PASCAL DUSAPIN

PASSION
Ten scenes (1h 25m)
Composed 2006-7
Premiere - Festival d’Aix-en-Provence 2008
English translation by Amanda Holden 2016

CAST
Her (Lei) soprano
Him (Lui) baritone
Others (I altri) s1, s2, a, t, bar, b

[-] = aside, as in original libretto
xxx] singing at the same time as xxx]
etc = same words repeated (not necessarily in the same order)
(XXX) = optional word(s)

They - He/She— address each other as `sole’ or `mio sole’ in the sense of `o sole mio’ or `Light of my life’. Hence ‘Sunlight’, `my Sunlight’.
The plentiful wordless but notated gasps, exhalations etc are not all indicated in this text.
Not all the stage directions are included.
Timings from YouTube Rare Classix recording, 1-2 & 2-2

`Passion is just a story of movement between Elle and Lui’ PD

PASSION I
S1, S2, A As the day is fading...

HER I am moving closer to you...
I... Yes... I am here!...
I’m moving closer to you...
I... Yes... I am here! etc

bar 14

OTHERS As the day is fading...

HIM Sunlight! You, you who can see everything
Sunlight, my Sunlight...

HER I’m moving closer to you...
19

OTHERS] As the day is fading...
I am here

Sunlight, my Sunlight

Do you love me still?
Sunlight, oh Sunlight
Look up into the heavens
and stay close to me
You see me?

You hear me?

You hear me? I see you! I hear you! You see me?
I see you and I hear you!

I see you! I hear you!

I see you! I hear you!

etc

Oh joy... Oh longing...

I hear you! You hear me? I see you!

Look up into the heavens and tell me if pleasure is celestial, tell me this.

I see you and I hear you! I see you and I hear you...

You hear me? You see me? I hear you! I see you! etc

Maybe all things that come here to us must descend from the heavens above, oh my Sunlight?

Oh my Sunlight etc

Oh my Sunlight, tell me if you love me? Tell me, tell me, oh tell me. Sunlight, Sunlight, oh Sunlight Look up above, come and be close to me.

I see you, I hear you... I see you... I see you... I see you and I hear you.

Oh joy, oh what longing, I see you oh my Sunlight.

And I have wings, yes, and I have wings!

Oh my Sunlight, oh my Sunlight!

As the day is fading...

As the day is fading...
I’m moving closer to you. I’m leaving. [Ah! The slightest thing disturbs me.] I, yes, I am here! Yes, yes, I, I!

Ah! A breeze could destroy me! But nothing can escape me! Don’t try to run away! [I’ve wings, I have wings...] I’m here speaking to you ...

Sunlight, Sunlight!

How does one soothe a troubled heart?
Are there no birds up there in the trees?

Sunlight! Sunlight!

Do I hear the sound of flowing water?
Nothing... nothing...

You, you who see everything....

Sunlight... oh my Sunlight... Tell me if pleasure is celestial. Tell me this!
Can it be that it comes from heaven?

Oh... etc

I have no heart... The night... The dark night. Oh blackest night.
Night is dancing in the sky for the moon... [dancing for the moon...]

And I, I once fed on sorrows and quenched my thirst with tears.

[But what d’you want?] She exhales Look up at the sky ... she exhales Do you see that green river bank. she exhales

Try to be calm!... And come closer to me. Try to be calm! she in- and exhales

Sing with the running river.

See nothing, hear nothing.

Sing with the river...

[Oh longing, joys and torments!]
I’m blind!

[Am I blind?]
HER: I'm deaf!

HIM: [Am I deaf?]

HER: I am blind and deaf! A breeze could destroy me! I am blind and I am deaf!

HIM: [The slightest breeze... yes... the slightest breeze...] Closer!... I'm moving closer...

HER: I am blind and I am deaf.

HIM: No, going away. Going away, yes... [I have wings!... Yes, I have wings!] No! Yes! Noooo... Noooo... [I have wings!... I have wings!...]

HER: But what do you want? Look there... look up... to heaven...

183

HIM: And you, where have you come from?

HER: When the day was fading. I found myself in a dark, a dark forest, and making ready to go to war.

HIM: To go to war? But I? I... why must I come to you here?

HER: And I? Am I living? And am I here?

217

HIM: You have left me... Oh! And I? And am I here? No, I’ll descend, I’ll go fearlessly into the deepest, darkest abyss... But how to persuade the heartless ruler of the shadows? How to take you to see the stars again?

228

HER: Ah destiny! Ah!... Ah you have left me! You! You merciless heaven... have shattered my heart.

HIM: The stars... The stars... How can I take you to see the stars again?

232

HER: You’re leaving! Oh my life!

HIM: [I’m frightened?]
HER

Ah Destiny! Ah you are wicked and cruel. Ah you abusing stars... Ah... merciless heaven!

HIM

But I why must I come here to you? Do I dare?

245

HER

in- and exhaling If....

HIM

[I’m afraid to move forward...]

HER

... you love me, why will you not help me?

Have you no pity for my misery?

253

Don’t you see that death is threatening me?

260

My blood is trembling in my veins.

266

Sunlight, my Sunlight, Sunlight, Sunlight,

HER]...

...you who can see all things... my Sunlight, Sunlight etc

Oh my Sunlight, Sunlight... silence... You have left me....

HIM]

But tell me why have you returned to this anguish. And why did you not leap up to those gentle slopes?... Go now... go now... That beast, that beast who makes you howl with pain, will not allow anyone near to you.

278

HER

Farewell, farewell to earth, farewell to earth, farewell heaven and Sunlight.

And Sunlight, farewell.

282

HIM

I have broken her heart.

HER

Farewell heaven. I am falling... Oh...

HIM

287

[I’m hateful, can I hide myself away?]

I shall go... oh beloved, ah Destiny!

vs.56

19.23m

PASSION 3

HIM

And still I return, I return like a line to the centre...

OTHERS

clapping, shouting etc.

312

laughing Eh, eh, eh, eh! etc

Nothing escapes us,

Teeth to tear you,

enjoy you, destroy you

no use fleeing, o you mortals

T (330)

though I may hobble, I have wings.

350
HIM Darkness, but in this place I will find my Sunlight!...
Open, open, open the window.
Ah come! Come, ah come!

356 Shine again before the morning! Come!
360 Come! Dispel the darkness, chase away the gloomy clouds and the shadows!
But what is this? HE sees HER No, I am not dreaming! Her soul has returned, has returned to the sky.

OTHERS Her soul has returned,
OTHERS has returned to the sky.
369 HER] dying again My joys, my sorrows, my life is longing. I’m blind, I’m deaf.
HIM] Come back! Come back! Ah this is Fate...
374 HER See nothing, hear nothing.
379 OTHERS] echo Come back!...
380 HER I see nothing, I hear nothing.
382 HIM] Come back (here!)...
OTHERS] echo Come back (here!)...
385 HER See nothing... Hear nothing...

electronic dissolve

vs.74 25.25
PASSION 4 HER she awakes, she is not dead
Am I still sleeping or am I awake?

OTHERS Keep sleeping the sleep of the dead, sleep is the brother of death...
420 HER What is this world, where am I?
421 S1&2,A,T O... the sleep of the dead. The sleep...
Bar stifled laughter Ih, ih, ih etc
B The sleep... the sleep of the dead.
425
Where am I walking? And what air am I breathing?

Sleep is the brother of death...

...the sleep of the dead, sleep is the brother of death...

Ah, what is to come won’t be forgotten
And it will be merciless.

Ah, what is to come will be merciless
what’s to come will be merciless

Am I still sleeping or am I awake?

Oh, oh, oh, how long, how long...

Oh sleep, the sleep of the dead, the brother of death...
Hear nothing, see nothing,
I cannot hear.... [I cannot hear...]

The darkness is beckoning, I’m falling... No!

All the stars, all the stars are turning...

Shall I ever stop weeping? [stop weeping]

Will I ever find in the depths of my heart a song of joyfulness?

These mortal men are not despairing.
Insatiable and so greedy!
Malicious, avaricious!

Pathetic! They know everything!

Don’t come near me, don’t rob me of my peace and quiet.
Hurry... Go quickly...

Get moving!

Oh I can’t hear... (she ‘dies’)

attacca

PASSION 5
HER I can’t hear…
555 Come be with me to sleep a long sleep
561 Come be with me, we will sleep a long sleep
HIM But everything is grey, so still, so still and calm.
HER That is not so! [You’re living?] You are not living! Go away!
Oh…. Go away! Ah listen…
572 HIM] Do you remember me?
HER No! No! He is calling me…
HIM] Don’t go from here…
HER] I must go from here! [And return there…]
HIM] Don’t go from here…
587 she moves over
590 she opens the door a crack
591 OTHERS] O… Open. Do as I say! Yes! Sssss! etc
B] (607) Do as I sssssay!
596 she appears to be speaking to someone she cannot see
HER] No! He is calling me! Who are you?
OTHERS] Yes! O… Open.
608 hissing like a snake sssssS… Ccchh… KsKs… etc
611 HER not afraid Oh!
HIM he is afraid Ah!
614 HIM] Don’t go from here! [A breeze could take her…]
617 [A breeze!………]
OTHERS sssssS… Ccchh… Ks
HER facing forward (not to HIM) I am not afraid of you. May I come with you?
HIM But where to? No! What is happening?
HER Don’t try to restrain me. For you I am just an illusion.
increasingly angry... his breathing quivering and getting louder
An illusion? Am I an illusion?

An illusion.

she turns towards him You no longer need me...
attacca

becoming more and more angry Ah! Mmmhh!

O-i-... Sssss... Ksssss... i... Ah sssssssS... etc
electronic dissolve

Ah... Aaaaah! Ah, but I!

No! But where? Don’t try to restrain me!

Ah, but I will not let you disappear like this!

Ah!

I cannot allow you to destroy all your loveliness, your loveliness.
Loveliness, loveliness... etc

You would never dare risk the ruin of all your loveliness if I was living beside you.

Always within herself and restrained, without vibrato
Don’t try to restrain me.... No, no etc

No don’t... Don’t try to restrain me... etc
electronic dissolve c.2m

As the day is fading...

wordless

I’m here, I’m here [following you...] I’m here. You have not been dreaming...
I’m here... behind you... You were sleeping... sleeping... A long sleep...

I’m here... I’m here... [But everything is dark...]
So what do you wait for? [She’s not moving]
What do you want of me?

815
HER] I’m here, I’m here...
HIM What do you wait for? [She’s calm...]

817
HER I’m following, here, I’m here, I’m here... etc
HIM] [Is she?...] You have left me... [she’s left me]

HER] Speak to me...

823
HIM] What do you want of me? What is it?
You have not been dreaming.
Why have you surrendered?

HER I can’t hear, I can’t hear, I hear nothing.

833
OTHERS sostenuto: in awe On your feet! Get up at once! The journey will be long!
a---é---i---co---o--- And the road is dangerous!

858
OTHERS] wordless
HIM] You have left me... and for ever... I shall weep.
[Ah... everything is over!] You have... You have left me, oh...

867
Look up, up high into heaven etc

878
HER very softly I shall weep, for ever and ever lament....

885 [One more breath and I’m destroyed!...]
Even more softly, and (despite the range) as restrained as possible
Here is the serpent...
I... cannot hear! Cannot see! Speak to me...
Sunlight! O my Sunlight! Speak to me!
Let me hear the sound of your voice.

907
HIM You feel shame and humiliation, I know.
Escape from this frightening place!... Listen to me. Listen, now...

920 electronic dissolve

922
HER I no longer remember your voice.

OTHERS] wordless

926
HER Oh speak to me! Oh my Sunlight! Speak to me! Speak! Speak! Speak to me!
May I hear your voice? Speak to me! Speak to me, Sunlight! Oh Sunlight. Have I lost you for ever? I can hear nothing. You, speak to me. etc

OTHERS] wordless

HER] I am watching you, my Sunlight, but I no longer know you!

S1, S2, A] the three voices almost inaudible, whispering very softly as if in a dream The day is over... along this pathway... alone... oh never ending... into darkness... seeing nothing... hearing nothing... [still struggling?...] Oh memories... ever after... The day is over...

T, Bar, B] Oh, oh etc The day is over...

S1, S2] Who will remember her story?...

vs.189 1h 03.5m

PASSION 8 HER startled, as if suddenly awakening Ah! The day is fading away...

HIM [The trees and the rivers are silent] Ah tell me the reason you have to descend...

HER I shall tell you the reason, but I... I must return there.

HIM But where to?

HER Back to that place from where I have come.

HIM Take me there!

HER Are you ready?

HIM Tell me the reason you have to descend.

HER Don't you know? There all beings confront their opposite.

HIM Oh, you have searched for too long...

HER Already?
HIM] Have you found it, what you’re searching for?

HER] No!

HER Never again will I hear singing.

HIM] Calm yourself! Come back!

HER] No more will I stare at the Sunlight. Sunlight.

1070 
HIM whispering very quietly Wake up!

1076 
She breathes... we see nothing but a woman who sleeps

vs.196 YouTube recording 2-2

PASSION 9

1124 
HER] I have dreamed many dreams …. I was waiting. Then, suddenly that shadow...

something was clear...

OTHERS] almost inaudible; whispering very softly, as if in a dream, they echo the words

she sings

1132 
HER What was it that flew up into the sky above my head?

Stars and clouds were spinning away, spinning away.

Who knows what has happened?

fermata, 25 seconds, she breathes deeply

1148 [Maybe it was the moon?]

HIM Are you blind? Night has fallen...

1153 fermata

HIM] Night has fallen...

1156 
HER] I see nothing, no, nothing at all. Tell me! Ah, is it night, is it night that seeks

me? Even if I am not blind, oh, I believe you. It is night, it is not day.

HIM] It is night, believe me. It is night. This darkness is night.

1169 
HER] Oh, such great sorrow, such sorrow is without hope, nothing can console

me... Oh...

1175
HIM] But look there, where the pathway is opening! And what are you saying? It is there! Look at the moon! Come here! Speak to it! Look there, look at the moon! etc

1177 [He is blind!] I see nothing, nothing.... etc

Ah, speak to me! Let me hear the sound of your voice. I can’t remember your voice. Speak to me!

1188 HIM Look, look at the moon!

1189 fermata

HER] Oh my Sunlight, oh speak to me!

1191 HIM] Oh... What do you hope for? What comfort are you waiting for? Don’t you know that the pathway out of this gloomy place and into the sunlight has been closed?

1201 HER Oh my Sunlight, may I hear the sound of your voice? Speak to me Sunlight. Are you lost for ever? I cannot hear! I cannot see! You! Speak to me! I look at you, oh my Sunlight, and I no longer know you.

HIM] I am coming to comfort you.

HER] Oh... who has shattered my heart? For me the heavens have opened....

HIM] [I can help you] I am here, yes... I, yes... I! [I am close to you].

vs.223 7.40m

PASSION 10

HER What do I hear? Is that perhaps his voice?

HIM I am here...

HER Oh...

HIM [I am close to you]

HER] Oh, it is so familiar. Oh... Surely, it’s a voice... from my dreams. I don’t remember it. Farewell, farewell Sunlight, farewell.

HIM] Oh...[I am close to you] Wait, wait there. Will you?

1254
HIM] [I am frightened...] Oh... that little bird, I see that little bird. I have forgotten ...
  Now... I don’t know... if... I’ve become ... [I cannot hear...] Oh that little bird...
  [I’m frightened] I cannot hear... Oh my Sunlight...

HER] Farewell... Farewell Sunlight. etc Your face is a river....
  Farewell. Now I know everything...

BOTH exhale Ah!

THE END OF THE OPERA

AH: December 2016