

what's it trying to feel like?

Libretto by Simone Stern

Music by Hannah Cai Sobel

Cast of Characters (in order of appearance):

Narrator – baritone

Sue – mezzo-soprano

Margaret – mezzo-soprano

Husband (can double Narrator) – baritone

what's it trying to feel like is an eight-minute surrealist piece which follows a narrator following two women, Sue and Margaret, as they attempt to discuss Margaret's marriage. We see Margaret navigate the emotions and numbness that accompany her archetypal heterosexual marriage. The piece explores themes of indecision, tension, and telling the emotional truth of a story.

what's it trying to feel like?

Simone Stern

Hannah C Sobel

$\text{♩} = 72$

Narrator $\text{♩} = 72$ Lights up on stage. There are three peo-ple sitt-ing in

Piano

5
Narrator cu-bi- cles. One per-son comes and gets in lit-tle waves.

Piano

8
Sue Ri - u - jnds
Margaret Ri - u - jnds
Narrator Ri - u - jnds are fuck - ing me up. I was in con-

Piano

12

Sue

Hey Mar-gret how was the week - end.

Narrator

trol.

Piano

16

Margaret

good how a-bout you sue.

Piano

Red.
♩ = 116

19

Sue

ab - so - lute - ly had a wild night in in front of the couch.

Margaret

in in front of the couch.

Narrator

o - ho-ho-hoh.

Piano

♩ = 72

22

Margaret

and how's the morn - ing hard - ly work - ing

Piano

♩ = 72

Ped.

26

Sue

you're so fun-ny Mar-gret

Margaret

or work-ing hard.

Narrator

hha - hha.

Piano

30

Sue

how a-bout you,. there's that dead-line com - ing up in

Piano

Ped.

34

Sue

SE-VEN DAYS. she looks at the au-di-ence.

Margaret

SE-VEN DAYS.

Narrator

SE - VENDAYS. ooooh

Piano

37

Sue

well

Margaret

it'-ll be fine.

Narrator

this is-n't fun yeah yeah. it'-ll be fine.

Piano

♩ = 44

42

Sue

Mar-gret, we were a lit-tle con-cerned since it's been tak-ing much long-er than u-su-al.

♩ = 44

Piano

44

Margaret

your right I've been off my game a little but there have-n't really been op - pur

Piano

♩ = 116

46

Sue

spoken.

well. you said that last week. comes a lit-tle clos-er.

Margaret

tun-it-ies.

♩ = 116

Piano

└

*spoken: but I'm
starting to get
seriously worried!*

50

Sue

I did-n't want to do this

Piano

53

Narrator

she says some-thing that sounds like it's a bout kill-ing a hus-band

Piano

♩ = 72

56

Narrator

it could al-so be some-thing else and we get a switch-er-oo and find out

Piano

59

Narrator

she was ac-tual-ly do-ing some - thing else with her hus - band

Piano

Detailed description: This system contains measures 59 and 60. The Narrator part is in bass clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are "she was ac-tual-ly do-ing some - thing else with her hus - band". The Piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with eighth-note chords and a left-hand part with whole notes.

61

Narrator

but she ends up acc i-dent-ly kill-ing him we thought he was go-ing to

Piano

Detailed description: This system contains measures 61 and 62. The Narrator part continues in bass clef with the lyrics "but she ends up acc i-dent-ly kill-ing him we thought he was go-ing to". The Piano accompaniment features a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with eighth-note chords.

63

Narrator

die in the opp-o-site mur-der-y way.

rit.

Piano

Detailed description: This system contains measures 63 and 64. The Narrator part is in bass clef with the lyrics "die in the opp-o-site mur-der-y way." and a *rit.* marking above the staff. The Piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with eighth-note chords. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 63.

66

Sue

are you start-ing to have se-cond thoughts? are you de-ve-lop-ing

Piano

Ped.

$\text{♩} = 84$

70

Sue

some un - help - ful feel - ings?

Margaret

of course not you

Piano

73

Margaret

know me. I've been do-ing this ve-ry years and ne-ver once

Piano

♩ = 72

76 **molto rit.**

Sue
 so that's all the more worr-y-ing.

Margaret
 have I hes-i-tat-ed.

Piano

♩ = 72

79

Sue
 now what's differ-ent.

Margaret
 it's no-thing. I'm

Piano

82

Margaret
 tak - ing care of it. I'm ev - en head-ing out in-to the field now.

Piano

84

Piano

Ped. _____

86

Sue

Don't think you can a-void this con - ver - sa - tion...

Piano

88

Sue

I'm on - ly

Margaret

I'm worr-ied a bout you if you don't

Piano

90

Sue

worr - ied. you don't want to cross the dead - line.

Margaret

mind your god - dam mouth Mar-gar-et.

Piano

92

Narrator

We gott a go.

Piano

♩ = 126

95

Narrator

some-where else. it's out-side. there's ten - sion.

Piano

98

Narrator

but there's love. but it's got-ta be late. am I try-ing too

Piano

100

Narrator

hard? they're wash-ing a car to - ge - ther.

Piano

$\text{♩} = 48$

102

Sue

het-er-o - sex-u - a - li - ty.

Margaret

het-er-o - sex-u - a - li - ty.

Narrator

there's a small dog who reminds you of a sponge. het-er-o - sex-u - a - li - ty.

$\text{♩} = 48$

Piano

Ped.

105

Narrator

I'm a - fraid to write a-bout real e - mo-tions.

Piano

108

Narrator

I don't want to feel. this does-n't make a lot of sense to me.

Piano

Ped.

♩ = 126

110

Narrator

why am i so self a-ware. nar-cis-sist. wash-ing car.

♩ = 126

Piano

114

Narrator

Wash - ing - ton.

Piano

♩ = 56

Ped.

118

Margaret

Thanks or wash-ing the car dar-ling pooch-ey-kins.

Husband

an-y-thing for you mon pu - bis.

Piano

120

Margaret

I have some-thing to ask you to do, my par-fait.

Piano

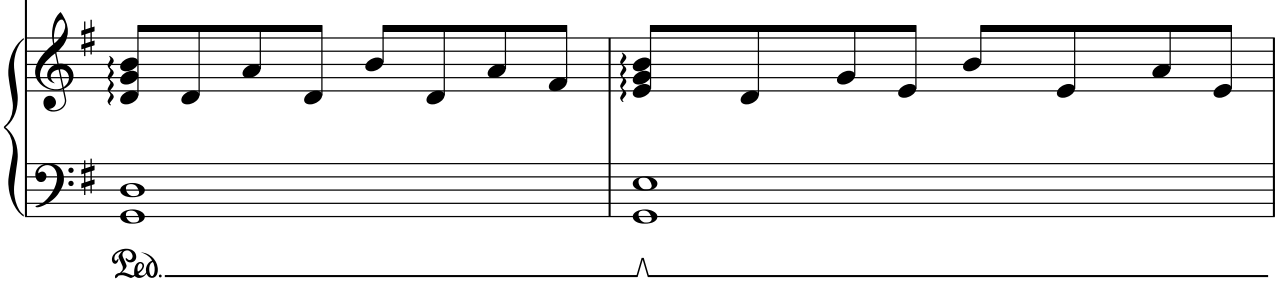
123

Margaret



you are like an on-ion. so ma-ny lay-ers.

Piano



125

Margaret



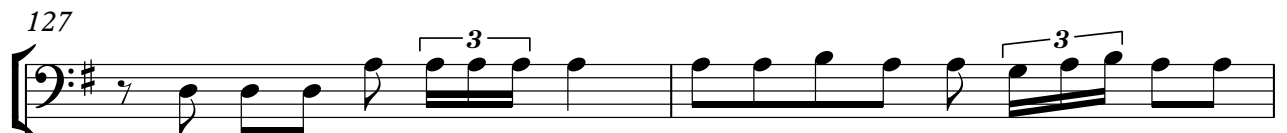
could you check un-der-neath the car. just get un-der there. just look.

Piano




127

Narrator



and she like gets in-to the car. and it looks like she's try-ing to run him

Piano



129

Margaret

Narrator

Piano

but she like

o-ver. but he like gets out ear-ly or some-thing.

Ped.

132

Margaret

Piano

paus - es. it looks like pain or

136

Margaret

Piano

sad - ness but rea-lly she's try-ing to do some-thing else.

139

Narrator it's like there's a lit-tle sign un-der-neat that says I love you.

Piano

142

Narrator and like she was as-signed to put it there. why? is she a fake wife?

Piano

$\text{♩} = 96$

145

Narrator she has to have real feel-ings so it's sad but it was based on a

$\text{♩} = 96$

Piano

Red.

148

Narrator lie. the dra-ma. No. he got a call from un-der there so he

Piano

151 **accel.**

Narrator *ne-ver saw the sign. why did she get in the car.*

Piano **accel.**

♩ = 66

153

Sue *That's not*

Margaret *That's not*

Narrator *so she could drive them a-way to a par-ty. That's not*

♩ = 66

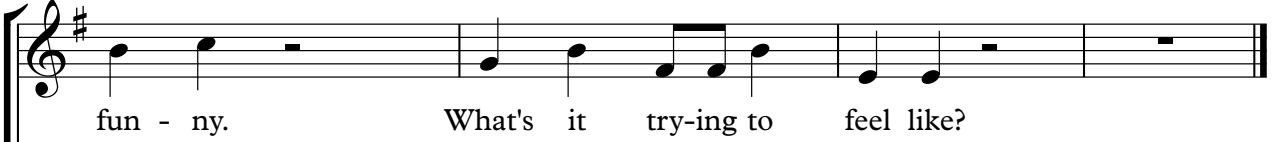
Piano

Ped. _____

156

rit.

Sue



fun - ny. What's it try-ing to feel like?

Margaret



fun - ny. What's it try-ing to feel like?

Narrator



fun - ny. What's it try-ing to feel like?

rit.

Piano

