

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...

20

HER] I am here

21

HIM Sunlight, my Sunlight

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

HER] You hear me?

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

I see you and I hear you!

HIM] I see you! I hear you!

HER] I see you! I hear you!

etc

42

HER] Oh joy... Oh longing...

S1, S2] Oh joy... Oh longing...

T, Bar, B] I hear you! You hear me? I see you!

46

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

HER] I see you and I hear you! I see you and I hear you...

OTHERS] You hear me? You see me? I hear you! I see you! *etc*

51

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

OTHERS] Oh my Sunlight *etc*

HIM] 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.

HER] I see you, I hear you... I see you... I see you... I see you and I hear you.

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

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

65&69

HER] Oh my Sunlight, oh my Sunlight!

73

RITOURNELLE

75

S1 As the day is fading...

80

OTHERS] As the day is fading...

vs.26 7.24m
 PASSION 2
 HIM *gasps etc*
 107 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 ...
 122
 HER Sunlight, Sunlight!
 124
 HIM How does one soothe a troubled heart?
 Are there no birds up there in the trees?
 HER Sunlight! Sunlight!
 HIM Do I hear the sound of flowing water?
 Nothing... nothing...
 HER You, you who see everything....
 133 Sunlight... oh my Sunlight... Tell me if pleasure is celestial. Tell me this!
 Can it be that it comes from heaven?
 138
 HER] Oh... *etc*
 HIM] 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...]
 147 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.
 162
 HER See nothing, hear nothing.
 HIM Sing with the river...
 HER [Oh longing, joys and torments!]
 I'm blind!
 HIM [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!...]

183
HER But what do you want? Look there... look up... to heaven...
190 Oh where are you going?

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

HER Where am I walking? And what air am I breathing?
427

S1&2,A,T, Sleep is the brother of death...
Bar *stifled laughter* Ih, ih, ih *etc*
428

S1&2,A Keep sleeping...
A ...the sleep of the dead, sleep is the brother of death...
B] Ah, what is to come won't be forgotten
 And it will be merciless.
T] Ah, what is to come will be merciless
 what's to come will be merciless
Bar] *stifled laughter* Ih, ih, ih *etc*
433

HER Am I still sleeping or am I awake?
435

OTHERS] Oh, oh, oh, how long, how long...
HER] Oh sleep, the sleep of the dead, the brother of death...
 Hear nothing, see nothing,
 I cannot hear.... [I cannot hear...]
445 The darkness is beckoning, I'm falling... No!

OTHERS Oh, oh, oh, how long...
451 All the stars, all the stars are turning...
452

HER Shall I ever stop weeping? [stop weeping]
457 Will I ever find in the depths of my heart a song of joyfulness?
462

OTHERS *stifled laughter* Eh, eh, eh, eh! *etc*
463 These mortal men are not despairing.
 Insatiable and so greedy!
 Malicious, avaricious!
487 Pathetic! They know everything!
 stifled laughter Eh, eh, eh, eh! *etc*

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

BAR Get moving!

HER Oh I can't hear... (*she `dies`*)
 attacca

vs.101 31.00m

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?

HIM It's the wind.

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 ssssay!
 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.

630 *increasingly angry... his breathing quivering and getting louder*
An illusion? Am I an illusion?

B An illusion.

635
HER *she turns towards him* You no longer need me...
attacca

vs.122 36.23

PASSION 6

HIM] *becoming more and more angry* Ah! Mmmhh!

OTHERS] O-i-... Sssss... Ksssss... i... Ah sssssssS... *etc*
electronic dissolve

647
HIM Ah... Aaaah! Ah, but !!

HER No! But where? Don't try to restrain me!

654
HIM Ah, but I will not let you disappear like this!

659
HER Ah!

660
HIM I cannot allow you to destroy all your loveliness, your loveliness.
Loveliness, loveliness... *etc*

669
HIM] You would never dare risk the ruin of all your loveliness if I was living beside
you.

HER] *Always within herself and restrained, without vibrato*
Don't try to restrain me.... No, no *etc*

S1, S2, A] No don't... Don't try to restrain me... *etc*
electronic dissolve c.2m

vs.134

RITOURNELLE

695
S1] As the day is fading...

OTHERS] *wordless*

vs.139 46.48m

PASSION 7

HER] 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...

HIM] 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*

945

OTHERS] *wordless*

951

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

984

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 ...

1009

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 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