

Breath of Life

Act II

Low lights come up in the Operating Room. The Patient (a representation, whose head is stage left) is surrounded by the Doctor, Resident, Nurse 1 and 2. Nurse 1 and Resident assist the Doctor on either side of him, Nurse 1 on his right, Resident on his left, all three facing the audience behind Patient. Nurse 2 manages and is positioned near the anesthesia equipment and bypass machine placed near the Patient's head. Nurse 2 is assisted by the Orderly when he is present. The operation is about to begin and final checks of surgical tools, measurements, equipment, sterile gowns (to be worn by Doctor, Resident, and Nurse 1), etc. are being made. In the Observation Deck, the Patient's Wife watches. The Donor's Mother sits alone in the Chapel. The Priest and Orderly are off stage.

856 *anticipatory* *f* *p* *f* *p* *rit.* *pp*

861 *take time accel.* *f* *p* *rit.* *a tempo* *mp*

Mother *Our*

861 *take time accel.* *f* *p* *rit.* *a tempo*

Pno. *(like a cadenza)*

865 *rit.* *mp* *p* *rit.* *mp*

Mother *Fa ther who art in heaven hal lowed be thy name*

865 *rit.* *mp* *p* *rit.* *mp*

Pno.

(as the Mother continues to pray the drama in the Operating Room moves forward)

* Doctor: (to Nurses/Resident in Operating Room) Our team is removing the Donor Heart now. When it arrives, we will have less than three hours to finish our job... Doctor (referring to Resident)... let's prepare to open... The Heart should be here any minute... (The Priest prepares to join the Wife in the Observation Deck. The Doctor, Resident and Nurses begin to...

869 *rit.* *mp* *p* *mf*

Pno.

...work on the Patient. The Doctor begins to recite checklists as they proceed, all follow the Doctor's instructions.)

874 $\text{♩} = 63$

(freely/expressive, in the background until dialogue ends, then coming to fore)
ppp - p (depending on balance with dialogue)

Mother: thy king dom come thy will be done

Wife: *(not looking up at first, resistant)* **mp** 3

Priest: *(entering Observation Deck, photo in pocket)* **mp** 3 3 I don't mind.

874 $\text{♩} = 63$

Priest: May I join you? *(Priest approaches Wife and sits, they are facing the audience)* Priest: Your husband?

Pno. **p** *piano overlapping with voice*
L.V. - Sustain Ped. Down

* Wife: Yes. *(catching herself)*
 Well, we're separated.

Priest: I see

Doctor: Is the Patient fully
 sedated?

Nurse 1: Yes

Doctor: Bypass?

Nurse 2: Ready *(pause)*

Doctor: Pressure and fluids?

Resident: *(looking to the
 machines)* Good

Wife: I can't believe something
 like this is possible...

Priest: Yes... A gift from God

Wife *(not sure how to react,
 changes subject)* Why is it
 taking so long to start... *(but
 can't ignore his statement)*
 You know... my husband
 wasn't sure he wanted this...
(pause)

Doctor: Scalpel...
(Nurse 1 hands it to him)
 thank you... suction...
(Resident assists)
 more please.

878 $\text{♩} = 63$

Mother: on earth as it is in heaven give us this day our dai ly

878

Priest: * approx.

Pno.

881 $\text{♩} = 63$

Mother: bread and for give our sins as we forgive those who sin a gainst us

881

Priest: **mp** **p** **mf**

884 $\text{♩} = 63$

Mother: and lead us not in to temp ta tion but de li ver us from ev il for thine is the

884 *rit.* *a tempo* **p** 3

Priest: *rit.* *a tempo*

Pno. **p**

Doctor: Bowie please...
 (Resident assists)... saw
 (Nurse 1 assists)...

Priest: Are you a religious
 woman?

Wife: (questioning) What
 does God have to do with
 this? (pointing down)

Doctor: ...chest retractor
 (Nurse 1 hands it to him -
 Doctor, Resident and
 Nurse 1 continue working
 to open the chest)...

887

Mother
king dom and the pow er and the glo ry for ev er and ev er A

Priest

Pno.

890

Mother
men.

Wife
(being polite) I sup

Priest
(patiently, answering Wife's question) God is in all things is n't he

Pno.

poco rit. **mf** *a tempo* **p** *rit.*

894

Wife
pose so it's just hard to im a gine

Priest
would he let us at tempt such a thing unlesshe want ed us to?

Pno.

a tempo **p** **mp** **p**

899 *mf* *3* *accel.* $\bullet = 76$ *f* *rit.*

Wife I don't know Would God

Priest Would God

899 *mf* *3* *accel.* $\bullet = 76$ *f* *rit.*

Pno.

903 *mf* $\bullet = 63$ (Orderly enters Operating Room) (he leaves)

Orderly Doc tor, three minutes

Wife *mp* *3* *p* let us at tempt such a thing?

Priest *mp* *3* *p* let us at tempt such a thing?

Doctor *mf* *3* *p* It's time to make his to ry does

903 $\bullet = 63$

Pno.

907

Nurse I/II *mf* Nurse I: good luck

Resident *f* *take time* *mp* *mf* *f*
 It's hard to im a gine it's some ones
 (somewhat out of the action and to herself)

Doctor *f* *mp*
 a ny one have a nything to say

Pno. *mf* *p* *f p*

(There is an awkward silence... with no response... then the phone rings, Nurse II answers, breaking the silence)

911 *rit.* *molto* *a tempo* *mp*

Nurse II Yes, Thank you

Resident *mp* *f* *mp*
 Soul is n't an y one un com for ta ble with that
 (more directed toward to Nurse 2)

Pno. *mf* *p* *a tempo (phone)*

(The Operating Room resumes its former activity, each attends to their task while watching the Doctor intently)

915 *(hangs up, then to the Doctor)* **f** 3

Nurse II
the Heart is on its way

Priest *(to the Wife)* **mf**
They're

Pno. **f** 3

Doctor:
Lets go everyone... the clock is ticking...

918 *(to God)* *(chest cavity is now exposed)* Doctor: *(To Resident)*
Open the pericardium Doctor... *(she complies)*

Priest
star ting it's com ing

Pno. **p** **mf** **p** **f**

Doctor: *(to Resident)*
Just as I thought... **♩ = 94** *moving forward*
look here... the left ventricle...
it's practically dead...

922 **mp**
Wife
I don't know if I can look *(she looks away)*

Pno. **pp** **f** **♩ = 94** *moving forward* **p** 3