Create an original libretto to the music of Schubert Fantasie in F minor- Lucas and Arthur Jussen.

I’m writing to give you a little bit of background on how I developed my libretto before you read it. The Royal Ballet’s repertoire includes a ballet called “Mayerling” which is based on the dark and distrubed love story between Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria and his mistress Mary Vetsara. It’s a very intense and twisted ballet, but is also one of the most captivating and authentic performances I’ve ever come across. It brought a passionate and nightmarish story of love and death to life, and I likely would not have discovered it otherwise. Since first coming across this ballet a few months ago, I’ve been fascinated with the idea of sharing history through ballet. Upon reading about our assignment for the week and listening to the music, I was inspired to do the same.

    Schubert’s Fantasie in F minor was a beautiful piece of music that brought me feelings of youth, love, maturity, loss, and grief. While I began taking notes and creating potential storylines to match the music, I started thinking about the story of Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert. Queen Victoria came to inherit her throne at age eighteen, and was soon encouraged to marry. When she had first met her cousin Albert a year before, her feelings were nothing out of the ordinary. When they met two years later, however, she quickly fell in love, and asked him to marry her just five days after his arrival. The pair were deeply in love, and throughout their marriage Victoria relied on Albert in nearly every way. They did face some issues, however. Victoria experienced great internal conflict in balancing her traditional role of a dutiful wife while she held so much power over Albert as monarch. She also deeply struggled to embrace motherhood. Nevertheless, their love remained deep. Their relationship came to a tragic end after 21 years of marriage when Albert died of typhoid fever. Victoria’s grief was all consuming. She withdrew from society and many of her roles as monarch, leaving the country as lost as she felt. Though she eventually found the strength to lead her country for another 40 years, she wore black for the rest of her life. Her mourning was never over. As I developed the scenes to my ballet, they were done per my imagination of Albert and Victoria’s love story. I attempted to include the approximate times in the music where I could see the scenes playing out, as the music wholly directed my imagination. Due to the length of the score, the story is broken up into a few distinct scenes. Still, I’m hopeful that my vision/imagination reads clear on paper.

I have also included the link to a video by The Royal Ballet where their cast and directors explain the story behind Mayerling, as well as what the production means to them, just in case you were interested. The video also includes clips from the performance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR6ah35Vm1g> (Mayerling)

<https://drive.google.com/a/mci-school.org/file/d/1rUVRfLgb_u0Pk_TayqvANCRC36clVyPj/view?usp=drivesdk> (Libretto Assignment)

Scene 1:

The scene opens on the inside of a palace, where the future Queen Victoria sits in her bedroom.

A young woman sits before her vanity as a servant brushes her hair and helps her prepare for the day. The girl is Queen Victoria of England. She is youthful, but clearly mature. Her mother knocks on the door, and converses with her as she gets dressed. Her German cousin, Francis Albert Emmanuel, is to visit later that day, and her mother reminds her that she must soon marry, and he is a potential suitor. Victoria has no such expectations, recalling their introduction two years before, which was nothing more than cordial. She travels with her mother from her room, and goes to greet her cousin. Their conversation is polite, as it was when they first met, but something is different, more exciting. Victoria can’t help but smile. (0:00 to 2:38)

When Albert leaves later that day, he kisses her hand, and Victoria feels a flutter in her heart as her cheeks blush red. She hurries to her room and frantically opens a drawer from which she pulls out her diary. She sits at her desk and writes eagerly of Albert. Her heart feels full of admiration and anticipation. She finally rests her hand down, and places the diary back into her drawer (2:38 to 4:17). Victoria stands up, and begins to dance alone in her room. As her imagination grows, she imagines that Albert is there with her. While she is with him, her excitement transforms into deeper, more serious feelings of love. She eventually drops onto her bed, and falls asleep (4:20 to 6:16).

Scene 2:

The stage darkens, and when it lights up again, Queen Victoria enters a crowded stage in a white wedding dress.

Victoria, dressed in a long, white gown steps through the doors of a church. She looks forward, down a long aisle, and her eyes meet Albert’s. As he smiles at her, the guests rise, and Victoria starts down the aisle. Her heart is a mix of excitement and nervousness, but as she comes to stand beside him, she knows she is exactly where she should be (6:16 to 7:05).

Scene fades, and with it all the people. Lights up on Albert and Victoria, standing in the same position, looking directly at one another.

Victoria and Albert, now married, begin to fall into the routine of their new lives together. The two, completely in love, begin to realize the daily difficulties of a marriage. Victoria is constantly pulled away with various meetings and roles to fulfill, and Albert begins to feel purposeless. Victoria worries she can’t be a good wife and monarch at the same time. The

couple fight and argue, but never so much they don’t wish to return to each other. Victoria confides in Albert, and he counsels her in return, and in doing so they both find comfort in each other (8:02 to 12:05). As their lives continue, they also choose each other. No matter the issue they face, their love is unyielding. Twenty-one years after their wedding, in the midst of their typical lives, Albert abruptly becomes very sick with typhoid fever, and dies (12:05 to 12:17).

The scene, which began with Victoria and Albert dancing a pas de deux on an empty stage, are pulled apart as different characters in their lives approach them, but they always return to each other. When Albert dies, the stage empties of everyone except Victoria and Albert.

Victoria is in a state of absolute shock. Her grief is not passionate, angry, or despairing; it is empty. She cannot understand what has happened, and her mind sinks into the past. She sees herself meeting Albert, writing in her diary, falling in love, proposing, getting married, arguing, supporting each other, having children, laughing, dancing– she sees bits and pieces of everything, but she cannot bring herself to see the truth (12:20 to 15:53). (​The scene around her transforms as she watches her love story play out. Once the dancing is done, she sits in an empty room. Albert is gone, and Victoria is wearing a black dress, signifying the passage of time while she has been trapped in her own mind.) ​As Victoria’s depression continues, various figures in her life come to visit her. In her grief, she has abandoned her country. They are in need of their monarch, and beg her to help over and over. Victoria cannot bring herself to respond. She feels empty and confused. She lost more than just her husband– she lost her confidant, advisor, friend, the person she relied on for counsel and guidance in every aspect of life. She no longer knows what to do, and is too lost to even try (15:53 to 16:56).

After some time, Victoria begins to wake up. She allows herself to feel her anguish, rather than just emptiness. It is painful and terrible, but she finally, ​finally accepts​ it. There is little strength in this moment– no passion, not even anguish or hatred. It comes from a place of pure exhaustion. She is tired of her grief, and now must pick herself up and attempt to move on. And in the end, she will emerge strong (17:00 to 17:55).

Mateusz Łojewski Ballet Assignment March 26, 2020

Music: Schubert Fantasie in F minor- Lucas and Arthur Jussen Ballet in two acts.

Prologue

The children of a man have recently gone missing. He is heartbroken and filled with grief. Instead of mourning he takes action and sets off on a journey to find them. This story pertains to his life before the mysterious disappearances of his children and his journey to go find them.

Act One

As the sun rises, the town stirs with people hard at work. However, one man had already awoken hours ago. He sits anxiously wondering where his two children may have gone. He had searched and searched for quite some time around the house and in the surrounding property. His mind began to slow down. A knock comes from the door. He rushes over and rips the door open. There's no one there. He continues outside and still sees no one. He no longer feels despair, just anger. Who is playing this sick game with him he wonders. He storms back inside and begins packing a bag. He thrusts food and water into the bag and storms out onto the street. The street leads him out onto a plain. He can see for miles. He continues walking for a long time.

Act Two

He walks for hours until his legs are numb and his body is plagued with fatigue. The path continues into a tall dark forest and so does he. As he drags his weak body into the forest the height of the massive trees, the eerie silence of the forest, its strange ambience gives him a feeling of elation. His exhaustion lifts out of his body. He feels every hair on his body rise with a breeze of cool soothing air. He’s overwhelmed with spontaneous joy. He starts running through the forest. In the dark forest next to him he sees his children running with him. He stops instantly in disbelief. His children continued running. He yells for them to stop running but they don’t listen. He starts walking towards them. The slow pace quickly accelerates and he is in full sprint after his children. He hadn’t come this far for nothing. His children start to fade away into the darkness of the forest. There is nothing but the faint whisper of wind and rustling trees. He just stands in the darkness that surrounds him. He feels utterly defeated. He starts dragging himself back home.

Olivia Weissbach

Death by Love and Music

Libretto for Schubert Fantasie in F minor

Personages:

Luis Page

Adrienne Couture

Sir Dion Lefebre

Amélie Couture

Dianne

Death by Love and Music libretto:

Enter a low rent neighborhood in Paris, 1901.

Prelude:

The chorus of villagers walking around the buildings. Luis walks though them with his music sheets tucked under one arm on his way to a party.

VILLAGERS

Rich old Sir. Dion Lefebre

invited many of his friends over

for a party in his ballroom.

He hired a young pianist to play music

for his guests' entertainment.

While at the party, Luis met Adrienne

They talked and fell in love.

Luis was the best pianist in Paris

at then, but little did he know

of the death his music brought

upon the unsuspecting player.

Scene No.1

Enter the grand ball room in Sir. Dion's house. The room is filled with well dressed guests milling about and enjoying the music, hors d'oeuvres and drinks with their host and hostess. Luis sits in the corner at the piano, to the right of the desert table, which set with glowing candelabras.

(Sir Dion hastily walks to the door

to welcome his first guest.)

DION

Welcome Lady Amélie.

You look as beautiful as ever, and your

daughter Adrienne as well.

Though it is good to see you here,

I thought you were not coming.

AMÉLIE

I would never miss a chance

to dance, I thought you knew that

Dion.

DION

I suppose I should know by now.

May I show you to the ballroom?

AMÉLIE

I would love that! Are we late?

DION

No, you are but the first to arrive.

AMÉLIE

Excellent!

(They walk to the ballroom and enter.

Adrienne notices Luis in the corner

preparing his instrument)

ADRIENNE

Who is that man in the corner?

DION

He is but a hired musician.

(Dion hears a knock on the door)

DION

Excuse me Ladies.

(Dion exits to see who has arrived. Meanwhile,

Adrienne goes to talk to Luis.)

ADRIENNE

Hello, are you the musician?

I am Adrienne, daughter of Amélie.

LUIS

Yes Lady Adrienne, is there something you would like

me to play?

ADRIENNE

Would you not like to talk first? What is your name and

where do you live?

LUIS

I am Luis; and I live in an abandoned building, with my

mother, not far from here.

ADRIENNE

I see! How did you end up here?

LUIS

I was playing the piano in a bar, when Dion

walked in searching for someone to play at

his party. I was in need of money, so I accepted.

ADRIENNE

Well, if Dion hired you, you must have

talent. Will you play a piece?

LUIS

Of course my Lady.

(Luis starts to play a soft tune. More guests arrive

and Luis plays music through the night. At the end of the

party Luis is packing his stuff when Adrienne comes over.)

ADRIENNE

Your music is an inspiration. Where

did you learn and who is the composer?

LUIS

The music is my own.

I taught myself on the piano in the bar that

Dion found me in.

ADRIENNE

The music is wonderful.

It is even more inspiring after hearing that you taught

yourself. I did not know that was possible.

(Dion and Amélie break up the conversation)

DION

I'm afraid my wife and I will be headed to bed.

The maid can fetch your coats, and give Luis

his pay. (to Luis) You earned it young man.

ADRIENNE

Well thank you for your hospitality Sir!

(to Luis) Your music was exceptional and I hope

to see you again. Goodbye

to you both.

LUIS

I hope to see you too Lady Adrienne.

(Adrienne and Amélie leave and Luis starts to walk to

his family)

(While walking home, Luis starts to hear the music

that he played during the party, it starts to get louder

and give him a headache. The headache soon becomes

severe and he collapses and faints.)

Scene No. 2

(Luis wakes up in a strange room with Adrienne and

his mother looking over him)

LUIS

Mother? Where am I?

DIANNE (Luis' mother)

Luis, this young woman, Adrienne, saw

you on the ground next to the road and quickly

brought you here. You are at Dion's house where we

called for a doctor.

ADRIENNE

Luis, what happened? You seemed fine at the

end of the party!

LUIS

I..I kept hearing the music I played last night.

It was getting louder and I couldn't think and I was getting

a headache, thus I collapsed and I cant remember after that.

DIANNE

Do you still hear the music?

LUIS

Yes, it's nonstop and it leaves a pulsing headache.

ADRIENNE

If you go to sleep you'll feel better.

(Adrienne and Dianne leave)

(Luis tries to sleep, but he can't due to the headache

and the music getting louder and louder. Adrienne comes in

as Luis is about to climb out the window and escape)

ADRIENNE

Luis, don't! I know you've been hearing the music,

but can it really be that bad?

LUIS

You have no idea what it's like! It hurts like my brain

will shatter or explode.

(Right at that moment a parrot lands on the tree outside the window.

Adrienne looks at it for a moment and it was so calm that it gave

her an idea.)

ADRIENNE

Luis, maybe if we go around Paris and explore

we can get your mind of the music and it will help

you.

LUIS

Do you really think it will help?

ADRIENNE

Do you have any other ideas, genius?

You were climbing out of a window, who knows

what you would have done.

LUIS

Okay, fine, if you will let me be after.

ADRIENNE

Deal!

(The two explored Paris, they went to Notre Dame, the

Luxemburg Gardens, and the Louvre where they saw

Leonardo da Vinci's most famous

painting the Mona Lisa. They were starting

to fall in love with one another, but the music in

Luis' head was only getting worse.)

ADRIENNE

We have been all over Paris, do you want to go

to the top of Eiffel Tower? Then we can go home.

LUIS

I'd love too!

(the two went to the Eiffel Tower and made it

to the top.)

LUIS

Adrienne, being with you all day has showed me

something!

ADRIENNE

What?

LUIS

I love you Adrienne, which is why I can't put you

through this. The music isn't getting any quieter and

soon I wont be able to hear anything. I can't

live with the music, I can't live with not being able to

 hear your voice.

ADRIENNE

Even with the music, I love you. I don't care if soon

you can't hear me, you'll never be able to get rid of me Luis.

LUIS

I care if I cant hear you, nothing could keep me in this

world anymore. There is only one way to stop the music,

one way where you can still have a life without worrying

for me.

(He climbed onto the ledge)

ADRIENNE

What are you doing?

LUIS

I love you!

(Right after he said that he jumped off the top of the Eiffel

Tower. Adrienne ran down to help him, but he had died at

sunrise on April 9th, 1901.)

Jane Weymouth

Libretto

The day has just begun in the small village of Carcassonne, and villagers have started their daily chores. Irina, a peasant who is well known for her beauty, is preparing for her wedding day in her small home. With the help of her friends and family, she completes these tasks with ease. While she awaits for her fiance to arrive, a messenger comes in bearing sorrowful news. Irina’s fiance has been found dead in his home. Distraught with grief, Irina runs away to a nearby forest, where she hopes she can collect her thoughts in peace. As Irina travels farther into the forest, she becomes lost and begins to panic. She starts to hallucinate, and the world around her changes. The trees turn into dark, menacing figures that dance around her, and she sees her dead fiance in the distance. Irina becomes so overwhelmed to the point where she is driven crazy and faints from shock and stress.

When Irina wakes up, she is no longer in the forest, but instead, she finds herself inside a small house. As she looks around the room she is in, she notices a hooded figure in the corner. Noticing that Irina is awake, the figure comes closer, explaining that Irina is stuck in the past, specifically the point in time where she met her fiance. The figure then continues to explain that she will allow Irina to relive her life with her fiance for a certain price. In exchange, she must give up her beauty and trade appearances with the hooded figure. Taking no time to listen to what else the mysterious figure had to say, Irina agrees, never knowing what she must give in exchange.

As the day went on, Irina was instructed that when the evening came, she was to go to a ball in a nearby kingdom, where she would soon meet her fiance again. Trusting the figure’s words, Irina went to the ball that night, and once again met her fiance. They both fell in love with each other all over again, and enjoyed many dances together. Irina soon forgot about all her worries, and became immersed in her surroundings, enjoying the festivities and dances of the night. Unnoticed by Irina, her appearance slowly began to change as the night dragged on, and her beauty started to fade away. Her fiance invites her to dance one last time before the night ends, once their dance is finished, he comes to the realization that Irina’s appearance has changed. She is no longer a beautiful girl, but instead has transformed into an ugly, old woman. Overcome with shock and anger, her fiance declares her to be a witch, and in result Irina is taken away, only to never return.

Luiza Garnier Ballet assignment March 23, 2020

Fulana

Ballet in 3 acts
Music: Schubert Fantasie in F minor - Lucas & Arthur Jussen Libretto:

Prologue:​ C​ iclano is a powerful rich man with a big and great influence in the country, young people from all over the world travel with the hope to get the chance to work with him to initiate their career. The man has a daughter and he raised her really strictly, she is a young woman about the same age as the forengen students in the internship working for Ciclano. She became really close to this group composed of 1 young woman, Maria and 2 young men, Pedro and Arthur, who she fell in love with. But It was the end of their contract time for them to return to their country. The ballet starts with Fulana on the stage with the 3 friends going away, she is saying goodbye, and then is left alone and sad (2:10).

Act 1: ​Fulana in her room with Ciclano and 2 maids.
The father and the maids are talking to Fulana, she is upset from the loss of her friends, she decides to do something, she could not just let them go, especiallyArthur, she was sure that he was the one and wouldn't let him be the one who got away (2:38). The father and the maids try to hold her, she is completely out of her mind and acting crazy (3:12). She calms down for a moment, and her father goes to bed because it’s late and it was a long day (3:39). When he walks away, Fulana immediately talks to the maids, trying to get their help to make a plan so she could go after her friends. They think Fulana is crazy, and that could never happen, so they prepare her to sleep and leave the room. Once she is alone, she starts to think and maybe realize that she is actually out of her mind and she can’t go after them, but memories from when they were here starts to come to her mind. (4:48) The 3 friends show up as a vision from her imagination for 37 seconds, enough time for her to realize that she needs to go after them (5:25). She takes a bag which was already prepared before, money and her father’s coat of arms and runs away (6:15).

Act 2: ​Fulana is asleep in the ship that she snuck in in the night before.
She wakes up, looks around and can barely see the post anymore, she is already far away. Fulanna feels the wind and for the first time she feels free (6:43). A man from the tribulation comes asking who is she and what is she doing there with an angry tone, she shows her father’s coat of arms to prove that she is his daughter and was there on a last minute important trip in his name (6:57) .The man is a little suspicious, so she gives him money, he agrees and give her a suite (7:00). Her journey begins, having butterflies in her stomach, thinking that maybe it was a bad idea, but she is already there, so she dances trying to enjoy her freedom and forget that she is still scared, because there is no turning back (8:00). Suddenly she sees a dolfing in the ocean, and her worries start to faith away, Fulana is meeting new people, trying different things, dancing with the other passengers and living like she never did stuck in her mansion with her father and

the maids (11:59). It is time to land, and then she has a reality shock, Fulana is by herself, about to get in a country that she never been before. Fulana gets out of the ship completely rushed and lost... she landed (12:12).

Act 3: ​Fulana is walking through the streets of the city trying to find her friends.
After walking for some time, she finally sees her friends, and freezes, she can't believe that she made it (13:22). They are happy together, and Fulana is so relieved to see them again (13:51). Ciclano shows up, he was so worried about her, he says sorry being so strict, but it was all because he loves her. She understands, but asks for one last dance with Maria, Arthur and Pedro, he says ok but in the end of the afternoon they would take the next ship and go back (16:00) The time came, but Arthur and Fulana finally tell Ciclano that they are in Love, she would not go back, she was old enough to make her own decisions and would not waste her life without living. Ciclano and Arthur start an argument but Fulana stops them, this was on her (16:55) she dances for her father expressing how much it would mean to her if she stayed. He sees her expressions and believes in her instincts for the first time. She would finally live her own life.

Riley Max Week 2 Ballet Assignment 3/26/20

The scene opens in the town of Boston, circa 1895 with a woman wandering around empty streets in the rain. She has lost her child weeks ago in the marketplace and hasn’t stopped searching since. She looks in empty storefronts, looks down alleyways, and fails to find her beloved child. Each repetition of the first melody is yet another week she spends looking for her missing child. Often, she is confronted with evil and darkness, blocking her path to her child.

The woman ages, but her love for her child only grows stronger. The music grows delicate as she gets older because she can feel her connection with her child fading. As she feels she is losing her child, she also feels like she is losing herself. She is lost in the chase, and unable to pull herself out of the abyss she has been pulled into.

Years go by, and the mother finally becomes at peace with her lost child. She knows that he has probably gone far far away by this point, so she has come to terms with his disappearance. After one final breakdown, she returns to life as it was before. She cleans her house, resumes her everyday activities, and lives her life out the way her son would’ve wanted her to. She carries a daughter in memory of her son, and raises her with the aspirations she had once for her son. She proudly watches her daughter grow into an educated young woman, and is awestruck by her accomplishments. All throughout watching her daughter grow, she reminisces on what her son would’ve accomplished.

Just as the daughter and mother are happy with their lives, they start to forget about the son once lost. They attend gatherings, and they both find lots of joy from being around one another. Their bond grows stronger, and the music grows more blissful as the pair forget about the darkness that once plagued their lives.

The mother grows old to watch her daughter get married and have children. By this point, the mother is much too old to keep looking for her son. But as her daughter moves away, the mother grows increasingly more isolated as time consumes her lonely soul. One day at the marketplace, she encounters a strange man, staring at her from across the store. The mother can’t help but compare his striking features to the ones she once knew on a young boy. Overcome with emotions, she collapses on the floor and never wakes again.

After a cut in the music, the original melody starts again with the strange man holding an old woman in his arms. After many years of never seeing his mother, he barely recognizes her face, stricken with age. We see reflections on his past memories with his mother. We see her cooking for him, walking him to school, picking out his sunday best for church. He is reminiscing on his past memories that always brought him joy. The memories that gave him hope when searching for his long lost mother.

But then, the music turns dark once again. The boy is now confronted with the evil and darkness that prevented his mother from finding him. He remembers the last time he saw her. He remembers the busy marketplace and the hoards of people trying to get fruits and vegetables. Then, his memory goes black.

With the last repetition of the melody, he is paralyzed with grief. He runs from the marketplace, leaving his mother’s side for the last time.

Somnia by Jagoda Nowak

ACT I:

A man, Andrew cries over his wife’s grave. He is in mourning over loosing her. He finds every thing that surrounds him a reminder about her. On his way back from the grave yard to home he passes the town market and he looks like a shadow surrounded by people full of life and happiness.

When Andrew gets back to his house he is very tired and goes to sleep.

He wakes up seeing a creature. He is afraid of a ghost but when he realizes it’s his wife he starts dancing with her and doesn’t want to let her go, again. When he actually wakes up he is not sure if it was a dream or reality. He goes looking for her. He shows up on the market looking for her face in the crowd, does not success.

He goes back home and exhausted of searching falls asleep. He meets his wife again and the next morning he realizes that the only way to see her is in his dreams. The next day he goes to buy flowers for present. He comes back home in rush to fall asleep with flowers as a gift for his love. They meet again behave like kids, playing around. One night he asks her to go back with her but she explains that it is not possible, she doesn’t belong to that world anymore.

ACT II:

Andrew’s thoughts were happy because he finally got his wife back. But he couldn’t stand moments without her. He was struggling during the day because he knew she can’t be with him in real life.

One night he couldn’t fall asleep. He was furious that he can not meet his wife. He got sad but also angry. The next night he couldn’t fall asleep either. He feels hopeless without being able to see her.

In state of hopelessness and depression Andrew gets medicine to finally be able to fall asleep - Somnia. He wants to see his wife so badly that he swallows all the pills.

He finally gets to see his wife and explains her how desperate he was. They dance together, and this time the sun doesn’t rise up again. He stays with her forever, forever in sleep.