1994

The Minister. A one-act opera in six scenes. [Score]

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Boston University
THE OVERTURE

Andante con moto, flessibile

Flute

Vibraphone

Piano

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double bass

poco rit.
 accel.

Vivace, con ironia
Minister: perfect public servant, so they say. The dutiful M. P. hard working...
Minister; the final card Her Majesty can play.
To trump her enemies, however sinister, the perfect public
servant, so they say!
molto rall.  Lento assai

Fl

Cl

Bsn

Hn

Timp.

Min.

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db

Pp

On Richard Hughes, Right Honourable dust!

down here in my surgery.
Whose heart is treason and whose word is perjury! This is the powr I've
won, and this the trust!
Ah Olga! Olga! Let it be that you’ve for-
years of hard ship

Olga, I loved you!
in those years of
hard-ship: Oh Ol-ga, let it be that you've for-given me!
We killed our child, the child that might have
Fl.
Minister

been, that might have been. Shed the less tears:

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.
Enter Servant
senza gioia, moderato

Fl.

Perc.

Minister

Servant

Who are you?
Tim, sir, the one you asked for, sir. sent by the agency.

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.
rall.

Lento assai

Minister

course; so John's still sick?

Servant

He is, sir, sick, sir, but he told me what to do.

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.
Well then, Tim, Sir Henry Milhouse and his wife are due for dinner.
big-wigs, understand? Who must be treated like the Queen of Sheba! Yes, sir,
Where did we meet?

John explained, sir.

I don’t recall, sir, in the street...
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Minister
Servant
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

Yes, in the street.

haps?
old familiar lesson, never learned that every thing we strive for we obtain. But
The cost is happiness, and...
SCENE II: The Dinner Party. The Minister and his Guests are masked.
Tempo di valsa

Fl.

Cl.

Bsn

Hn

Tpt

Sir Henry

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.
Well, Minister, you certainly surprise us: so young and well informed.
How lovely is the view from here!

The last chap -
Lady Milhouse

Sir Henry

With you in charge,

With you in charge,
Sir Henry: you in charge we'll get things started.
New firms will come and bring our youngsters jobs; We'll build at last the school ex-
ten - sion, clean up the streets, and ci - vi - lize the
Andante languido

I was to be an actress, did you know?

yobs!

solo

p express.
Ancora valsa

361

Fl.

Sir Henry

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

In fact, in fact, in fact, in

spiccato

mf

mp

mp

p

p
rubato

Allegro giocoso

Fl. p

Ob. p

Cl. p

Bsn mf marcato

Ha

Tpt ff

Timp.

Sir Henry

fact I'll tell you - in fact I'll tell you what I think: Our town has joined the twentieth

Pno mf

Vln I

Vln II

Vla pizz.

Vc pizz.

Db mf
The wheel of progress turns at last;
e very mar- ket we've an en - try!
Here's to the fu - ture, down with the
Sir Henry Minister

The future!

past! The future!

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Db

Pno

Tpt

Timp.

Perc.

Side-Drum

Cl.

Bsn
I ran away from home to be an actress That was long ago in fifty-three.
Just be 'tween us, Min-ister, the fact is, my wife's a lit-tle mad, as you can see.
Real - ly? Do tell your sto - ry.
My sto - ry? Ha, ha! Ha!
Foxtrot, lento con indolezza

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Ha
Tpt
Minister
Lady Milhouse
Sir Henry
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
My story's Henry here, who married me before I could reach the
stage and brought me down to Higgle-sham to in-vest my you-hoo-outh, to in-vest my
youth in the bank of middle age, the bank of middle age!
But you are young still!

You make me young, dear Minister, you appeal to my artistic...
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Timp.
Minister
Lady Milhouse
Sir Henry
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

so young!
tem - pera - ment.
to my ar - tis - tic
tem - pera - ment!
to her ar-tis-tic tem-pera-ment!
tem - pera - ment!
This house is just the
Fl. & ob. & cl. & basso

Lady Milhouse: phis-tine, no taste in any thing save wine

Sir Henry: Yes, you could build

Minister: Ho!
I'm no, no! I'm further add a pool a pool!

Henry, do shut up! You're such a fool!
Dear Minister, you must find us so provincial!
Lady Milhouse: I don’t know what you mean!
Minister: You don’t know what I (wakes up)
Don't know what you mean.

Don't know what I mean?

In fact I'll tell you what I think. In fact I'll tell you what I think, in fact,
mean? I mean this life in Higglesham

in fact, in fact I'll tell you what I think, what I think,
Life in Higglesham

Higglesham, The life we lead, asleep beside the

what I think, in fact,
in fact I'll tell you what I think.

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bsn
Ha
Perc.
Minister
Lady Milhouse
Sir Henry
Vib.
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc
Db

Vivo agitato
(4 + 3)

senza sord.

WOODBLOCKS
Those are the eyes that watched me on that
Lady Milhouse: troubled day!

Sir Henry: Joanna, you are not well; I'll take you home,
tell us what you mean.

Henry was at the office, the children at home.
school and the cook on holiday.

One of those days when...
time stands still and the veins of the present are swollen by the past
I sat alone amid our antique furniture, watching the dancing foam flecks out at

poco più vivo
I felt a strange sensation, as
though another person was watching me. I left the house, he followed me un-
561

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn

Ha

Tpt

Minister

Lady Milhouse

Sir Henry

Vib.

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

Til I knew those eyes I could not see, knew them in the desolate world they
looked on. The town was wrapped in silence, the small white
houses side by side on their beds of grass like sleeping heads on pillows
Animé, lumineux

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Minister
Servant
Lady Milhouse
Sir Henry

Listen to her story.

eh?
Where was she going?
Where was she going?
Where was she going?
Where was I going?

... to a grave.
Agitato
rall.

Fl

Cl

Bsn

Minister

Servant

Lady Milhouse

he’s right!

my footsteps led me

Sir Henry

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Db
Lady Milhouse: to a spot behind the church: not consecrated ground, a little patch of nettles by a

Sir Henry:
water. Half hidden in the damp green under growth, a stone on which a name had been in-
Minister

Servant

Lady Milhouse

Sir Henry

Vlah

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

There was no date.

'Died' The date, there was no date, that's right; nor could I read the name.

Who are you?
Please don't blame my interruptions.
My mother says I'm psychic, I see what might have
His mother says he's psychic, psychic, psychic.

His mother
been.

minister

Servant
He sees what might have been, what might have been.
SCENE III: The Servant removes Lady Milhouse’s mask to reveal Olga.

**Con moto**

**Animando**

*Repeat this bar as necessary.*
Olga, here!
Yes, Olga!

Here!
Yes, Olga!
Yes, Richard; always with you. All these fifteen years—
Andante con moto

Olga

part from you

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn

Hn

Minister

Olga!

p express.

pp

p

pp
Oh let it be that you've forgiven me!

What a jolly, jolly evening!
Moderato cantabile

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn

Har.

Minister

Olga

Re -mem -ber our life and our love, our love.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.
Our life and our love, life in that house that was ours.
life in that house that was ours. where you brought me to stay at your
side.

Re-mem-ber, dear Ri-chard, re-mem-ber me!
Ah, let it be that you've forgiven me!
gave you all, I gave you every thing my love, my trust, my wisdom and my life. And
when you said _ Give up your hope_ I took my hope and stifled it _ For this thing
every-thing your love, your trust, your wisdom and your life;
And

Everything! My love, my life.
when I said, Give up your hope', you took your hope and stifled it,  

When you said, Give up your hope' I took my hope and stifled it.
For this thing too I sought, and this thing too you'd give.

for this thing too you sought and this thing too I'd give.
Yes, it was I who made.

Was it you who made those
who made those promises from a stranger's face.

pro-mises, or did a stranger wear your face? And did this
And did this love of yours leave no trace?

Ah Olga

love of mine, this love of mine leave not a trace?

You held me so tight in those
Ah Olga, Ah Olga, Olga!

times of desire

I was your guide, your light and your fire; you

Ah Olga, Ah Olga, Olga!
Forgive me! Ah Olga,

prayed to me: Angel, don’t leave me alone.
Forgive me!

Help me your husband, your lover, your son,
but those loving tokens that
Olga

You gave me all you gave me

meant so much vanished vanished at your touch.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

You gave me all you gave me

meant so much vanished vanished at your touch.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.
every thing your love, your trust, your wisdom and your life, And

gave you all, I gave you all, all! And

And
when I said give up your hope, you took your hope and stifled

when you said, give up your hope give
it. for this thing too I sought, and this thing too you'd give.

up your hope! Give up your hope: I stifled it.
molto rit. poco a poco accel.

I had nothing when you
You guess what happened then:

WOOD BLOCKS
guess my need for men, who gave me bread, but ne-ver smiled when in our bed they...
Olga, clam-bered on my corpse; for I was dead, dead al-re-a-dy, dead.
Hear me, hear me!

Let him speak, for time is running out.

I was already, dead!
risoluto

acted for the best, I had to use what arts were mine to
Minister

rise, and rise I must, like oil in water.

Pno
You sank away from me.
me; despise me for it, but you know, you know it's true
Lento piangendo
Love without pow’r can not endure.

Love meant less to you than power.
Love without pow'r cannot endure.

That power less

Love meant less to you than power.
Love was premature.

Love meant less to you than
Love meant less to me than power.

Love meant less to you than power.

Love meant less to you than power.
Love meant less to me than power.

Love meant less to you than power.

Love meant less to you than power.

Love meant less to you than power.
Yet I loved you then, dear Olga; all the
power I have I'd give.

To
know that you've for-given mé.
To know that you've forgiven me.

For give him.

For give him.

To know that you've forgiven me.

For give him.
For time is running out.
Only in the
give me, for give - me!

Time is run - ning out, is run - ning out.

world, the world that might have been, for - give - ness lies.
Mime as the scene fades (optional)
SCENE IV: The servant has replaced Lady Milhouse’s mask.
Ah! you almost caught me talking, talking to my—
self, you stayed away so long, dear Lady Milhouse.

O.K., I'm back now.
Tempo di valsa

Minister

Lady Milhouse

Sir Henry

Boo-hah!

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Db

f
cresc.

f
cresc.

f
cresc.

f
cresc.

Boo-hah!

Hen-ry, dear, are you awake?

852
tale, and my mis-take to tell it
Just someone for a day in my employ.

is this boy?
timido, tempo di valsa

A tempo, con corraggio

rall.  

rall. Andante

Fl.

Fl.

Fl.

Cl.

Cl.

Cl.

Bsn

Bsn

Bsn

Hn

Hn

Hn

Tpt

Tpt

Tpt

Minister

Minister

Minister

Lady Milhouse

Lady Milhouse

Lady Milhouse

Sir Henry

Sir Henry

Sir Henry

Some one for a day in your employ.
It was a foo-lish tale, a foo-lish tale.

It was a foo-lish tale,
Your story, dear, reminded me of...
some thing else that hap-pened in this room, right here, two weeks a-go, two weeks a-go to

To whom?

I came, dear mi-ni-ster, I came for

con moto
your advice about that patch, that very patch of rotten land behind the church: it would be nice to build on it. Oh, nothing grand, some offices perhaps, a supermarket,
may be just a car park. You were away, this boy here let me in.
It must have been old John.

No unless I dreamt the whole affair, it
was this boy, who set me down right there, beside the window, saying he would come to tell me, just as soon as you were home.

The sun was
shining, the sea was red, deep red,
like blood, beneath the window.
sudden, across the beach there came a cry:
long anguish,
full of fear.

Out at sea I saw a hand raised
up, the hand of some-one drown-ing. I called but no-one came and run-ning out I
thought I heard my name shouted in desperation from the waves.
I can not swim, I cried, I looked for help, but there...
was none. The long bleached sand was like the sand in dreams.
a carpet of pure light stretching untroubled to infinity.
and no sound came save the
tire - ly.
sound of the sea.
Did you report this?
I came to sit a-
while, for I was shaken. I told the boy, he said I had not left my place beside the
Is this true, Tim?

As dreams are, yes, it might have fire, where I had slept and dreamed.
SCENE V: The Servant removes Sir Henry’s mask to reveal William
Here I am, beside you always!
Faithful now these twenty years.

Yes, twenty years.
since you and I competed for the seat at Higlesham.
Andante amoroso

I loved you, Richard, loved you,
Moderato

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn

Hn

Tpt

Minister

Lady Milhouse

William

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

Don’t! Don’t!

What a fas-ci-na-ting eve-ning!

loved you, loved you.

My legato

p legato

espress.

espress.

espress.

espress.
teacher and my hero, my friend and my father, my unbeliefing priest, the...
one that I would rather trust, would rather trust than all who courted me, than
all who courted me; whose voice and face and hands were dear tokens of e-

poco a poco cresc.
ter-ni-ty, the fi-nal cause of all our in-dus-try, the cause of all our
in-dus-try:

Richard the world was ours, and we would govern it,

fl.

cl.

bsn.

harp

tpt.

minister

william

vl I

vl II

vla

vc.

db.
Your teacher, -

we would go - vern it! My tea - cher and my he - ro, friend and

B

fl

ob

cl

bsn

hn

tpt

minister

vln i

vln ii

vla

vc

db

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one that you would rather trust would rather trust,

rather trust would rather trust than all who courted
Tranquillo

then all who courted you.

me, then all who courted me.
They offered
me the seat you wanted yes, offered me the
Fl.
Cl.
Bsn
Tpt
William
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
dull, and dull; philistine and dull. The perfect
Allegro moderato

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Perc.
Minister
William
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

\( mf \)
\( f \rightarrow p \)
\( f \rightarrow p \)
\( \text{senza sord.} \)
\( mf \)
TRIANGLE
\( \text{And so it} \)
\( \text{rung to clamber to the stars!} \)
\( f \text{cresc.} \)
\( p \)
\( p \)
\( p \)
Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Minister

was!

William

so one by one you told them: party of - fi-cers and big - wigs; To-ry

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

sempron f

Vc.

Db.
ladies, e-venthe hun-gry ti-gers of the Press!
Not Wil-li-am, you
said; for William is queer, queer, queer; I've proof of it, I've proof of it.
and proof you had: I loved you, I loved you.
You must forgive me,

To you I had told the secret I had hidden from the world.
chan - ces slipped a - way, till I was dead to eve - ry thing
Animando