

Alwynne Pritchard
Heroic Death

Preview File Only

Libretto by Edward Kemp
based on the prose poem
Une Mort Héroïque by Charles Baudelaire

Heroic Death was first performed at Wilton's Music Hall,

East London on November 22nd, 1998 by members of

RED HERRING

to whom it is dedicated.



FUNNES
1958

(i)

Prince 2 (playful) : Soprano



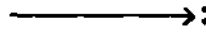



Prince 3 (cruel) : Mezzo - soprano

Prince 1 (romantic) : Baritone

Fanciullo (clown) : 'Cello

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'Cello performance notes:

-  : move from an excessive pressure on the strings, with very little movement of the bow, to a pressure and bow speed appropriate to the dynamic indicated.
-  : excessive pressure on the string, with very little movement of the bow, such that the pitches are distorted.
-  : increase speed of finger movement during glissando.
-  : decrease speed of finger movement during glissando.
-  : left hand pizzicato.
-  : Bartók pizzicato.

Singers performance notes:

Where the text is fragmented, performers should refer to the complete word for the correct pronunciation of the fragment.

The libretto for *Heroic Death* is based on two prose poems by Baudelaire, 'Le Fou et la Vénus' and more significantly 'Une Mort Héroïque', which tells the story of a frustrated, capricious prince and his conspiratorial clown, Fanciullo. Fanciullo is sentenced to death for his treason, but not before giving one final performance.

The piece is divided into 'story beats', each covering a key interchange or piece of action: it is advised that any staging should make this structure evident.

All text in italic type is spoken.

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Fanciullo: [Reading quietly to himself from a book]
What if an actor should contrive to be the very thing he is supposed to represent? No longer any space to glimpse the will, the skill, the art of the artist. To stand in relation to the role as do the finest classical sculptures to our confused idea of beauty: miraculously alive, breathing, seeing, the perfect realisation of the ideal.

Two: The prince

[The Princes step forward. They introduce themselves to the assembly. They are supremely confident and speak almost as one]

Prince 1: *Je suis le Prince.*

Prince 3: *I am the Prince.*

Prince 2: *Je suis ni meilleur ni pire qu'un autre.*

Prince 3: *I am no better or worse than any other.*

Prince 1: *Mais j'ai une excessive sensibilité.*

Prince 3: *But I am over sensitive!*