

RITA O'GRADY AUDITION #1

Rita: What do you mean?

Connie: If we got C grade tomorrow, we'd still be earning less than a man on C grade.

Rita: Eighty-seven per cent. That ain't too bad.

Connie: Did Martin Luther King ask for eighty-seven per cent of rights for black people?

Rita: You know they shot him? I'm here to get C grade back, nothing else. Women have never had equal pay.

Connie: What about your Sharon?

Rita: She's six.

Connie: And when she's twenty-six do you want her to be on eighty-seven per cent?

Rita: She wants to be a doctor. Ha!

Connie: She could be. Nothing changes if it isn't challenged.

RITA O'GRADY AUDITION #2

Rita: Oh, it's you.

Lisa: I'm sorry, is this a bad time?

(Rita *is close to tears.*)

Rita: Eddie's left me! He's taken the kids!

Lisa: I'm sorry. That must be very painful, but –

Rita: – I'm a mother and I've lost my kids!

Lisa: You're a brilliant mother and you have not lost your children.

Rita: This ain't worth it.

(Rita *hands Lisa the letter from Eddie.*)

Lisa: Rita, Rita. You're caught up in something, and it's taken over, for now. You have to be strong, and sacrifices have to be made.

Rita: Not my children!

Lisa: Eddie will come back, with the children. You're making history, Rita.

Rita: What?

Lisa: Yes, history. Like Rosa Parks.

Rita: Who?

Lisa: Rosa Parks. She was a black woman, she refused to give her seat up to a white man on a bus.

Rita: Where? Stoke Newington?

Lisa: Alabama. 1955. What she started, Martin Luther King finished.

Rita: You know they shot him?

Lisa: Gandhi, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, they weren't on their own. You know what Gandhi needed?

Rita: A sandwich.

(They laugh.)

Lisa: A lot of women, not just working class women, they've seen you in the news, we want to support you.

Rita: I can't do it. Anyway I don't know how to talk this union stuff.

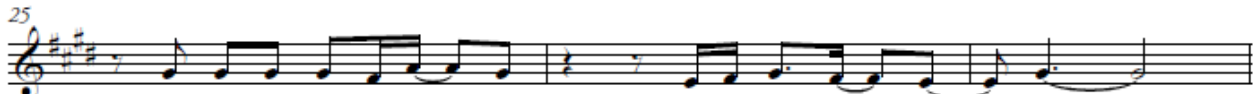
Lisa: Yes you do. Just be yourself and remember why you're doing it.

Rita: Why am I doing it?

Lisa: You have a daughter. Now, what are you going to wear? For the TUC. It's on TV.


Rita: I dunno.


RITA O'GRADY MUSIC AUDITION

25

I thought I had the fu - ture in the palm of my hand.

28

I thought you were be - side me and our dreams were all planned.

31

Thought we would stay to - geth - er; Now the world's cold and small. Thought that we'd


34

— grow old and gray to - geth - er; Oh babe, we near - ly had it all.

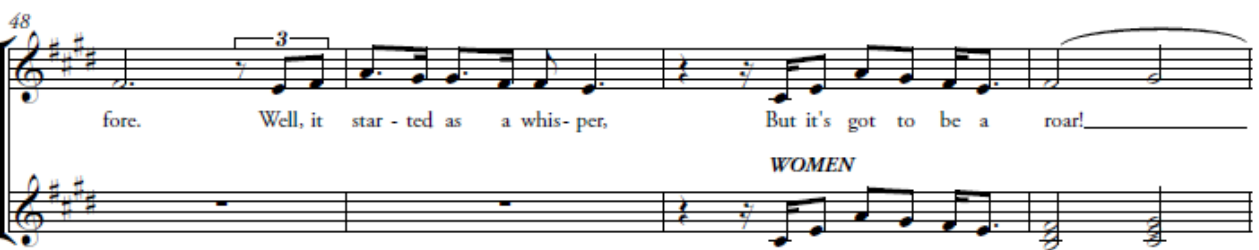
37


And what a - bout our daugh - ter; I want to look at her and see

40

That her fu - ture's full of hope, So she don't end up like me.

44

I'm find - ing a voice for the first time - I nev - er knew I had be

48

fore. Well, it star - ted as a whis - per, But it's got to be a roar!
WOMEN
But it's got to be a roar!

52
(RITA)

We thought we had the fu - ture in the palm of our hands.
(WOMEN)

We thought we had the fu - ture in the palm of our hands.

56

We thought you were be - side_ us And we had it all_ planned.

We thought you were be - side_ us And we had it all_ planned.

59

We know life is - n't ea - sy but we could have_ stood_ tall.

We know life is - n't ea - sy but we could have_ stood_ tall.

62

In - stead we see the mo - ments when we al - most had it all.

In - stead we see the mo - ments when we al - most had it all.

Rubato

(RITA)

66

It don't mean_ I don't love you_ It don't mean_ I don't care But I'll

A tempo

70

see this through, with or with - out you there.

Segue