

HELOISE AND ABELARD

Opera in Two Acts

Libretto and Music by Peter Tahourdin

ACT ONE

The Storyteller, in the persona of William of Champeaux, stands upstage centre. Heloise and Abelard, with their backs to the audience, stand centrestage left and right, to form a triangle with William. All three wear black cloaks, reaching to the ground, with cowls.

William $\text{♩} = 126$

Flute
Oboe
Cl. - Bb
Horn - F
Violin
Viola
Cello
Perc. Cym (sft. stks.)

William **Storyteller - William (with anger)**

(spot on William) **ff** Pet - er Ab-el-ard!

Flute
Oboe
Cl. - Bb
Horn - F
Violin
Viola
Cello
Perc. tr s.d.

William

Pet - er Ab-el-ard! Take care!

Flute

Oboe *f*

Cl. - Bb

Horn-F *f* *ff*

Violin *pizz* *arco* *f*

Viola *pizz* *f* *arco* *ff*

Cello

Perc. *tr* *p* *f* 1.v.

William

Take care ! Do not play games with me.

Flute

Oboe *ff*

Cl. - Bb *ff*

Horn-F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

William *poco rit.*

Flute *mf* Do not flout my auth-or - it-y, Take care! Take care!

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F *chiuso* *f* *mf*

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

William 1 ♩ = 96

Abelard

(Spot on Abelard. He throws back his cowl. After a brief pause he turns to face William, who walks downstage towards him, lowering his cowl as he does so.)

Flute *p* Do not threaten me,

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola *pp*

Cello *poco lib. e accel.* *arco* *pp*

Perc. *p* *cresc. molto* *ff*

Abelard

f 3 *mf* 3

William, Do not threaten me! Why such anger?

Oboe

Bass Cl. Bass clarinet

poco lib. e accel.

p 3 3 *cresc. molto*

Violin *pizz*

Viola *sfz* *pizz*

Cello *sfz* *pizz*

Abelard

2 3

mf *f* 3

If you are wrong I shall say so.

Oboe

Bass Cl. *mf*

Violin *f* *mf*

Viola *sfz* *sfz*

Cello *sfz* *sfz*

Abelard

mf 3 3

You can-not de-mand I sup-port your arg-u-ment if

Oboe

Bass Cl.

Violin

Viola *mf*

Cello *mf*

William 3 ♩ = 72
William (gently)

mp But Peter,

Abelard

logic, and truth it-self, *f* de-ny it!

Oboe

Bass Cl.

Horn-F

Violin

Viola *sfz* *arco* *pp*

Cello *sfz* *arco* *pp*

William *mf* 3

mf 3 what I teach has been hand-ed down to us 3 over many cent-uries,

Abelard

Oboe

Bass Cl.

Horn-F

Violin

Viola *mp* 3

Cello *mp* 3

mp

William *(firmly)* *(gently again)* *rit.*

f *mf*

Abelard It's not subject to dis-pute. It's a part of our her - it - age.

Horn-F

Violin *mf* *f* *p*

Viola *mf* *f* *p (sub.)*

Cello *mf* *f* *p*

William ⁴ ♩ = 126

Abelard **Abelard** *mf*

Horn-F *chiusa* *f* It can only be - come a part of our her - it -

William

Abelard - age if in - deed it is true if it can be

Horn-F

Violin

Viola

Cello

William

Abelard

shown to stand the test - of log-ic-al en-quir-y.

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet *f*

Horn-*f*

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

5

William

Abelard

Take, for in-stance, the doct-rine of un-iv-

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet

Horn-*f* *aperta* *chiuso*

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

6

William

Abelard *mf* How can you question that? *ff*

Flute *mf*

Oboe *mf*

Cl. - Bb *mf*

Horn - F *mf* *ff*

Violin *pizz* *arco* *mf* *ff*

Viola *pizz* *arco* *mf* *ff*

Cello *mf*

Perc. *p* *f* *mf*

William

Abelard *mf* It's a doctrine that comes to us from Plato and

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola *p*

Cello

Perc. *p*

William

Abelard Porph - y - ry. Abelard

Yes, but is it true?

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola *mf* *f* *pizz sfz* *f* *arco* *p* *mf*

Cello

Perc. *mf* *S.D.* (hd. stks.) *f* *sfz* *f* *p*

William

(Abelard turns to face the audience.)

Abelard *mf* It is held,

Flute

Oboe *mf*

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola *f* *mf* *ff* *p* *CRSC.* *arco*

Cello

Perc. *mf* *f*

7 (♩ = 126)

Abelard

we are told, that we are in essence all the

Flute

Oboe

Clt. -bb

Violin

Viola

Cello

mf

sfz

p

mf

p

poco

cresc.

pizz

sfz

p

mf

p

poco

cresc.

Abelard

same. How can that be?

Flute

Oboe

Clt. -bb

Violin

Viola

Cello

f

mf

f

pizz

mf

f

pizz

sfz

mf

f

sfz

Abelard

I see that you are not the same as one an - oth - er.

Flute

Oboe

Clt. -bb

Violin

Viola

Cello

mf

p

mf

mf

mf

mf

p

Abelard *poco rit.*

I know you all to be different.

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Violin *f*

Viola *mf*

Cello *mf*

Bass *mf*

Abelard *a tempo*

True, we belong to the same species.

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb *p*

Violin *arco*

Viola *arco p*

Cello *p*

Bass *p*

Abelard

mf I have a head, body and limbs *f* and so -

Flute

Oboe *mf*

Cl. - Bb

Violin *mf*

Viola *pizz*

Cello *pizz p < f*

Bass *mf*

Abelard

- do you. *mf* I walk up-right on two

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Violin *mf* *f* *arco*

Viola *arco* *p* *poco* *cresc.* *sfz*

Cello *mf* *p* *sfz*

Abelard

legs and so do you. I speak -

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Violin *mf*

Viola *mp*

Cello *mp*

arco *p* *mf* *f* *dim.*

Abelard

- a lan - guage e - volved from that of my an - cest

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Violin

Viola *mf* *p*

Cello *mp* *f* *p* *mf*

- ors and so do you. *mf* I use my hands

Flute

Oboe *f*

Bass Cl. Bass clarinet

Violin *pizz* *mf* *f* *mp*

Viola *pizz* *mf* *p* *f* *mf*

Cello

to make things, to write, to break my bread. *f*

Flute

Oboe

Bass Cl.

Violin *mf*

Viola *sfz* *f*

Cello

mf I use my brain to reas - on,

Flute

Oboe

Bass Cl. *mp*

Violin *f* *mp*

Viola *mf* *f*

Cello *pizz* *p*

William

Abelard

to think *f* and so do you, *ff* I

Flute

Oboe

Bass Cl.

Horn-F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

arco

sfz *mf* *arco* *f*

arco *arco*

William

Abelard

William *ff* ^{11 (with anger)} Ab-el - ard! I

Flute

Oboe

Bass Cl.

Horn-F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc. *S.D.* *tr* *ff* *fp* *f*

know!

ff *fff* *fff*

pizz *arco* *pizz*

pizz *arco* *fff* *pizz* *sfz*

pizz *sfz*

William

Abelard Will not list-ento this. *f* You know the un-iv-er-sals are not a-

Flute

Oboe

Bass Cl.

Horn-F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

ff *pizz* *f* *mf*

ff *pizz* *f* *mf*

mf

William

Abelard - bout such things. *mf* They

Flute

Oboe

Bass Cl.

Horn-F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

f *mf*

con sordino *f*

f *mf*

12

William
 have to do with loft-i-er matt-ers,

Flute

Oboe

Cl. -Bb *mp*

Horn-F

Cello *mf*

William
 those com-mon truths we share with-in our hearts and minds,

Flute

Oboe

Cl. -Bb *mf*

Horn-F

Cello *f* *mf*

William
 with-in our spir - it, *f* that come to

Flute

Oboe

Cl. -Bb *mp* **Clarinet** *f*

Horn-F *mf* *cresc.*

Cello *f* **Cello** *arco* *mf*

William 13

US *ff* from God. (Abelard turns to face William.)

Abelard *ff*

Flute *mf* *f* *ff*

Oboe *f*

Cl. - Bb *f*

Horn - F *senza sordino f*

Violin *arco* *f*

Viola *arco mf* *f*

Cello *pizz* *f*

Perc. *f* *mf cresc. S.D.* *ff*

p < mf *p = f*

William

Abelard

yes, you must say that, Will - ian.

Flute *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Oboe *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Cl. - Bb *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Horn - F

Violin *pizz* *f*

Viola *pizz* *f*

Cello *p* *cresc.*

Perc. *p*

Abelard

Flute *mf* It keeps us in serv - it -

Oboe *f*

Cl. - Bb *p poco cresc.*

Violin *arco* *pizz*

Viola *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pizz*

Cello *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

Abelard

Flute - ude to our eld - ers, *f* our lead - ers, and to our teach - ers! *ff*

Oboe *mf* *f* *ff*

Cl. - Bb *mf* *f* *ff*

Violin *arco* *pizz* *arco*

Viola *arco* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pizz* *arco* *p* *mf* *ff*

Cello *mf* *ff*

Abelard 14

Flute *mf* It keeps us in our place, so that we may

Oboe *f* *mf*

Cl. - Bb *mp* *pizz*

Violin *pizz*

Viola *p* *mf* *pizz* *mf* *arco*

Cello *p* *mf*

William

Abelard

list - en, with-out dis - pute, to the emp - ty dog - ma *f* and false phil -

Flute *mp* *mf*

Oboe *mp* *mf*

Cl. - Bb *mp* *mf*

Horn - F *mp* *mf*

Violin *arco*

Viola *mp* *mf*

Cello *arco* *mp* *mf*

Perc. *p*

William

Abelard

- os - oph - y that such as you *ff* hand *mf*

Flute *f* *mf*

Oboe *f* *mf*

Cl. - Bb *mf* *f* *mf*

Horn - F *f*

Violin *mf*

Viola *mf*

Cello *mf*

Perc. *mf*

William

Abelard

out to us!

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

William

Abelard

lunga

(William turns on his heel and exits, his bearing showing his attempt to contain his anger and retain his dignity.)

(Abelard watches William leave, then turns and moves further downstage towards the audience.)

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

S.D.

fp

f

16

Abelard

rhet - or - ic, *mf* the de - ceit of ab - stract - ions

Flute

Oboe *f*

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin *arco*

Viola *mp* *arco* *mf* *mf*

Cello *mp* *mf* *mp*

Perc.

Abelard

and the soph - is - tries that stem from them.

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola *mp* *mf* *pizz* *arco*

Cello *arco* *mp* *mf* *pizz* *mf* *p*

Perc. *mp* *mf*

Abelard

Musical score for the first system of 'Abelard'. The score includes parts for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B-flat, Horn in F, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Percussion. The Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Horn parts have dynamics of *f*. The Violin part has dynamics of *mp*, *pizz*, *arco*, *mf*, and *f*. The Viola and Cello parts have dynamics of *mp* and *mf*. The Percussion part has dynamics of *p*, *mp*, and *f*.

Abelard

17

Musical score for the second system of 'Abelard', starting at measure 17. The score includes parts for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B-flat, Horn in F, Violin, Viola, Cello, and Percussion. The Flute part has dynamics of *f* and lyrics: "Let us clear our minds of mudd- led". The Oboe, Clarinet, and Horn parts have dynamics of *sfz*, *mf*, and *f*. The Violin part has dynamics of *sfz*, *mf*, and *f*, with a *chiuso* marking. The Viola, Cello, and Percussion parts are present but have no dynamics or lyrics indicated.

Abelard

3

think - ing. Let us disp-ute to - geth-er, but be pre-

Flute

Oboe *mf*

Cl. - Bb *mf*

Horn - F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

Abelard

18

- cise in the words we use, *mf* so that through our ex-

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola

Cello *f* *p*

Perc.

Abelard

- chang - es we may bett - er un - der - stand the

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

f *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Abelard

wond - ers of this world in which we

Flute

Oboe

Cl. - Bb

Horn - F

Violin

Viola

Cello

Perc.

mp *p* *mf*

19 ♩ = 116 *(Abelard spreads his arms wide to embrace the audience)*

Abelard

Flute *live.* *f* *ff* *Come!*

Oboe *mp* *ff*

Cl. - Bb *mf* *ff*

Horn - F *mf* *ff*

Violin *pizz* *arco* *f*

Viola *f* *pizz* *arco* *ff*

Cello *pizz* *arco*

Perc. *f* *S.D.* *tr* *pp* *ff* *Tantons* *f* *p* *f* *p*

20 ♩ = 126

Abelard

Flute *Come with me!* *Let us have*

Oboe *f*

Cl. - Bb *f*

Horn - F

Violin *mf* *ff*

Viola *mf* *ff*

Cello *mf* *ff*

Perc. *f* *p* *f* *S.D.* *ff*

Abelard

- side us. Join me then, my

Flute

Oboe *mf* *ff*

Cl. - Bb *mf* *ff*

Horn - F

Violin *arco* *f*

Viola *arco* *f*

Cello

Perc. S.D. *f*

Abelard

friends. Come with me on

Flute

Oboe *mf* *ff*

Cl. - Bb *mf* *ff*

Horn - F

Violin *pizz* *arco* *f*

Viola *tr* *pizz* *arco* *f*

Cello *fp* *f*

Perc. *f*