

Angela Elizabeth Slater

She was a woman

for bassoon, harp, music box,
spoken voices and electronics

PERUSSAL SCORE

Performance notes**Requirements:**

- 1) One hand cranked music box with Ethel Smyth's *The March of the Women* punched into the paper reel.
- 2) Prerecorded sound track - provided by the composer.
- 3) You should dress to imitate a typical suffragette outfit.

Bassoon

- 1) *ttr* indicates a timbral trill. A double timbral trill will have two *ttr* trill lines vertically placed on top of one another.
- 2) Multiphonics and dyads are indicated by diamond noteheads, with recommended fingerings.

Harp and spoken voices

- 1) Spoken voice parts should be interpreted quite freely, allowing the speaker to follow their natural rhythm. You should attempt to approximately follow the rhythm set out in the score, though never allowing it to sound stilted.

General

- 1) The rhythmic value of stemless noteheads should be interpreted very freely. The rhythmic value of these only serve to give an approximation of the proportional length of the note to others.

***She was a woman* for bassoon, harp, spoken voices, hand cranked music box and electronics written for Rosanna Moore and Blaire Koerner.**

I. Of Courage - Margaret Haig Thomas

II. Of No Vote - Sofia Duleep Singh

III. Of Suffrage - Emily Davison

IV. Of Defiance - Ethel Smyth

She was a woman was commissioned by Hats and Heels duo for bassoon and harp as part of their 'Women are...' series.

The piece explores the lives, actions and words of four suffragettes; Margaret Haig Thomas, Sofia Duleep Singh, Emily Davison and Ethel Smyth. The text of each movement interweaves the composer's self-authored text based on her reflections of the lives and actions of these individuals, as well as their own words that comment on the bravery, determination and passion of the suffragette movement. The piece interweaves and evokes the music of Ethel Smyth (*March of the Women; The Wreckers*), Morfydd Owen's *Nocturne* for orchestra, and Grace Williams' *Sea Sketches*.

c. 7 mins 30 seconds

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I. Of Courage - Margaret Haig Thomas

This first movement explores the life, action and words of Margaret Haig Thomas, also known as Lady Rhondda. Haig Thomas was a suffragette who brought the fight for the vote into front page news in Newport (South Wales). In the 1910 general election Haig Thomas broke through a police cordon and jumped onto Prime Minister Asquith's car. Later in 1913, Haig Thomas attempted to blow up a letter box in Risca Road with a homemade bomb, an action for which she she was arrested and imprisoned. She refused to be bailed out, instead going on hunger-strike and was eventually released after going five days without food. She was released under what was know as 'Cat and Mouse Act', which allowed hunger strikers to be temporarily released on license until fit to resume their sentences, at which time they could be re-arrested. While on release, Haig Thomas' fine was paid anonymously

Text:

Shout, shout,
I, Lady Rhondda,
am a woman
of courage
I jumped on the car
of Prime Minister Asquith
set fire to a post box
In prison I went on hunger strike
under the cat and mouse act
*'its the very salt of life,
a draught of fresh air,
in a padded stilted lives,
it gave us hope, freedom, power.'*



II. Of no vote - Sofia Duleep Singh

'She was the vacuous socialite who developed an all-consuming social conscience. A royal pauper, who appeared on every aristocratic guest list, yet lived on state handouts. An obedient goddaughter to Queen Victoria, she revelled in giving the establishment a good kick-in. Most intriguingly of all Sophia fought for British women – for their democracy and the right to vote – even though Britain had taken everything from her family. The suffragettes were all extraordinary women, but even in their midst, Sophia stands out.' (quoted from *Sophia Duleep Singh: princess and suffragette* written by Anita Anand <https://www.bl.uk/votes-for-women/articles/sophia-duleep-singh-princess-and-suffragette> (published on 6th Feb 2018, accessed on May 13th 2021).

This short second movement evokes the essence of Sofia Dunleep Singh, a woman of great determination who first had her passion stirred when she saw the racial injustice towards Indian people at the hands of the British, and then recognised this same injustice and rallying cry in the work of the British suffragettes.

Text:

I am a woman
of no vote
cry with the wind and
I heard
Give us voice
Cri de coeur
it gave me purpose



Princess Sophia Duleep Singh selling "The Suffragette" outside Hampton Court Palace, where she has a suite of apartments.

III. Of Suffrage - Emily Davison

Emily Wilding Davison was an English suffragette who fought for votes for women in Britain. She was a member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and a militant activist for her cause. Through her various actions she ended up being arrested on nine occasions, went on hunger strike seven times and was force-fed on forty-nine occasions. She died after being hit by King George V's horse Anmer at the 1913 Derby when she walked onto the track during the race. It is not known if this was a deliberate act to kill herself, though she had tickets to a concert later that day which suggests this was not her intention. This is still debated to this day. However, she certainly had the conviction to do something extreme for the cause as she had previously attempted to commit suicide in prison in order to halt force-feeding.

'I did it deliberately and with all my power, because I felt that by nothing but the sacrifice of human life would the nation be brought to realise the horrible torture our women face! If I had succeeded I am sure that forcible feeding could not in all conscience have been resorted to again'

Text:

I am a woman
of suffrage
'The true militant suffragette
is an epitome of the determination
of women to possess their souls'
I am a woman of
deeds not words'



written for Hats and Heels

She was a woman...

I. Of courage

Margaret Haig Thomas

Angela Elizabeth Slater

♩ = 82
00.00

Electronics

Spoken voice

Harp

Bassoon

Hand-cranked Music box

♩ = 82

Hand-cranked Music box

Bassoon

c.00.20

Bike wheel

El.

Hp.

Bassoon

c.00.37

c.00.45

3

14

El. **Music box**

Voice. **Spoken word - half voice**

Hp. $E^{\flat} F^{\flat} G^{\flat} A^{\flat}$
 $B^{\flat} C^{\sharp} D^{\flat}$
 $mf \rightarrow p$ *l.v* , $f \rightarrow mp$ *l.v* , Shout Shout

Bsn. *p*

c.00.50

c.01.00

15

El.

Voice. *mp*
I, La-dy Rhon - dda

Hp.

Bsn. *pp_rubato*



16

El. *molto accel.*

Voice. *freely* *mf*
am a wo man of cou rage I jumped

Hp. *p.d.l.t* *ord.* *mf f* *ff* *sfz*

Bsn. *molto accel.* *flz.* *ff*

f

♩ = 104

17

El. *animated*

Voice. on the car of Prime Mi-nis-ter As-quith!

Hp. *mf*

Bsn. *ord.* *fp*

♩ = 104

c.03.04

63

El. 

Voice. 


Hp. 

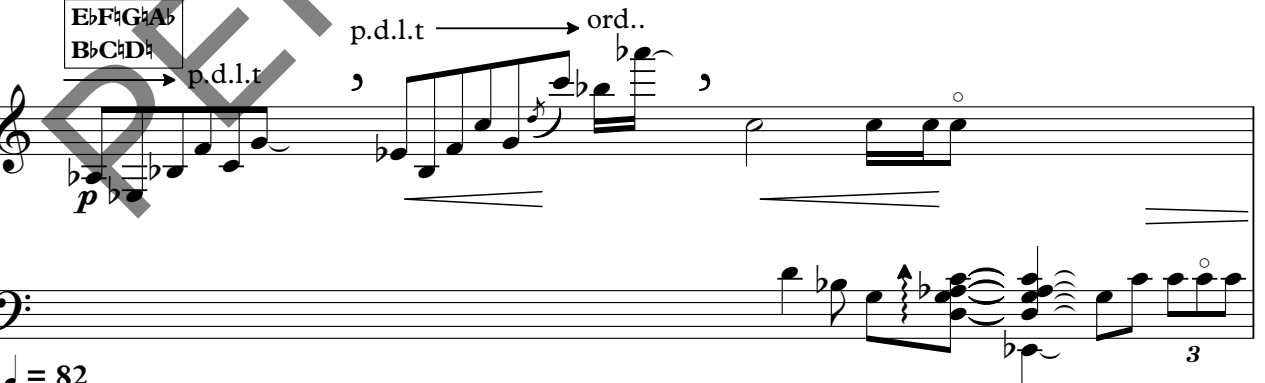

Bsn. 

II. Of no vote
Sophia Duleep Singh


$\text{♩} = 82$
c.3.25

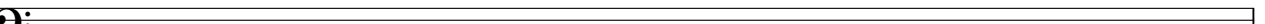
1

El. 

Hp. 

$\text{♩} = 82$

Voice 

Bsn. 

III. Of Suffrage

Emily Davison

$\text{♩} = 82$
4.02

1

El. 

Voice. $\text{♩} = 82$
4.02
I am a wom- an

Hp. $\text{♩} = 82$
4.02
p mf sf pp

Bsn. $\text{♩} = 82$
4.02
p mp

Rolling note III.

4

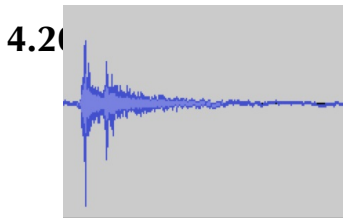
El. 

Voice. $\text{♩} = 82$
4.02
of suf- frage


Hp. $\text{♩} = 82$
4.02
sf pp mf > Ab pp

Bsn. $\text{♩} = 82$
4.02
f p

PERUSAL SCORE



8

El. 

Voice. H $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

The true mi-li tant suf fra gette_

Hp. *sf* *pp* *C#* *B# mf* *A#* *mf* *p*

Bsn. *sf* *mp* *mf*

(tr) *5*

12

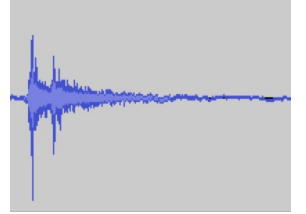
El. 

Voice. $\frac{2}{4}$

Hp. *sf* *BbC#* *pp* *sf* *B#* *pp*

Bsn. *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

let rattle *7*



14

El. { 

Voice. 4/4 is an e - pit - to - me 3 5/8 2/4

Hp. *mf* Ab-C\# BbC4 Db *mf* *sfz* *ff* 3 3 f 3 2/4

Bsn. 13/4 4/4 *mp* 7 *f* 3/4 2/4 *mp*

17

El. { 

Voice. 2/4 3/4 4/4 2/4

Hp. 2/4 3/4 4/4 2/4 *pp* C4

Bsn. 13/4 2/4 3/4 4/4 2/4 2/4 2/4 *mf* 7 *f* *pp* *f*

EbFbGbAb
 BbCbDb

IV. Of Defiance

Ethel Smyth

♩ = 82

c.5.30

El.

Slow Hand cranked music box
version of March of Women plays
throughout

Hp.

Voice

5

El.



Hp.

Voice

7


El.



Hp.

Voice

9


El. 

Hp. *mp*

Voice *ff* *ff* *mp*

♩ = 90

11 slammed

El. 


Hp. *mf*

Voice

me, be-cause M-rs Pank-hurst was with us

13 **molto accel.**

♩ = 112

El. 

Hp. *mf* *f* *gliss.*

F_b *B_b* *D_♯* *F_♯* *D_b*

molto accel.

♩ = 112

Voice *mf cresc.* *ff*

the mur-der-ous co-ward

A tempo ♩ = 82

16

El.



Hp.

Musical notation for piano accompaniment, measures 16-17. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *mf*. Chords: D⁺, G^b.

Voice

A tempo ♩ = 82

Vocal line, measures 16-17. 4/4 time. Lyrics: ly pseu - do hu - mane re - fine - ment

1°

El.



Hp.

Musical notation for piano accompaniment, measures 18-19. Treble clef, 2/4 time. Dynamics: *ff*. Chords: F^b, D^b, C^b, D⁺, C⁺, D^b. A quintuplet (5) is marked.

Voice

Vocal line, measures 18-19. 2/4 time. Dynamics: *f*. Lyrics: the so - called cat and mouse act

20

accel. ♩ = 112

El.



Hp.

Musical notation for piano accompaniment, measures 20-21. Treble clef, 2/4 time. Dynamics: *p* to *f*. Chords: C^b, F⁺. A triplet (3) is marked.

Voice

accel. ♩ = 112

Vocal line, measures 20-21. 2/4 time. Dynamics: *mp* to *mf*. Lyrics: the au - tho - ri - ties dared