

# **VERGIL AND FLORA**

**Pocket Opera for Soprano or Mezzo-  
Soprano, Baritone and Piano**

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# Vergil and Flora

**Pocket Opera for Soprano or Mezzo-soprano, Baritone and Piano with optional String Bass**

## CAST

**Flora, Vergil's servant, soprano or mezzo-soprano**  
**Vergil, Roman poet, baritone**

## SYNOPSIS

It is an early morning in 24 B. C. at the country estate of the Roman poet Vergil in Mantua. Vergil is still asleep after a long night of trying to write. A couple of empty wine flasks lie around his bed. Vergil is awakened by voices that he hears speaking to him in his dreams. The voices seem to be reciting lines from the poem, *The Aeneid*. Vergil confesses to Flora that he has not been able to write more than seven line of his poem yet.

Flora offers the poet a potion that she claims will grant him access to his voices. Vergil takes the potion and falls under the influence of its powerful visions, but he awakes dejected. The visions alone will not help him write his poem. Finally Flora reveals to Vergil the true "elixir of art": conscientious work. Vergil vows to devote himself to his art. Flora hands him his pen and the poet begins, at last, to write his epic poem.

Duration: 10 minutes

# Vergil and Flora

Pocket Opera for Soprano or Mezzo-soprano, Baritone and Piano

Jason Charnesky

Bruce Trinkley

Piano

**Marcato** ♩ = 80

*f* *p da lontano*

**Largo** ♩ = 56

*mp cresc.* *f* *molto dimin.*

Vergil

**Recitative** ♩ = 84

*mf* *mp*

Arms and the... No, no, don't

15 *mf* *f*  
 Vergil go! My poem! My poem! Do not go a - way!

19 *faster* *mp*  
 Vergil Arms! Arms! Was-n't it? Or a - larms! What was it now?

23 *slower* *mp* **Barcarole** ♩ = 56  
 Vergil I can't re - call... Voice of my dream, Don't go a - way!

27 *mf* *f*  
 Vergil Voice of my poem, Dream of my own, Stay!

27 *mf* *p*  
 Piano accompaniment for measures 27-30. Dynamics: mf, p.

31 *p* **Recitative** ♩ = 69  
 Vergil In - spi - ra - tion fled. The dream is gone. On - ly frag - ments left, the muf - fled

34 *p* *f*  
 Vergil sound of some - thing like, what was it? Harms... arm - ies... a man...

**Più mosso** ♩ = 120

37 *p* desperately *mp*

Vergil I can not re-mem - ber... I must write down what

41 **Andante maestoso** ♩ = 72

Vergil phras - es I can save.

45 *rit.* *f* *mf* *f*

Vergil *rit.* Flo-ra! Flo-ra! Flo - ra, quick! My

48 *f* (*Flora enters.*) *freely* (*to audience*)

Flora Com-ing, Mas - ter! Com - ing! Poor Flo - ra!

Vergil man - u - script!

48 *colla voce*

Flora *mf*

52 As a girl I thought it would be dar - ing to roam and see the

*mp*

Flora *f* *a tempo*

55 world, be wild and dev-il - may - car - ing. Sur - prise! I

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

*mf*

Flora *rit.*

59 ran a - way from Spar - ta, and now I'm Ver - gil's slave. A mar - tyr for his

*rit.*

Flora *a tempo*

62 art. Ah... and it's no rave.

*ten. a tempo*

*f* *mp*

*mf*

66 *mf* *grousing*

Flora No days off and nev - er tipped.

Vergil Flo - ra! Quick! My

66 *dim.*

69 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo* *deliberately*

Flora Here is my Mas - ter,

Vergil man - u - script!

69 *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

73

Flora Ver - gil, the fam - ous Lat - in po - et, who

73

76

Flora

at the slight-est urge'-ll take a word and quid pro quo it,

79

Flora

*dolce*

*poco rit.* till the syl - la-bles turn lyr - ic and the words be-come a poem...

*p dolce*

*mp*

*legato*

84

Flora

*mf*

It's too bad he's so hys - ter-ic and he sure could use a comb. For

Vergil

84

Flo - ra!

*freely*

88

Flora

**Tempo primo** ♩ = 126

five years he's been work - ing on a tale of an - cient Rome. The hot - test prop - er - ty in

*mf*



91 *rit.* *a tempo* (Flora struggles with the notebook) *mf*

Flora town, this twen-ty - five pound tome. It's

95 **Recitative**  $\text{♩} = 100$  (holding up the notebook) *mp*

Flora heav - y lit - er - a - ture. The em - per - or Au - gus - tus has ord - ered a re -

100 (She lugs the notebook over to Vergil) *rit.*

Flora cit - al. The shame is, all that Ver - gil's fin - ished so far is the ti - tle.

105  $\text{♩} = 100$  *pp* *p* *mp* *mf*

Vergil Ah! Ummmmm... Arms... Arms... Arms... Ar... ahhh... mmmsss...

**Recitative** ♩ = 84

**Vergil** holding back

110 *p* *moving ahead* *mp*

Gone! I heard the whole tale in a dream. Now noth - ing, noth - ing at

**Piano** *pp* *moving ahead* *holding back*

**Flora** *mp* ♩ = ♩

114 And what pre - cise - ly was it you ex - pect - ed from a dream?

**Vergil** *p*

all. A

**Piano** *mp*

**Flora** **Slower** ♩ = 116 *p* *mf a tempo*

117 I see. You were

**Vergil** *a tempo*

lit - tle help, a line or two from the spir - its of sleep.

**Piano** *p* *a tempo*

122 *poco accel.*

Flora  
hop - ing for your poem to be ghost writ - ten.

Vergil *mf*

122 *poco accel.*

*mp* *mf*

**Moderato** ♩ = 132

124

Vergil  
am the per-s'nal po - et of the Emp - er - or Au - gus - tus. He wants a new po - et - ic work of

124 *mp*

127 *p cresc. poco a poco* *mf*

Vergil  
brav - er - y and jus - tice. Next week he wants to see it. Next week he wants to see it.\_\_\_\_

127 *p cresc. poco a poco*

130

Flora

Vergil

*f* (holding up the notebook) Oh!

I call it "The Ae - ne - id!"

*mp* *f*

133

Flora

Vergil

Do let me read it!

*mf* *petulant*

No! You can't see it! It's not fin - ished yet.

136

Vergil

I've on - ly got a work - ing draft and it is most - ly

136

139 *rit.* *a tempo*

Vergil

prose. If you prom-ise to be si-lent I'll re-late to you the vio-lent and

139 *rit.* *a tempo*

142 *rit.*

Vergil

trag-i-cal stor-y that makes up my poem...

142 *marcato con moto* *rit.*

*ff*

**Andante gioioso** ♩ = 72

147 *mf*

Vergil

The Tale of Di-do and Ae-ne-as:

147 *mf* *ff*

*con pedale*

151 *dim. poco a poco*

154 **Recitative**  $\text{♩} = 104$  *mf*

Flora

And how man - y lines have you

*mf*

156 *mp*

Flora

writ - ten? In how man - y months?

Vergil

*mp*

Sev - en.

*mp* *p*

159 *p* *hesitantly* *pp* *mp*

Vergil

Well... e - lev - en. I

*pp*

# Allegro marcato $\text{♩} = 132$

**162** *nervoso* *cresc.* *f*

Vergil get a great i - de - a, and go sit down to write it, but get a sen - tence down and

**162** *nervoso* *mp* *cresc.*

**165** *mf*

Vergil real - ly can't a - bide it! I write a - noth - er word, then have a cup of wine, then

**165** *mf* *p* *mf*

*con pedale*

**168** *mp*

Vergil have a cou - ple bot - tles and think a - bout a line. I

**168** *mf*

**171** *cresc.*

Vergil think a lit - tle more and try a par - a - graph. Then read what came be - fore and

**171** *p* *cresc.*

174 *f*

Vergil

tear the sheets in half. So that I'm left with ink and

174 *mp* *mf*

176 *dim.* *rit.*

Vergil

emp-ty scraps of pa-per. With noth-ing left to think I snuff the smok-ing ta-per.

176 *rit.* *dim.*

179 *mf intensely* **Deliberately** ♩ = 126

Vergil

I prom - ise that to - mor - row

179 *p intensely* *mp*

182 *f* *vehemently* *allarg.*

Vergil

af - ter a lit - tle walk, I'll write or steal or

182 *f* *colla voce*



185

Vergil

bor - row... Flo - ra, it's writ - er's block! \_\_\_\_\_

185

*mp*

**Largo calmato**  $\text{♩} = 60$

188

Flora

*mp*

Not to wor-ry, Mas-ter, I've a po-tion that can help re-vive the flow of your po-et - ic

188

*mp*

191

Flora

thought... Hear? Who?

*mf*

*poco a poco cresc.*

*mf* *plaintively*

Vergil

But there is more... I hear them, Flo - ra.

191

196

Vergil

Voic - es in my dream. They sing my poem \_\_\_\_\_ to

196

*dim.*

201

Flora

No need to blow a fuse. Mas-ter, that's the Muse! \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* *rit.*

Vergil

me.

201

*p* *rit.*

205

Flora

The past is nev-er tru-ly past. \_\_\_\_\_ What - ev - er we \_\_\_ have done stays

**Lento** ♩ = 66 *p*

205

*pp* *simile*

209

Flora

done, \_\_\_\_\_ for - ev - er here \_\_\_\_\_ im - print - ed in the air. \_\_\_\_\_

*poco rit.*

209

*poco rit.*

212 *a tempo* *ten.*

Flora

Some men can hear those ech - oes as the Muse that sings us

215 *poco a poco cresc.*

Flora

po - e - try. The great - est art - ist does not al - ter the

218 *mf*

Flora

ech - oes of the liv - ing past. The less - er crafts - men

221 *dim.* *rit.*

Flora

man - gle their drafts and force the voic - es in a cast.

# Poco più mosso ♩ = 80

224 *p cresc. poco a poco*

Flora

I have a po - tion which has the pow - er to bring those ech - oes

224 *p cresc. poco a poco*

227 *mf intensely cresc.*

Flora

back to mind. If you dare to face your he - ro

227 *intensely*

*mf cresc.*

230 *ff* *moving ahead*

Flora

as he stood once on a time, Drink this! Drink

230 *moving ahead*

*ff*

233 **Recitativo**

Flora

this!

Vergil

*with doubt*  
*mp*

Would it be right to take a sip?

233 *sub.p*

**Allegro moderato** ♩ = 92  
*mp reassuringly*

236  
Flora  
There's no need for a con - nip - tion, for I've got a le - gal pre -

240  
Flora  
scrip - tion. And the truth is most of our high - est rat - ed wri - ters these days are

*(Vergil takes the potion and prepares to drink.)*

244  
Flora  
med - i - cat - ed! But be -

**Misterioso** ♩ = 120 *mp*

248  
Flora  
ware! What you see here will be the truth.

*legato*

251

Flora

It might not be the hap - py scene you hope to

254

Flora

prove.

Recitative

Vergil

I'd pay an - y

258

Vergil

(He drinks.)

fee... see? I feel quea - sy... un - eas - y.

**f Allegro moderato** ♩ = 92

(Vergil drops to the ground, but while lying there he begins to hear the chorus, and he realizes that he's still breathing.)

263

Vergil

Wom - an! You have poi - soned me!

267 **Largo** ♩ = 60 *mf* *mp*

Vergil No, wait! I'm not dead

272 **Con moto** ♩ = 69 *mp*

Vergil yet. I hear the mag - ic voic - es...

276 *mf* *accelerando*

Vergil my poem! I must go! Quick! Quick! Where's my

276 *accelerando* *poco a poco cresc.*

(Vergil suddenly freezes in place, entranced by the drug.)

**Allegro marcato** ♩ = 92

Flora **281** *f* Pret - ty strong drink! *mf* He's in a trance, not a - sleep.

Vergil

**281** man - uss...

Flora **284** *mp* For him a cou-ple of sec-onds will seem like a week. *mf* Ten sec-onds... Time is

**284**

Flora **288** *f* up. Mas - ter, mas - ter wake! What did your

**288** *cresc.* *mf*

Flora **291** **Andante maestoso** ♩ = 84 vi - sion say?

**291** *f* *cresc.* *ff* *sonore*



294 **Andante con moto**  $\text{♩} = 72$  *allarg.* **f**

Flora No, po-et.\_\_\_\_

Vergil *mp* Voice of my dream, voice of my poem... all has gone wrong!\_\_\_\_

294 *p* *allarg.*

299 **Andante maestoso**  $\text{♩} = 84$  **f**

Flora All can be set right

299 **ff** **mf**

303 *mp cresc. poco a poco* **f**

Flora with this e - lix - ir of art.\_\_\_\_

303 *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

307

Flora

Vergil

311

Flora

**Larghetto**  $\text{♩} = 60$

*mp*

314

Flora

**Andante semplice**  $\text{♩} = 58$

318

Flora

324 *allarg.*

Flora Work is the cure. E - lix - ir pure. Dig deep in

324 *allarg.*

330 *(She holds out the pen.)* **Maestoso**  $\text{♩} = 72$

Flora art! \_\_\_\_\_

Vergil *mp molto espressivo*

Art? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, art! \_\_\_\_\_ The past is nev - er

330 *mp sonore e legato*

335

Vergil *tr* tru - ly past. \_\_\_\_\_ Art has the pow - er to re - cast the sor - ry stor - ies

335

339 *cresc. poco a poco* **f** *ten.*

Vergil of our past, and forge from our pres - ent tan - gled sor - row doors to a glor - ious

339 *cresc. poco a poco* *ten.*

**Poco piu mosso**  $\text{♩} = 84$

Vergil

343 mor - row. It's time to be -

Vergil

347 gin. Flor - a! My pen!!

Vergil

351 **Tempo giusto**  $\text{♩} = 69$

ten.

354

*Fine dell'opera  
August 14, 2014*