're men; Well,_

Pno.

ff

106

Frankie *mp*
— I'm rip-ping up their song-book — — — Start

Pno. *f*

108

Frankie *f*
— a-gain! What is a man if he thinks he con-

Pno. *ff* *f*

111

Frankie
trols what I do? Well

Pno. *ff*

114

Frankie *f*
I'm the mas-ter of my-self, So, I'm a man, too!

Pno. *f*

116

Frankie

Pno.

ff

119

Frankie

They_ put words in - to our mouths,

Pno.

f

122

Frankie

Then, they call us names; Then they

Pno.

ff

125

Frankie

__ dis - miss us when we re-fuse to play_____

Pno.

p

127 *f*

Frankie — their games.

Pno. *ff*

129

Frankie They say this girl has bit-ten off more than she can chew;—

Pno. *f* *ff*

132

Frankie Well I'm the mas-ter of— my-self, So, I'm a man, too!

Pno. *f*

135

Frankie

Pno. *ff*

138

Frankie

You can look down your big nose,

Pno.

f

141

Frankie

and think I'm less; But

Pno.

ff

144

Frankie

Fran-kie wears the trou-sers, you wear

Pno.

f *p*

146

Frankie

the dress!

Pno.

f *ff*

148

Frankie

f

ff

You say it must be part of God's great mas - ter - plan;—

151

Frankie

f

Well, please pass— God— the me - mo -

153

Frankie

ff

Fran - kie's— the man!

155

Frankie

ff

Exit FRANKIE

157

Pno.

p

Scene 4

AMELIA'S FLAT - OUTSIDE ON THE STREET

AMELIA arrives home from work. She puts the key in the lock.

Sinister (♩=70)

Piano

pp

Blackwell

5 *Enter BLACKWELL from the shadows.*

f

So,

Pno.

f

Blackwell

8

you got me barred from Fran-kie's.

Pno.

f

With urgency (♩=100)

Amelia

Blackwell

11

Please, Black-well. Not

That was-n't ve - ry smart, Ame - li a.

p *f*

4

With urgency (♩=100)

Pno.

molto *sub. p* *marcato*

Amelia

here. Ba - by's a - sleep up - stairs.

3

Pno.

3

Amelia

17

Blackwell

I can't see you at work; I can't see you at home.

f *pf* *p*

3

Pno.

f *pf* *p*

3

21

Amelia *f* I'll call the police!

Blackwell *p* 3 *f* Where can I see you? (Laughs) No, you

Pno. 3 *f*

24

Blackwell *p* won't. Be - -

Pno. *p*

25

Blackwell cause you work for

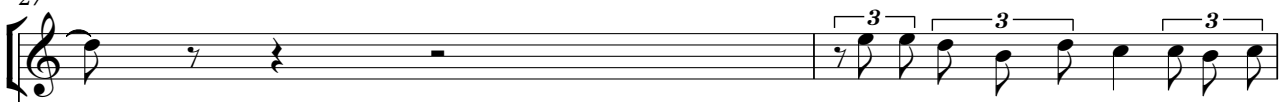
Pno.

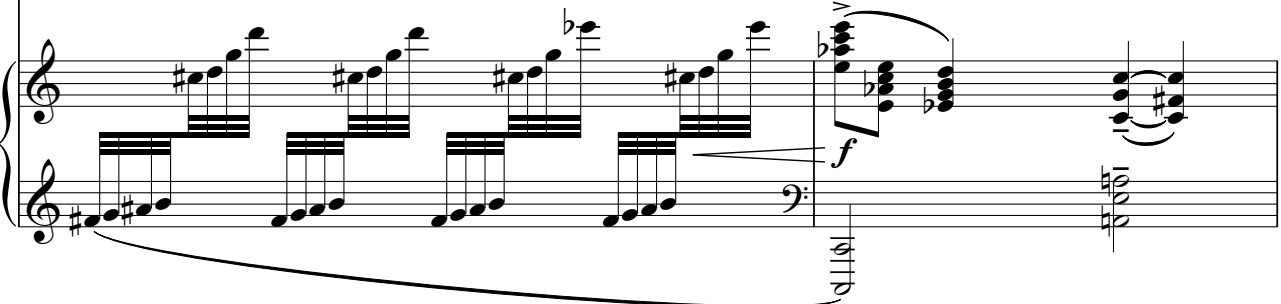
26

Blackwell *f* me now.


Pno. *cresc.*

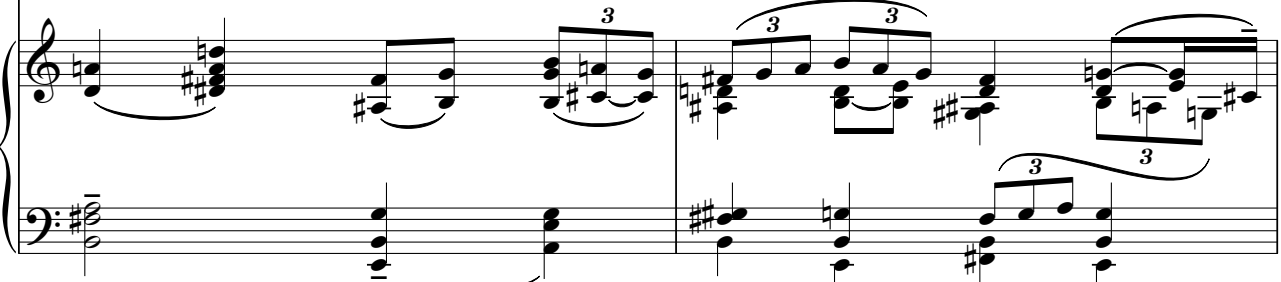
27 $(\text{♩}=60)$

Blackwell  *And if you don't com-ply, I'd ra-ther*

Pno. 

29 *rall.*

Blackwell  *like to see you wash-ing glas-ses with both of your arms in casts.*

Pno. 

31 - $(\text{♩}=40)$

Blackwell  *Oh, wait - you can't! You'd be out of a job ins-tant - ly!*

Pno. 

Driving $(\text{♩}=80)$

35 *mf*

Blackwell  *Call of your dogs at the jazz club. I'm done ne-go-ti-a-ting,*

Pno. 

37 *f*
Blackwell Now you must com - ply.

Pno. *sfz*

38

Blackwell

Pno. *p*

39 *mf*
Blackwell You thought you could out-think me, but you for-get I am smart -er.

Pno. *fmp*

41 *f*
Blackwell Fran - kie thinks she's the

Pno. *sfz*

42

Blackwell

man, but I'm the

Pno.

p

43

Blackwell

guy!

Pno.

sffz mf

44

Blackwell

Pno.

45

Blackwell

Call of your dogs at the jazz club. Why don't we give those boo-zers

Pno.

mf

fmp

47

Blackwell

One in - cre - di - ble high?!_

Pno.

sfz

48

Blackwell

Pno.

p

49

Blackwell

Don't for- get_ I am fast - er, fast - er, strong- er, bright- er.

Pno.

fmp

51

Blackwell

You'll nev - er be the

Pno.

sfz

52

Blackwell

man, when I'm the

Pno.

p

53

Blackwell

guy!

Pno.

sfz mf

54

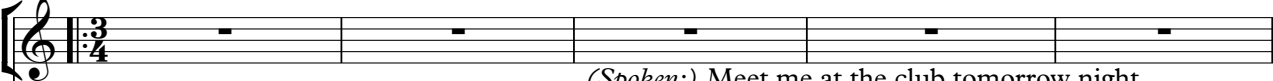
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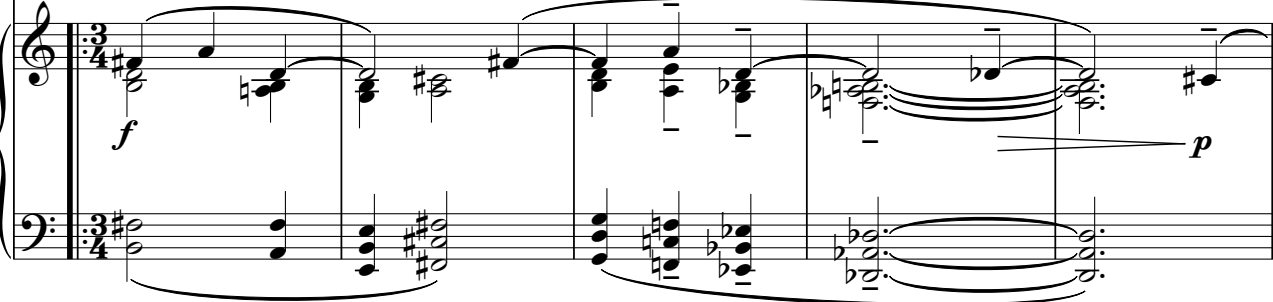
BABY starts to cough upstairs. AMELIA and BLACKWELL look to the upstairs window. BLACKWELL smiles darkly.

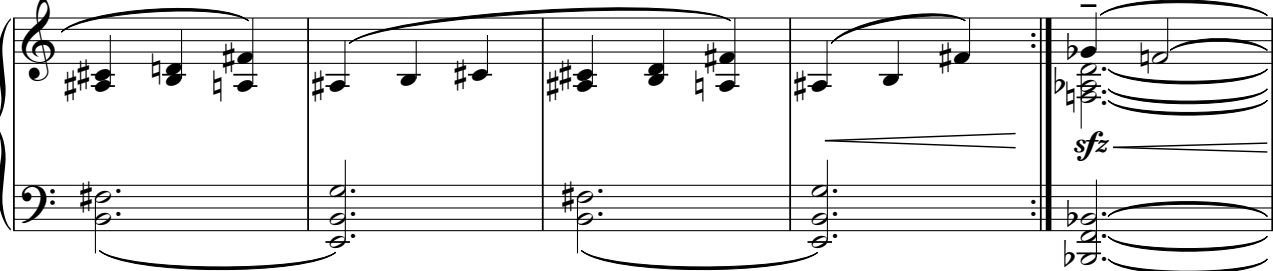
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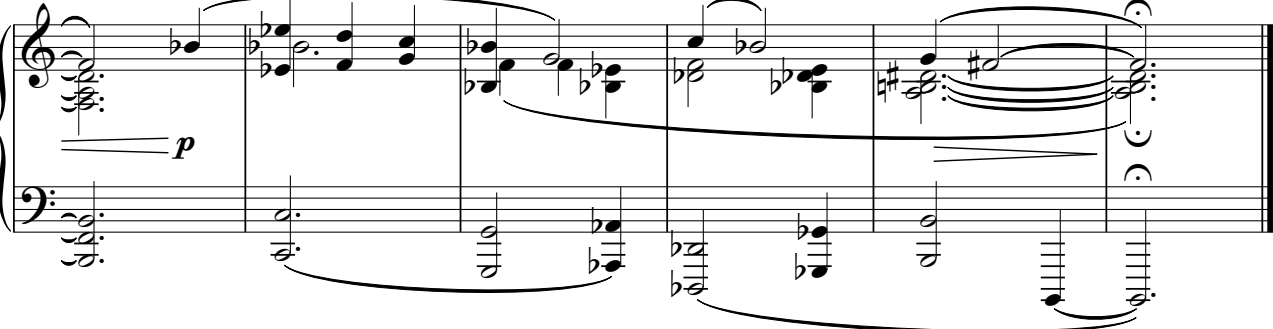
Pno.

sfz

56 **Powerfully**
Amelia 
(Spoken:) Meet me at the club tomorrow night.

Powerfully
Pno. 

61 *Exit AMELIA into the flat and BLACKWELL offstage.*
Pno. 

66 **Meno mosso** **rit.**
Pno. 

Scene 5

FRANKIE'S JAZZ CLUB - THE STAGE

A darkened stage with a spotlight. Enter FRANKIE.

Smoothly (♩=60)

Piano



Heartily (♩=50)

Frankie

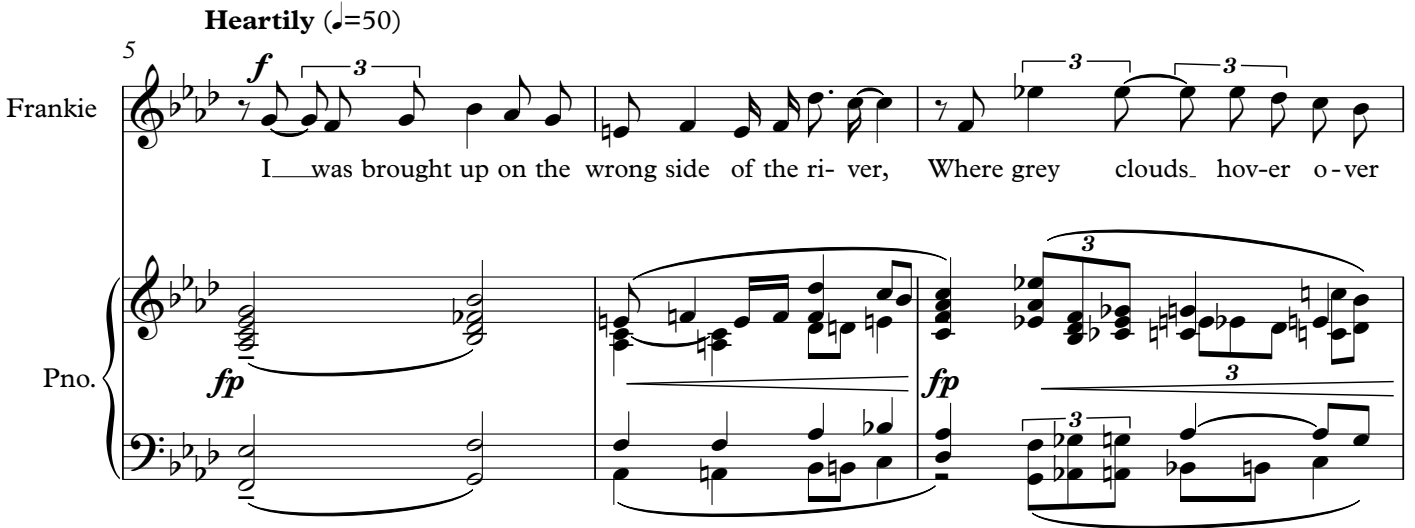
5

f

I was brought up on the wrong side of the ri- ver, Where grey clouds hov-er o-ver

Pno.

fp



Frankie

8

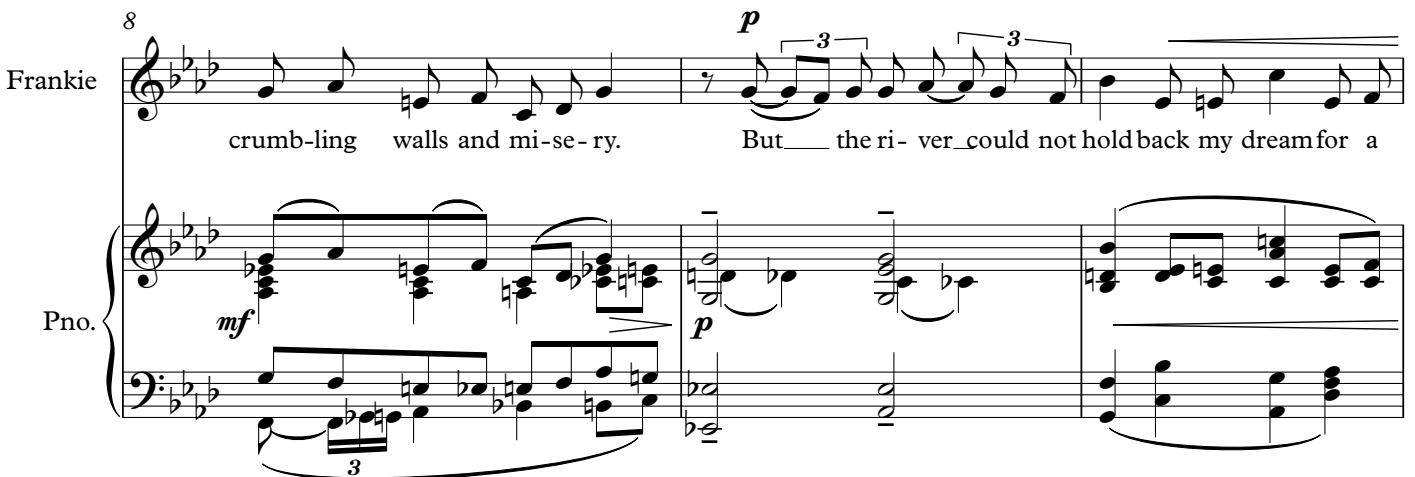
p

crumb-ling walls and mi-se- ry. But the ri- ver could not hold back my dream for a

Pno.

mf

p



11 *f* *mf*

Frankie

fu - ture far from the pain... and suff' ring of a - no - ther ge - ne -

Pno.

13 *f* *rit.* *Poco meno mosso* *mp*

Frankie

ra - tion's his - to - ry. — So, I

Pno.

15 *mf*

Frankie

built me up from the cursed earth that clings be - neath my feet; And I

Pno.

19 *f*

Frankie

built my - self a pa - lace where I sing my lone - ly blues; And I

Pno.

23

Frankie

climb a - bove the fen - ces That were made to keep me

Pno.

f *sub. p*

26

Frankie

out, Till I'm walk - ing a - no - ther man's steps, just

Pno.

f *mf* *mp*

29

Frankie

in a poor girl's shoes.

Pno.

8vb *rall.*

32 - Intensely

Frankie

(Spoken Angriily) Excuse me, officers—what's going on here?

Pno.

sffz *pp* *colla voce*

33

Frankie

(Spoken) Officers, what's the meaning of this?

Pno.

p

sfz *sfz*

8^{vb} *fffz*

34

Frankie

(Spoken) What?! Drugs?! Here?!

Pno.

fp *fp* *fp*

37

Frankie

(Spoken) You're shutting me down?! No! Officers, please!

Pno.

pp *fff*

8^{vb} *fffz l.v.*

Scene 6

AMELIA'S FLAT - OUTSIDE ON THE STREET

Dark; Grim (♩=70)

Piano

pp

p

8

Pno.

pp

p

15 *Enter MS. WHITWELL* **f** *con moto*

Whitwell

A-me-li-a! I know you're up there!

Pno.

fp *leggiero* *8va*

19 *Enter AMELIA from the upstairs flat.* **AMELIA:**

Amelia

(SPOKEN:) Ms. Whitwell, what is the meaning of this?
My daughter is asleep up there.

Whitwell

We need to talk!

Pno.

f

Whitwell *mf* *f* ($\text{♩}=40$) *p*

Rent is in ar-rears. Two weeks late! I think it's time we had a chat; A

Pno. *mf* *f* *p*

BABY can be heard coughing violently inside the flat.
 AMELIA and WHITWELL rush upstairs.

Whitwell *Meno mosso* *rit.*

chat a-bout the fu-ture.

Pno. *Meno mosso* *rit.*

pp

8^{vb}-----

INSIDE AMELIA'S FLAT

Amelia (*SPOKEN:*) Breathe, Baby.
 It's alright. Mama's home.

Whitwell *f* ($\text{♩}=70$)

Look at the state of this place. Don't you e-ver clean?

Pno. ($\text{♩}=70$) *mp* *p*

31 **Spiritedly** (♩=60)

Amelia

(SPOKEN:) *With what time, Ms. Whitwell?
I barely have four hours spare to sleep.*

Whitwell

f

Dir - ty dish - es, grub - by lin - en,

Pno.

Spiritedly (♩=60)

fmp

33

Whitwell

This is most un sa-ni-ta-ry! Dust and moth-balls, moul-dy cei-ling, This is quite ex-trao-di-na-ry!

Pno.

36 *f*

Amelia

Please, Ms. Whit - well, have some pi - ty!

Whitwell

Fil - thy floors and clut - tered spa - ces, Such a sight, it's hard to bear!

Pno.

38

Amelia

I work all the hours God gives me!

Whitwell

Cob-webs hang-ing in dark spa-ces, This neg-lect is e-v'ry-where!

Pno.

40

Amelia

Molto meno mosso
p

When I'm home I care for Ba-by, In the hope she might out-live me.

Pno.

Molto meno mosso
p legato

44

Pno.

Softly (♩=50)

p *mp*

50

Whitwell

I un-der stand your strug-gle. I'm old with

Pno.

56

Whitwell

no one to take care of me. I'm sick - my days are num-bered. I hope for your sake

Pno.

sim.

61

Amelia

mf

Ms. Whit-well, I'm so sor-ry. And I

Whitwell

time comes for me soon - er than your dear Ba - by.

Pno.

mf

66

Amelia

freely

Dark; Grim (♩=70)
(almost whispered)

pro-mise I'll find the rent from some-where - a-ny - where... ex-cept Black-well.

Whitwell

Dark; Grim (♩=70)

Pno.

f

p

8^{vb}

69

Amelia

(SPOKEN:)
An old boyfriend—a terrible man. I fear I've let him drag me into a life of crime.

Whitwell

Black- well?

Pno.

75

Amelia

(SPOKEN:)
You know him? How could you possibly know Max Blackwell?

Whitwell

f
Max Black- well?

Pno.

77

Whitwell

f A - me - li - a, *p* my dear, he's my son. *f* A wick - ed man who I could

Pno.

fp

82

Whitwell

not be more glad to see the back of. The spit-ting im - age of his fa-ther, and

Pno.

Chord symbols: G^{\flat} , A^{\flat} , B^{\flat} , C^{\flat}

86

Whitwell

e-qual-ly as cruel. BABY starts coughing again.

Pno.

Chord symbols: G^{\flat} , A^{\flat} , B^{\flat} , C^{\flat} , D^{\flat} , E^{\flat} , F^{\flat} , G^{\flat}

91

Bleak, yet hopeful ($\text{♩} = 40$)

Pno.

p

Chord symbols: G^{\flat} , A^{\flat} , B^{\flat} , C^{\flat} , D^{\flat} , E^{\flat} , F^{\flat} , G^{\flat}

98

Whitwell

mp

When I was young I met a hand-some man, And with-in

Pno.

mp

Chord symbols: G^{\flat} , A^{\flat} , B^{\flat} , C^{\flat} , D^{\flat} , E^{\flat} , F^{\flat} , G^{\flat}

104

Whitwell

hours, we were ter - ri - bly in love; Weeks turned to months, and

Pno.

109

Whitwell

months turned to years; Words turned to in - sults, and hugs turned to

Pno.

114

Whitwell

shoves. His fists broke me down till I had no - thing left, And

Pno.

p cresc.

cresc.

120

Whitwell

with one fi-nal push, I was dri-ven out the door. I wan - der'd the streets, of my

Pno.

f

sub. p

126

Whitwell

sen - ses be - reft. Sleep-ing un-der a bridge with the sick and the poor. *p*

Pno.

132

Whitwell

But then fate cast a light, and it led me to help. And I built my-self up, stand-ing

Pno.

p

138

Whitwell

tall_ on two feet. And I trad-ed in my cries, and my sobs, and my yelps, For *mp*

Pno.

f

144

Whitwell

laugh - ter, and shel-ter, and good _____ food to eat.

Pno.

p

149

Whitwell

So do the right thing, my dear, _____ fate will be

Pno.

155

Whitwell

kind. Take ac-tion, don't be _____ a - fraid. _____

Pno.

sim.

162

Whitwell

Kick my son to the curb, free _____ your-self from this bind.

Pno.

168

Amelia

Whitwell

Pno.

And this month will be grant-ed un- paid.

173

Amelia

Whitwell

Pno.

Un- paid? Are you sure, Ms. Whit- well?

177

Whitwell

Pno.

molto rall.

(SPOKEN:) We all need a helping hand sometimes, Amelia. Never pass it up, and don't waste this opportunity. Be rid of him for good, Amelia. Go to the police. Do the right thing.

(Last time only) molto rall.

(repeat until scene change)

Scene 7

A CITY CENTRE CANAL

With impact (♩=60)

(♩=110)

Piano

ff *mp*

5 Enter AMELIA, walking nervously along the canal. *mp*

Amelia

The

Pno.

sim. *mp*

8 Creeping

Amelia

night is cold and the path is dark, Where the i - cy wa - ters wan - der be -

Pno.

sfz *sfz*

11

Amelia

side me. I hear an owl hoot and a stray dog bark, As I

Pno.

sfz *ff*

14

Amelia

list - en out for foot - steps be - hind me.

Pno.

p

sfz

mp

17

Pno.

Enter BLACKWELL, secretly following AMELIA along the canal.

20

Blackwell

mf

I watch her creep - ing a - long the path, Where the

Pno.

sfz

mp

23

Blackwell

i - cy wa - ters wan - der be - side her. She fears my fu - ry and she

Pno.

sfz

sfz

26

Blackwell

runs from my wrath, And the pun-ish-ment I'll soon pro - vide her.

Pno.

ff

p

(AMELIA, on hearing a noise, gets a fright and turns around suddenly.)

poco accel. **Aggressively** (♩=130)

29

Pno.

mf

f

32

Amelia

(Spoken:) Who's there?
Who's following me?

Blackwell

(Spoken:) I want my money, Amelia. You let the police take a lot of gear.

Pno.

36

Amelia

Blackwell

Pno.

That wasn't my fault, Blackwell!

So where are you going, Amelia? ...

(BLACKWELL grabs AMELIA by the throat and holds her on the edge of the canal.)

42

Amelia

Blackwell

Pno.

Whatever it takes to get you out of my life!

...Not the police station, I hope?

47

Blackwell

Pno.

As I hold you here a - bove the cold wa - ters, I

54

Blackwell

re - a - lise_ it will be far ea - si - er to get you out of my life!

Pno.

fp

cresc.

58

Pno.

ritenuto

ff

62 **A tempo**

Amelia

mf

I see no

Blackwell

mf

With my hand wrapped tight - ly

Pno.

A tempo

p

mf

sim.

65

Amelia

hope, he grips me tight.

Blackwell

a - round your throat, I'll hold you far from

Pno.

sfz

sim.

68

f

Amelia

This _____ is - n't how it's sup - posed to end.

Blackwell

_____ the police sta - tion.

Pno.

(Enter FRANKIE, watching the assault from the shadows.)

71

Blackwell

With no air in your lungs, your corpse can't float, And I'll soon pa - ci - fy your

Pno.

f

p

75

mf

Amelia

Must _____ I _____ be

Blackwell

f

ac - cu - sa - tion! So

Frankie

mf

That crook, who des - troyed my live - li - hood, with his

Pno.

f

p

mf

sim.

78 7

Amelia
 a - no - ther vic - tim of a cruel man's

Blackwell
 long I've dreamed of see-ing you die,

Frankie
 hand a - round her neck must pay for the crime, which the police mis -

Pno.
ffz
sim.

81

Amelia
 spite? A - gainst his force, I must de - fend.

Blackwell
 Of watch - ing the light, the

Frankie
 un - der - stood to be mine, and tried to lock me a-way.

Pno.
f

85

Blackwell
 light drain from your eyes. It brings me

Pno.
p
f

89

Amelia *Who will care for Ba-by if I'm not here?*

Blackwell *joy to watch you cry, And to play the main role in*

Frankie *I can-not let him*

Pno.

94

Amelia *If she does - n't*

Blackwell *your de - mise!*

Frankie *cause her pain. The*

Pno.

96

Amelia *have me, how will she sur -*

Frankie *poor girl on - ly tries to do right by her*

Pno.

98

Amelia

vive? Will she die of star - va - tion, or

Frankie

daugh - ter. He de - stroyed my club, my

Pno.

sfz cresc. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

(FRANKIE runs at BLACKWELL and breaks his hold on AMELIA.)

100

Amelia

no me - di - ca - tion, if her dear mo - ther's no

Frankie

life, my gains, Now I must send him down be -

Pno.

6 6 3 3

molto rall.

102

Amelia

long - - er a - - live?

Frankie

neath the wa - ter!

Pno.

molto rall.

fff

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 102 to 104. It features three staves: Amelia's vocal line, Frankie's vocal line, and the piano accompaniment. Amelia's line starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a quarter note (C5). Frankie's line starts with a quarter note (G4), followed by a quarter note (A4), and a quarter note (B4). The piano accompaniment has a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a sextuplet of eighth notes in the left hand. The tempo is marked 'molto rall.' and the dynamics are 'fff'. The key signature has three flats (B-flat major/C minor) and the time signature is 2/4.

(AMELIA and FRANKIE push BLACKWELL into the canal, where he meets his end.)

(♩=60) *m.g.*

103

Pno.

ff

ff

8^{vb}

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 103 and 104. It consists of three staves. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked 'ff'. The left hand has a bass line with slurs and accents, also marked 'ff'. A dynamic marking '8^{vb}' is present in the left hand. The tempo is '(♩=60) m.g.' and the time signature is 2/4.

105

Pno.

sfz

sfz

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for measure 105. It consists of two staves. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked 'sfz'. The left hand has a bass line with slurs and accents, also marked 'sfz'. The time signature is 2/4.

(AMELIA and FRANKIE hug.)

AMELIA: Frankie, how did you find me? How did you escape from custody?

FRANKIE: I was released. An anonymous phone call proved my innocence.

AMELIA: An anonymous phone call? From who?

FRANKIE: The one responsible, of course. A confessor.

AMELIA: What?! Blackwell?

FRANKIE: No, but she gave his name, as well as her own—the real ring leader.

AMELIA: She? The mastermind? Who?

FRANKIE: Marjorie Whitwell.

AMELIA: Ms. Whitwell? My landlady?

FRANKIE: It was her, Amelia. She tried to bring down my empire, and now she will suffer the consequences.

AMELIA: But Frankie, it cannot be right!

FRANKIE: It must be right. Now, let's get out of here. Separate directions. We were never here and we must never speak of this again. Understood?

AMELIA and FRANKIE exit stage-left and stage-right.

110 **Softly** (♩=60)

Pno.

p (play under text)

m.g.

repeat ad lib. until ready.

114

Pno.

p

Cresc.

Scene 8

AMELIA'S FLAT

AMELIA is sat by BABY's bedside.

Gently (♩=60)

Piano

sempre p

Pno.

(AMELIA holds out an arm to support BABY)

Amelia

You are strong, Baby.
You can do it.

Baby

(Spoken:)
I feel weak, Mama,
but I can do it!

No, Mama. I can do
it by myself!

Pno.

Amelia

Ms. Whitwell's grace can only last a month.

Baby

mp

Must you go to work so soon?

Pno.

26

Amelia

Baby

Pno.

Was_ it real - ly her, Ma-ma? Was she real-ly the mas - ter-mind?

33

Amelia

Baby

Pno.

I don't believe so, Baby. Strong women make tough sacrifices — even at the expense of themselves.

38

Amelia

Baby

Pno.

I don't think there's a - ny wo-man as strong as you, Ma - ma.

m.g. *m.d.*

m.g.

43

Amelia

Strong women must fight together,
for the sake of all womankind.

Baby

Will_ I be a strong wo-man one day?

Pno.

50

Amelia

(AMELIA helps BABY
back into bed.)

You already are, dear Baby. You already are.
Now, come back to bed. It's time to sleep.

Baby

So soon?

Pno.

58

Amelia

mp

Sleep, Ba-by, Rest, Ba-by, And fall in-to dream-ing, And fall in-to dream-ing of

Baby

Pno.

66

Amelia

Baby

Pno.

Green grass and fresh air, And warm sun-shine gleam-ing.

mp

I'll sleep tight, dear Ma-ma, I'll fall in-to

73

Amelia

Baby

Pno.

dream-ing of green grass and fresh air, And warm sun-shine gleam - ing.

2

80

Amelia

Baby

Pno.

Sleep, Ba-by, Rest, — Ba-by, Let your-self be

88

Amelia

still, - Let your-self be still; _____

Baby

I'll sleep tight, dear Ma-ma, Let your thoughts be still. _____

Pno.

95

Amelia

I'll _____ be here when you wake up,

Baby

I'll be

Pno.

99

Amelia

I pro - mise I will. _____

Baby

here when you get home, I pro - mise I will. _____

Pno.

(BABY closes her eyes to sleep. AMELIA kisses her head and tucks her in.)

104

Pno.

110

molto rit.

Pno.