

Written for and dedicated to Stephen and Marlee Colburn

ESTHER'S MONOLOGUE

A CANTATA FOR SOPRANO, OBOE, VIOLA AND CELLO

Allan Blank

a queen today
and only yesterday
a girl of simple birth,
what transformation, transfiguration,
slumbers, thunders in my bosom!

from tender slumber I must now awake
a whirling thunder to succumb,
for as a women of such stately honor,
I must give my allegiance to king and kin alike.

oh! I beseech you, God almighty,
put not to test my frail and tender veins.
yet, if in fear and trembling
I tend to falter in my steady pace,
lend me your strength
that I'll find new delight
in search of truth within these royal plains.

my prayers hardly risen
above these earthly grounds,
when from within I feel a quiver,
since from without I hear such whispering sounds!

"eloaked in a shredded sack, filled with ashes,
Mordecai moves about these quarters"-
can I, gilded with gold and emeralds,
be free from all this plight?

what means this wailing of my father?
it's not my fate which he bemoans!
to an endearing princess, a gracious queen,
he always likened me.

a demon must be lurking in these hallways!
I am resolved to leap upon his tracks.
in every trace I shall reveal his cunning,
and lay it bare before my king and realm,
then, shall Mordecai have restored his honor
our people be absolved from dread and shame.

text by Margot Blank

ESTHER'S MONOLOGUE
A CANTATA FOR SOPRANO, OBOE, VIOLA + 'CELLO

1. = ca. 72-80

$$1 = 1$$

Allen Blank 1970

(3+4)

Voice

Oboe

Viola

Cello

intenso
f

energico
f Pizz.
sf

arco
ff

sonora
meno f

sf

tutti

Pizz.

arco

f

nato molto

molto

f, sost.

rinforz.

P, subito *molto* *P, sub. trem.* *molto*

P, subito *molto* *P, sub.* *molto*

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 36-40$

QUEEN — TO-DAY AND ONLY YES-TER-DAY A

f *rinforz.*

f, sostenuto

f, sostenuto

rit. *dim.* *al 3* $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 63$

GIRL — OF SIM-PLE BIRTH,

mp *pp* *poco*

dolce *mf* *dolce* *mf*

(4+3) *mp* WHAT

mp, soprano *poco* *p* *poco*

TRANS-FOR-MA-TION, TRANS-FIG-UR-A-TION, *5:2*

mp poco *poco* *mp* *poco*

p, poco soprano *poco soprano* *p* *(h)*

(2+3) SLUM — BERS, THUNDERS IN MY BO SOM! *3:2*

mf *mf* *f, soprano* *f*