

ENCHANTED LABYRINTHS

a one-act opera in nine scenes



Thomas Peter O'Brien: Begetter / Librettist

Augusta Read Thomas: Composer

40:04

LIBRETTO WITH ANNOTATIONS (pages 2 - 12)

~ ~ ~ ~

LIBRETTO WITHOUT ANNOTATIONS (pages 13 - 21)

2026

“Into the Labyrinth” – Excerpt I, 2:24

Soprano A

Oh [[French “eau”: water](#)] I have lived ... and loved ... and left ... And on ... tell me now ... Ariel [[spirit from Shakespeare, The Tempest; aerial](#)] areola [[circular, pigmented flesh surrounding a nipple](#)] Anna and Livia yes [[Anna Liffey: old name for the River Liffey, Ireland](#)] ... And on again. [[on again: Finn Again](#)]

Soprano B

And I’ve loved ... Oh loved ... and left ... Yes, tell me, [[Verdi, Otello; Rossini, William Tell](#)] and now ... And on again ... tell me all ... I’ve lived ... and laughed ... and loved ... and left ... again [[Giambattista Vico’s four historical cycles: divine, heroic, human, recurrence/return](#)] ...

Tenor

I’ve lived ... Yes, tell me, tell ... I have loved and left ... Remember ... Remember [[re-member: to put together again; Purcell, Dido and Aeneas: “remember me”](#)] ... Till thousands thee [[Leopold Bloom in Ulysses on his member: “The limp father of thousands”](#)] ... tell ... And on again.

Baritone

I’ve lived ... and laughed ... Oh ... Remember ... with love ay loved [[with love I loved; “Love loves to love love”: Ulysses](#)] ... Yes, yes [[“yes I said yes I will Yes”: Ulysses](#)] ... And on ... And on again ...

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #1” – Excerpt 2, 3:49

Soprano A

I'll tell you a test [[river: Test](#)].
But you must sit still [[river: Still](#)] ... Will you hold your peace [[river: Peace; piece](#)] ... and listen to what I'm after going to say? [[Hiberno-English “to be after”: past tense verb formation](#)] Will you? Et cetera ... Will you? Et ... et cetera ... ah ... my wise eye ... again ... alive heart ... A tale of stem or stone ... Flock and talk ... Welcome ... On-on [[river: Onon](#)] ... wise armorica [[ancient name of Brittany – cf. Wagner; America](#)] ... The tale, the water, the apple's [[Bible & Isaac Newton](#)] bright core ... ah...
Regards! ... Hello ... ah ...
Teems of times and happy tales ... Anna ... oh ... out of our Sans Creed [[Sanskrit: screed: gossipy writing](#)] and into our [[your; our; hour; pure](#)] Erin! [[mythic Ireland](#)] Et ... and so on and so forth.

Soprano B

Hello! [[“Hello! Kinch here. Put me on to Edenville.” Ulysses](#)] ...
Ah ... Yes! ... Oh tell me all ... oh ... Here we are again ... et cetera! ... Ah ... my heart ... eye ... ah ... alive heart ... Flock ... talk ... welcome ... alive ah ... Once it happened ... ah ... ah ah ... Forgivemequick [[quicken: the European rowan tree](#)], forgetmenot [[flower also known as scorpion grass](#)]. Along a last ah ... Happy tales ... Anna ... ah ah.

Tenor

Hello! ... Ohyhaaa! ... Here we go again ... ah ... Anna ... Anna and Livia and Plurabelle ... Ordovico or viricordo [[Italian “vi ricordo”: I remember you; “ricorso”: recurrence](#)] anew to be ... alive heart ... Flock ah ...
Welcome ... On now ... Oh heart ... alive heart ... ah... ah ah ... ah ah ... along aloved
Forgetmenot, forgivemequick.
Ah ... Anna.

Baritone

Yowhaaa! ... And here we are ... heart alive now ... ah ... Anna ... I want to hear all about Anna Livia [[Bizet, Carmen: “Parle-moi de ma mère”](#)] ... I want to hear every single mingle [[Donne: “our two bloods mingled be”](#)]. Et cetera ... stem or stone? ...
Again ... ay loved with love ... Flock talk. Stock and rock.
Bawk hawk ...
Forgetmenot! ... Slipping shimmering ... charmeuse [[charm muse; French “charmeuse”: charmer, enchanter](#)] and mauves of moss and daphnedews [[Daphne: in Greek mythology – a water nymph](#)] ... ah ... ah ah ... ah ah ... The same anew [[seam; semen; river: Seim; I knew; again](#)] ... Anna ... Latin me that, my trinity scholar [[Trinity College, Dublin; river: Trinity](#)].

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #2” – Excerpt 3, 3:41

Soprano A

Till tree from tree, tree among trees ... Ah ha! ... Latin me that, my trinity scholar ... Erin! ... Et cetera ... forget me not ... Ha! ... Flock talk. Stock and rock ... I also want to hear every single mingle ... My hundred streamers dancing on [\[Homer, Iliad – of Hera beguiling Zeus: “a girdle arrayed with a hundred tassels”\]](#) ... Ah ... Sometimes ... Sometimes silent ... for ... in a minute or two ... a gull calls ... ah ... Here we are again ... aahhhha!

Soprano B

Hayhaaa! ... And so forth ... Teems of times and happy returns [\[Lady Newdigate: happy returns of b^e day to us\]](#) ... out of our Sand Creed and into our ... I want to hear every single mingle ... Oh! ... Ha! ... Flock! ... Late ... ah ... Ah and a hundred streamers dancing Ah ... dance ... and I am still waiting [\[song: “There’s a Mother Always Waiting”\]](#) ... This meandering tale [\[Neanderthal Man\]](#) ... ah ah ... wow!

Tenor

On ... Breathe the thunder [\[Joyce had a lifelong fear of thunder and lightning\]](#) ... Latin me that ... We’re not there yet ... Oh! ... My whole head calls and halls [\[halls: German “hallen”: to echo; river: Hall’s Creek\]](#) ... Ah ah ha! Oh ah! ... I am waiting ... and a hundred streamers dancing ... We’re not there yet ... armorica ... gloria [\[Latin “gloria”: glory, fame\]](#) ... ha ah ... Oy!

Baritone

Ah! Ha ha ... and so on ... happy ... And I am still waiting! ... Et cetera ... Aye! [\[I: Eye\]](#) ... Remember ... once ... it happened ... Aye! ... Suchcaughtawan [\[River: Saskatchewan\]](#) pattering pebbles. Dimpled, pimply, simpled, and wimpled ... Flock talk. Stock and rock. Bawk hawk ... ah ... It soon [\[German “schon”: already; rivers: Saône, Senne, Seine\]](#) is late ... A fiddle-dee-dee [\[from the late 1700s: nonsense, rubbish\]](#) ... et ... the rest! ... Dancing streamers ... If I lose my breath for a minute or two, don’t speak ... so still I lay ... ah ha ha ... Breathe the thunder [\[according to Vico, Jove’s thunderbolts terrified early giants, sending them to caves, giving rise to civilization\]](#) ...

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #3” – Excerpt 4, 3:16

Soprano A

Ha ... Too-hoo-hoord-en-en-thur-nuk! [[“thunder” in Danish, Irish; ends with a crack of thunder](#)] ... Viricordo! ... Don't speak! ... Yes and alight! ... Anna ... A bright light ... ah delight ... Ha!

Soprano B

Ha ... ha ah ah ah ... love ... ay tell ... what is love why ... heart alive nnnuukkk! ... Heart ... don't speak! ... Yes we thou alight! ... Anna ... tale ... bright light ... was that all a dream? [[perhaps Finnegans Wake is one moment of a dream, in which everything happens simultaneously](#)] ... Day dream ... Aspiration [[Inspiration](#)] ... Ha!

Tenor

Ba-ba-ba-dal-ghar-agh-tak-a-mmin [[Baby talk; Babel; “thunder” in Hindustani, Arabic, Japanese](#)] ... Tuonn-thunn-trov-arrh-oun-awn-skawn [[“thunder” in Italian, Scottish, Portuguese, Swedish](#)] ... nnnuk! ... Don't speak! ... Once again yes! All allivial alluvial [[alluvial: Spanish “lluvia”: rain; alluvial: earth left by rivers](#)] ... tale ... stop! My whole head calls and halls ... The tale ... Trance [[ENtrance: enTRANCE](#)] ... and a hundred streamers dancing on.

Baritone

Arronn-konn-bronn-tonn-err-onn [[“thunder” in French, Danish, Irish](#)] ... nuukk! ... If I lose my breath for a minute or two ... The thundersong. The tumble [[Kiswahili “tumbo”: belly](#)]. The rumble. The bumble. The humble [[Humble-Bumble: children's street game](#)] ... A bright ... The tale ... a dream?

“Plurabelle Enchanting” – Excerpt 5, 6:17

Soprano A

Ah ... Ordovico ...
viricordo ... Anna was ... Oh
Livia is ... Plurabelle is ...
remember ... Anna yes ... in
our serial [\[serial publications
appear in installments\]](#)
dreams ... ah ah ... softly ...
We pass through grass ...
[\[Lewis Carroll: Through the
Looking-Glass\]](#) Whish! [\[Whish:
Anglo-Irish “whish!”: be silent!,
hush!\]](#) ... Buss-softly [\[buss
\(archaic\): kiss, kissing\]](#) ... far ...
Speak, and don't speak ... in, in,
again ... ah ... ah ... waiting
why and where ... and on ...
We see that wonder in your
eye ... Anna ... Anna ... die ...
It soon is late ... will we spread
here now ... shine and cry ...
why ... heart alive ... our heart
adrone ... the same anew now
heart ... oh moon ... rejoice
[\[re Joyce\]](#) a thousand times ...
the same ... one thousand and
one [\[The Book of the Thousand](#)

Soprano B

I want to hear all about Anna
Livia ... Ordovico ...
viricordo ... Anna was ... Oh
Livia is ... Plurabelle is ...
Mememormee! [\[Hebrew “mem”:
water, memory\]](#) ... Far call ...
with edging and ribbons ... far
calls ... Gulls and flitt-flittering
fieldmice [\[J. Strauss II, Die
Fledermaus\]](#) ... Till thousands
thee ... ah ... Once it
happened ... ah ... like a bright
light ... Anna ... Wait until the
honeying of the lune ...
shine ... moon ... die ... cry ...
Anna and Livia and
Plurabelle ... heart alive ... our
heart adrone ... the same anew
now heart ... oh moon ...
Oh ... The same ... wise
eyes ... edgewise ... We hear
that shine moon ... now ...
Anna ... I shine ... We'll meet
again, and sure we'll part once
more ... Oh ... Ordovico
viricordo. Plurabelle's to be.

Tenor

Ah ... Ordovico ...
viricordo ... Anna was ... Oh
Livia is ... Plurabelle is ...
areola ... alluvial ... Ah ... yes
yes ... far call ... tell all ... a
gull ... far calls far ... We pass
through grass ... alone ...
loved ... a long far ... why now
of clay ... clay and rock ...
ah ... a bright light ... oh ...
don't speak now ... wonder ...
crying ... that shine in your
eye ... we will die and again we
meet ... Dark ... hawks hear
us ... shine moon [\[moonshine:
illicitly distilled spirits\]](#) shine ...
cry ... Oh all ... our
daughters ... heart alive ... our
heart adrone ... the same anew
now heart ... oh moon
shine ... Oh ... The same ...
wise eyes ... edgewise ... that
shine moon ... once more ...
hear us ... remember all ...
Anna ... shine ... we part ...
One thousand ... ah ... Once
more ... Oh Anna ah ...

Baritone

O tell me all about Anna
Livia! ... Ah ... oh ah ... Anna
was ... Livia is ... Oh ... ah
Plurabelle's to be ... ah
Plurabelle is to be ... areola ...
alluvial ... Arial ... pray tell me
all ... A gull ... coming far ...
We pass through grass ... alone
a last loved ... a long why ...
now ... ah ... of clay and
rock ... Clicking cobbles [\[rock
fragment falling between a pebble
and a boulder, to assemble often
mismatched parts\]](#) and
rumbledown rhinestones ...
oh ... on ... wonder in your
eye ... shine ... oh ... will
die ... We'll meet again, and
sure we'll part once more ...
Dark hawks ... hear us and
shine ... All of our
daughtersons [\[“A tale told of
Shaun or Shem? All Livia's
daughtersons”: FVW\]](#) ... Well
waiting waiting why waiting
where while ... heart alive rise

[Nights and a Night\]](#) rejoice and
rejoice ... We hear that shine
moon ... Tell me all now ...
Dark hawks hear us ... Anna ...
Anna ... Speak, and don't
speak ... Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes
[\["yes I said yes I will Yes"
Ulysses\]](#). Tell me all now. Tell
me all over.

shine light ... who and what ...
The same anew ... light
shine ... A thousand ... wise
eyes ... shine moon ... wonder
once more ... oh hear us ...
Dimpled, pimpled, simpled, and
wimpled ... all tales ... and and
shine light Anna ... One
thousand ... oh ... ah ... ah ...
ah ...

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #4” – Excerpt 6, 4:32

Note: words between curly brackets { } are narration

Soprano A

Finnegan strategic tilts [[tiltyard: a space for tournaments, tilts, and jousts](#)] ... tilts and lilt ah Finnegan tilts ... and stratum stilts ... pettikilt [[petticoat kilt](#)] ... and ... his swan gullaway [[Galway](#)] swank ... A fool to the last ... Rememberer ... rise eyes flies ... wise pop ... ah ... surprise and supreese [[comic Victorian song: “Would You Be Surprised to Hear?”](#)] ... they rise ... slip away ... I was a young pale soft shy slim slip of a thing ... sauntering by silver-moon-lake ... surprise surprise ... fling zing ping ding! ... {Hearth and heart and these ties and a lies} ... ah ... ah ... {Rangled rough and right-go-wrong} ... ha ...

Soprano B

Finn ... Finnegan strategic tilts ... agog and magog [[Gog and Magog: legendary giants, first mentioned in the Bible](#)] and the round of them agrog [[grog: strong drink, originally rum and water](#)] ... and stratum stilts ... and his derry's [[Derry](#)] own drawl ... A fool to the last ... Decemberer [[dissembler; river: Embira](#)] ... one pun sun fun done ... run pop ... This meandering tale ... away ... We slip away ... a whisk brisk sly spry spink spank sprint thing ... surprise and preese ... fling zing ping ding! ... {And will once again Finn spin again} ... ha ha ...

Tenor

Finnegan ... Surprise ... and stratum stilts ... kilt ... and his cork-sown [[Cork](#)] blather ... and his dubbleing [[Dublin](#)] stutter ... fool ... lop ... yes bless fess pop ... away ... fling zing ping ding! ... Where did I stop? ... Stop ... {We'll slip away before they rise. They'll never see. Nor know. Nor miss. Till we spring free} ... They laid him brawdawn alanglast bed. With a bockalips [[The Apocalypse; Italian “bocca”: mouth](#)] of finisky [[Irish “fionnuisce”: clear water \(pronounced “finishke”\); Latin “finis”: end](#)] fore his feet, and a barrowload of guenesis [[Book of Genesis; Guinness](#)] hoer his head ... whaaa!

Baritone

Finnegan ... Belling him up and filling him down ... for ... his ... wildweed eyes and primrose hair ... and his dubbleing stutter ... A fool! ... Stop hop ... pop ... Shize? [[Greek “schizô”: to split apart; German “Scheisse!”: shit!; Irish “síodh”: fairy mound](#)] I should shee! [[Anglo-Irish “shee”: fairy](#)] Macool, Macool, [[Finn MacCool: hero in Irish mythology](#)] orra whyi deed ye diie? Of a trying thirstay mournin? ... Fling zing ping ding! ... Come up hill ... {Remember ... once it happened} ... Oh Finn! ... And again ... {come, uphill headquarter! Now where did I stop?} ... Whaaa! Aayyyeee ... yah ... Tee the tootal [[teetotal](#)] of the fluid hang the twoddle of the fuddled, [[fuddled: drunk \(noun\)](#)] O!

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #5” – Excerpt 7, 8:02

Soprano A

Finnegans do wake! up! ...
Please, please stoop! ...
Norma! [\[Bellini, Norma\]](#) ...
Very Nique? [\[Messenger, Véronique\]](#) ... And where is
Carmen [\[Bizet, Carmen\]](#) and
Vanda [\[Dvořák, Vanda\]](#) and
Linda [\[Donizetti, Linda di Chamounix\]](#) and Des-de-moan-
ahh [\[Verdi, Otello\]](#) ... And
angelic Evangeline? [\[Otto Luening, Evangeline\]](#) ... Those
lillies of Killarney [\[Jules Benedict, Lily of Killarney\]](#) ... Off
with some frying Dutchmen?
[\[Wagner, The Flying Dutchman\]](#) ... A rhapsody of
the bohemians [\[Puccini, La bohème; Queen, Bohemian Rhapsody\]](#) ... Rusticians all!
[\[Mascagni, Cavalleria rusticana\]](#) ... Grab 'em by the
Wissendonk! [\[Mathilde Wesendonck, Wagner mistress\]](#) ... Patience, my bun-
horned brides [\[Gilbert and](#)

Soprano B

[Finne]gans ... do wake!
Up! ... Please, please stop! ...
Aïda? Mais Non [\[Verdi, Aïda; Puccini: Manon Lescaut\]](#) ...
Anna Lee, Laura Lee, Laura
Lie! [\[Donizetti, Anna Bolena; Catalani, Lorelei\]](#) ... Those
fanciullas of the west and the
east and the north and the
south? [\[Puccini, La fanciulla del west\]](#) ... Those flower maidens
[\[Wagner, Ring, Rhine Maidens\]](#) ... Those poor
cenerent-oh-la-la-lahs! [\[Rossini, La cenerentola\]](#) ... Those
worrarrawurms! [\[FW, 225.13-14; Wagner, Fafner's worm-form\]](#) ... Abducted by Sir
Allio and and Wally and Scar-
Pee-Ah [\[Mozart, Abduction from the Seraglio; Catalani, La Wally; Baron Scarpia, antagonist in Tosca, Puccini\]](#) ... Gondoliers
all! [\[Gilbert and Sullivan, The Gondoliers\]](#) ... Arlecchinos all!

Tenor

Ha ha ha ... ah ha ... I ...
Finnegans do wake! ... Ho!
[\[Wagner, The Flying Dutchman, first word of Act I: “Hohoje”;](#)
[Chinese: river\]](#) Verity! [\[Verdi\]](#)
Porchini! [\[Puccini\]](#) Rustini!
[\[Rossini\]](#) Bellini! [\[Bellini\]](#) Ha, ha,
ha! [\[Mozart, Magic Flute, Queen of the Night aria: “ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha”\]](#) Figaro, Figaro, Figaro!
[\[Mozart, The Marriage of Figaro\]](#)
Ballo [\[Verdi, Un ballo in maschera\]](#), Otello [\[Verdi, Otello\]](#), Rheingo [\[Wagner, Rheingold\]](#), Yo, yo. Go-low!
[\[cellist Yo-Yo Ma; Prince Golaud, in Debussy's Pelléas et Mélisande\]](#) ... Sick and tawdry!
[\[Suky Tawdry in Gay, The Beggar's Opera\]](#) My, her beer!
Mask era! [\[Giacomo Meyerbeer; Verdi, Un ballo in maschera\]](#) ...
Gee! Oh! Van! Knee! [\[Mozart, Don Giovanni\]](#) ... Tristan and I
sold her [\[Wagner, Tristan und](#)

Baritone

Ha ah ha ha ah ha ah ha ha ha
ah ha ... We and Thou had it
out already! ... Finne ...
Hummm! [\[Puccini, Madama Butterfly, Humming chorus\]](#)
Carlos [\[Verdi, Don Carlos\]](#),
Carmen [\[Bizet, Carmen\]](#),
Cavalier to you! [\[Mascagni, Cavalleria rusticana\]](#) ... Hay!
[\[Haydn, who wrote 17 operas\]](#)
Ring Glinka! [\[Wagner, Ring; Mikhail Glinka\]](#) Gay Gluck!
[\[John Gay; Christoph Willibald Gluck; soprano Alma Gluck\]](#) ...
Catalany boosy! [\[Alfredo Catalani; Claude Debussy\]](#) Rosé
and cava, leer! [\[Richard Strauss, Der Rosenkavalier\]](#) ... Flayed
her mouse! [\[J. Strauss II, Die Fledermaus\]](#) ... Un-magic flute!
[\[Mozart, The Magic Flute\]](#) Huge?
Not! [\[Meyerbeer, Les Huguenots\]](#) ... Pirata! [\[Bellini, Il pirata\]](#) ... Arrêtez! Les-caut!
[\[Saint-Saëns in Samson et Dalila\]](#)

[Sullivan, Patience; or Bunthorne's Bride](#)] ... To wake from this rememberer ... The thundersong ... The tumble. The rumble ... The bumble. The humble ... Gepopo ... Pssst ... Double, you see! ... Coco-coco-coco-ding! ... Anti, anti, aunty [\[Ligeti, Le Grand Macabre\]](#) ... Patience ... sit tight ... go ... I want ... want ... a stop ... ack!!!

[\[Busoni, Arlecchino\]](#) ... Take them by the Gerol-Steins! [\[Offenbach, La Grand-Duchess de Gérolstein\]](#) ... Hold them by the tenor! [\[heldentenor\]](#) ... And eats and nines to the litter ... thundersong ... We ah! Waga! Woga! Wall-ah! [\[Wagner Das Rheingold\]](#) Patience all ... no ... fright go ... stop ... stop ... Yo!

[\[Isolde\]](#) ... Tan house, her! [\[Wagner, Tannhauser\]](#) Bohemian buttery bride! [\[Balfe, The Bohemian Girl; Smetana, The Bartered Bride\]](#) ... False staff! Bugger ah! [\[Verdi, Falstaff; Gay, The Beggar's Opera\]](#) ... Miss Butterfly? [\[Puccini, Madama Butterfly\]](#) ... Peeni ... Lope! [\[Fauré, Penelope\]](#) ... Diable! [\[Meyerbeer, Robert le diable; Daniel Auber, Fra Diavolo\]](#) Arrêtez! Les-caut! [\[Saint-Saëns in Samson et Dalila; Puccini, Manon Lescaut\]](#) ... Franca lingua [\[lingua franca: common language or jargon\]](#) ... Patience ... A fool to the last Decemberer ... sparefours and spoilfives northsix and suds-sever [\[Latin "sudor": sweat\]](#) ... rumble ... Ho-Ho-He-Hallo! ... Sit tight ... No fright ... Yes, no ... No Yes ... Pssst ... Psssst! [\[Ligeti, Le Grand Macabre\]](#) ... I'll tell you a test ... stop ... Ha! Ahyah!

[Puccini, Manon Lescaut\]](#) ... Par exemplum, ah! ... The more the merrier, won twills and trills, ... And I no way need you ... tumble ... Jerum! Jerem! Jaram! Jirum! [\[Wagner, Die Meistersinger\]](#) ... Patience ... But you must sit still ... stop ... whaaya!

“Roots on Earth” – Excerpt 8, 2:02

Soprano A

Ah ... By the salt and the sand
of the rivering waters ... My
roots ... taking ... place on
earth ... alluvial ...

Soprano B

Listen Leafy Liffey [[river: Liffey](#)]
Listeneth! Amoury Treestam
and Icy Siseule [[Wagner, Tristan
und Isolde; French “si seule”: so
lonely \(feminine\)](#)] ... My
roots ... taking ... place on
earth ... alluvial ...

Tenor

My roots ... lofty ... are ...
take ... ariel ... Here’s a leaf
from her book and a book
from her leaf ... Water-
woman streaming her
Rhinestone [[river: Rhine](#)]
waters.

Baritone

Lofty ... are ... take ... We
have hung our hearts ... in her
trees ... Ariel ... Water-
woman ...

“River of Dreams” – Excerpt 9, 6:01

Note: words between curly brackets { } are narration

Soprano A

[A]lone ... river and waters ...
Can't ... Till tree from tree ...
Erin rung ... Water ... water
light ... the lune flies ... until
the honeying of the lune
[\[honey: colour of the moon:
honeymoon\]](#) ... A tale ... ah ah
ha ... Rockbound and all in the
swimswamswum ... oh look ...
look ... the dusk is growing ...
By the rending of the rocks ...
salt sand ... {Rockbound ...
Beside the river ring waters of
the rivering waters} ... the
hither and thithering waters
[\[zither\]](#) of ... and the light ...
waters of ... what a tale ...
and the mouth of all waters
[\[the orifice of the world\]](#) ... Tale
now told ... so long, so
long ... night.

Soprano B

Beside the water ... last
love ... along the riverrun ...
Can't ... wait among trees ...
thither ... of night ... wait ...
until honeying ... moon ... A
tale ... ah ah ha ... look look
the dusk grows ... the
rêverons [\[French “rêverons”: we
will dream\]](#) ... Look, look ...
the dust is going ... Wait ...
until the honeying of the
lune ... the rivering waters ...
{swim swam swum} ... Beside
the Erin-rung waters of ...
night water ... and the mouth
of all waters ... Water-woman
streaming on on ... By the salt
and water night ... night.

Tenor

Away, alone ... last ...
Beside ... along ... night ...
rêverons ... a lune ... flies ...
Wait until the honeying of the
lune ... rivering waters ...
tale ... tide ... tree among
trees ... wait ... {of stem and
stone} ... Can't hear with the
waters of ... The chitt-
chattering [\[Anglo-Irish
“chittering”: constantly
complaining; Annamese “chêt”: to
die\]](#) waters of ... Dreams of
the river as the river dreams
on ... {sauntering by silver-
moon-lake} ... night.

Baritone

Alone ... river ... Beside ... a
last ... a loved ... dream ...
night ... hither and thither ...
look ... a lune ... dusk ...
rêverons moon ... A tale ... a
tale of stem or stone ... the
hither and thithering tale
grows ... tide ... By salt and
sound ... wait! Rock bound ...
{love loves to love love} ...
stone and {stone, ever for
now} ... With the river-mouth
and the mouth of all waters ...
all waters of ... dreams ...
With the river-mouth ... A
tale told ... Night. Night ...
On-on ... night.

“Into the Labyrinth” – Excerpt I, 2:24

Soprano A

Oh I have lived ... and
loved ... and left ... And on ...
tell me now ... Ariel areola
Anna and Livia yes ... And on
again.

Soprano B

And I've loved ... Oh loved ...
and left ... Yes, tell me, and
now ... And on again ... tell
me all ... I've lived ... and
laughed ... and loved ... and
left ... again ...

Tenor

I've lived ... Yes, tell me,
tell ... I have loved and left ...
Remember ... Remember ...
Till thousands thee ... tell ...
And on again.

Baritone

I've lived ... and laughed ...
Oh ... Remember ... with love
ay loved ... Yes, yes ... And
on ... And on again ...

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #1” – Excerpt 2, 3:49

Soprano A

I'll tell you a test. But you must sit still ... Will you hold your peace ... and listen to what I'm after going to say? Will you? Et cetera ... Will you? Et ... et cetera ... ah ... my wise eye ... again ... alive heart ... A tale of stem or stone ... Flock and talk ... Welcome ... On-on ... wise armorica ... The tale, the water, the apple's bright core ... ah...
Regards! ... Hello ... ah ...
Teems of times and happy tales ... Anna ... oh ... out of our Sans Creed and into our Erin! Et ... and so on and so forth.

Soprano B

Hello! ... Ah ... Yes! ... Oh tell me all ... oh ... Here we are again ... et cetera! ... Ah ... my heart ... eye ... ah ... alive heart ... Flock ... talk ... welcome ... alive ah ... Once it happened ... ah ... ah ah ... Forgivemequick, forgetmenot. Along a last ah ... Happy tales ... Anna ... ah ah.

Tenor

Hello! ... Ohyhaaa! ... Here we go again ... ah ... Anna ... Anna and Livia and Plurabelle ... Ordovico or viricordo anew to be ... alive heart ... Flock ah ... Welcome ... On now ... Oh heart ... alive heart ... ah... ah ah ... ah ah ... along aloved Forgetmenot, forgivemequick. Ah ... Anna.

Baritone

Yowhaaa! ... And here we are ... heart alive now ... ah ... Anna ... I want to hear all about Anna Livia ... I want to hear every single mingle. Et cetera ... stem or stone? ... Again ... ay loved with love ... Flock talk. Stock and rock. Bawk hawk ... Forgetmenot! ... Slipperring shimmering ... charmeuse and mauves of moss and daphnedews ... ah ... ah ah ... ah ah ... The same anew ... Anna ... Latin me that, my trinity scholar.

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #2” – Excerpt 3, 3:41

Soprano A

Till tree from tree, tree among trees ... Ah ha! ... Latin me that, my trinity scholar ... Erin! ... Et cetera ... forget me not ... Ha! ... Flock talk. Stock and rock ... I also want to hear every single mingle ... My hundred streamers dancing on ... Ah ... Sometimes ... Sometimes silent ... for ... in a minute or two ... a gull calls ... ah ... Here we are again ... aahhhha!

Soprano B

Hayhaaa! ... And so forth ... Teems of times and happy returns ... out of our Sand Creed and into our ... I want to hear every single mingle ... Oh! ... Ha! ... Flock! ... Late ... ah ... Ah and a hundred streamers dancing Ah ... dance ... and I am still waiting ... This meandering tale ... ah ah ... wow!

Tenor

On ... Breathe the thunder ... Latin me that ... We're not there yet ... Oh! ... My whole head calls and halls ... Ah ah ha! Oh ah! ... I am waiting ... and a hundred streamers dancing ... We're not there yet ... armorica ... gloria ... ha ah ... Oy!

Baritone

Ah! Ha ha ... and so on ... happy ... And I am still waiting! ... Et cetera ... Aye! ... Remember ... once ... it happened ... Aye! ... Suchcaughtawan pattering pebbles. Dimpled, pimpled, simplified, and wimpled ... Flock talk. Stock and rock. Bawk hawk ... ah ... It soon is late ... A fiddle-dee-dee ... et ... the rest! ... Dancing streamers ... If I lose my breath for a minute or two, don't speak ... so still I lay ... ah ha ha ... Breathe the thunder ...

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #3” – Excerpt 4, 3:16

Soprano A

Ha ... Too-hoo-hoord-en-en-
thur-nuk! ... Viricordo! ...
Don't speak! ... Yes and
alight! ... Anna ... A bright
light ... ah delight ... Ha!

Soprano B

Ha ... ha ah ah ah ... love ... ay
tell ... what is love why ...
heart alive nnnuukkk! ...
Heart ... don't speak! ... Yes
we thou alight! ... Anna ...
tale ... bright light ... was that
all a dream? ... Day dream ...
Aspiration... Ha!

Tenor

Ba-ba-ba-dal-ghar-agh-tak-a-
mmin ... Tuonn-thunn-trov-
arrh-oun-awn-skawn ...
nnnuk! ... Don't speak! ...
Once again yes! All allivial
allivial ... tale ... stop! My
whole head calls and halls ...
The tale ... Trance ... and a
hundred streamers dancing on.

Baritone

Arronn-konn-bronn-tonn-err-
onn ... nuukk! ... If I lose my
breath for a minute or two ...
The thundersong. The tumble.
The rumble. The bumble. The
humble ... A bright ... The
tale ... a dream?

“Plurabelle Enchanting” – Excerpt 5, 6:17

Soprano A

Ah ... Ordovico ...
viricordo ... Anna was ... Oh
Livia is ... Plurabelle is ...
remember ... Anna yes ... in
our serial dreams ... ah ah ...
softly ... We pass through
grass ... Whish! ... Buss-
softly ... far ... Speak, and don't
speak ... in, in, again ... ah ...
ah ... waiting why and
where ... and on ... We see
that wonder in your eye ...
Anna ... Anna ... die ... It soon
is late ... will we spread here
now ... shine and cry ...
why ... heart alive ... our heart
adrone ... the same anew now
heart ... oh moon ... rejoyce a
thousand times ... the same ...
one thousand and one rejoyce
and rejoice ... We hear that
shine moon ... Tell me all
now ... Dark hawks hear us ...
Anna ... Anna ... Speak, and
don't speak ... Yes. Yes. Yes.
Yes. Tell me all now. Tell me all
over.

Soprano B

I want to hear all about Anna
Livia ... Ordovico ...
viricordo ... Anna was ... Oh
Livia is ... Plurabelle is ...
Mememormee! ... Far call ...
with edging and ribbons ... far
calls ... Gulls and flitt-flittering
fieldmice ... Till thousands
thee ... ah ... Once it
happened ... ah ... like a bright
light ... Anna ... Wait until the
honeying of the lune ...
shine ... moon ... die ... cry ...
Anna and Livia and
Plurabelle ... heart alive ... our
heart adrone ... the same anew
now heart ... oh moon ...
Oh ... The same ... wise
eyes ... edgewise ... We hear
that shine moon ... now ...
Anna ... I shine ... We'll meet
again, and sure we'll part once
more ... Oh ... Ordovico
viricordo. Plurabelle's to be.

Tenor

Ah ... Ordovico ...
viricordo ... Anna was ... Oh
Livia is ... Plurabelle is ...
areola ... alluvial ... Ah ... yes
yes ... far call ... tell all ... a
gull ... far calls far ... We pass
through grass ... alone ...
loved ... a long far ... why now
of clay ... clay and rock ...
ah ... a bright light ... oh ...
don't speak now ... wonder ...
crying ... that shine in your
eye ... we will die and again we
meet ... Dark ... hawks hear
us ... shine moonshine ...
cry ... Oh all ... our
daughters ... heart alive ... our
heart adrone ... the same anew
now heart ... oh moon
shine ... Oh ... The same ...
wise eyes ... edgewise ... that
shine moon ... once more ...
hear us ... remember all ...
Anna ... shine ... we part ...
One thousand ... ah ... Once
more ... Oh Anna ah ...

Baritone

O tell me all about Anna Livia! ...
Ah ... oh ah ... Anna was ...
Livia is ... Oh ... ah Plurabelle's
to be ... ah Plurabelle is to be ...
areola ... alluvial ... Arial ... pray
tell me all ... A gull ... coming
far ... We pass through grass ...
alone a last loved ... a long
why ... now ... ah ... of clay and
rock ... Clicking cobbles and
rumbledown rhinestones ...
oh ... on ... wonder in your
eye ... shine ... oh ... will die ...
We'll meet again, and sure we'll
part once more ... Dark
hawks ... hear us and shine ...
All of our daughters ... Well
waiting waiting why waiting
where while ... heart alive rise
shine light ... who and what ...
The same anew ... light shine ...
A thousand ... wise eyes ...
shine moon ... wonder once
more ... oh hear us ... Dimpled,
pimpled, simpled, and
wimpled ... all tales ... and and
shine light Anna ... One
thousand ... oh ... ah ... ah ...
ah ...

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #4” – Excerpt 6, 4:32

Note: words between curly brackets { } are narration

Soprano A

Finnegan strategic tilts ... tilts
and lilt ah Finnegan tilts ...
and stratum stilts ...
pettikilt ... and ... his swan
gullaway swank ... A fool to
the last ... Rememberer ...
rise eyes flies ... wise pop ...
ah ... surprise and supreese ...
they rise ... slip away ... I was
a young pale soft shy slim slip
of a thing ... sauntering by
silver-moon-lake ... surprise
surpreese ... fling zing ping
ding! ... {Hearth and heart and
these ties and a lies} ... ah ...
ah ... {Rangled rough and
right-go-wrong} ... ha ...

Soprano B

Finn ... Finnegan strategic
tilts ... agog and magog and
the round of them agrog ...
and stratum stilts ... and his
derry's own drawl ... A fool to
the last ... Decemberer ...
one pun sun fun done ... run
pop ... This meandering
tale ... away ... We slip
away ... a whisk brisk sly sly
spink spank sprint thing ...
surprise and preese ... fling
zing ping ding! ... {And will
once again Finn spin again} ...
ha ha ...

Tenor

Finnegan ... Surprise ... and
stratum stilts ... kilt ... and his
cork-sown blather ... and his
dubbleing stutter ... fool ...
lop ... yes bless fess pop ...
away ... fling zing ping ding! ...
Where did I stop? ... Stop ...
{We'll slip away before they
rise. They'll never see. Nor
know. Nor miss. Till we spring
free} ... They laid him
brawdawn alonglast bed. With
a bockalips of finisky fore his
feet, and a barrowload of
guenesis hoer his head ...
whaaa!

Baritone

Finnegan ... Belling him up and
filling him down ... for ...
his ... wildweed eyes and
primrose hair ... and his
dubbleing stutter ... A fool! ...
Stop hop ... pop ... Shize?!
should shee! Macool, Macool,
orra whyi deed ye diie? Of a
trying thirstay mournin? ...
Fling zing ping ding! ... Come
up hill ... {Remember ... once
it happened} ... Oh Finn! ...
And again ... {come, uphill
headquarter! Now where did I
stop?} ... Whaaa! Aayyyeee ...
yah ... Tee the tootal of the
fluid hang the twoddle of the
fuddled, O!

“Plurabelle Kaleidoscope #5” – Excerpt 7, 8:02

Soprano A

Finnegans do wake! up! ...
Please, please stoop! ...
Norma! ... Very Nique? ...
And where is Carmen and
Vanda and Linda and Des-de-
moan-ahh ... And angelic
Evangeline? ... Those lillies of
Killarney ... Off with some
frying Dutchmen? ... A
rhapsody of the bohemians ...
Rusticianians all! ... Grab 'em
by the Wissendonk! ...
Patience, my bun-horned
brides ... To wake from this
rememberer ... The
thundersong ... The tumble.
The rumble ... The bumble.
The humble ... Gepopo ...
Pssst ... Double, you see! ...
Coco-coco-coco-ding! ... Anti,
anti, aunty ... Patience ... sit
tight ... go ... I want ...
want ... a stop ... ack!!!

Soprano B

[Finne]gans ... do wake!
Up! ... Please, please stop! ...
Aïda? Mais Non ... Anna Lee,
Laura Lee, Laura Lie! ... Those
fanciullas of the west and the
east and the north and the
south? ... Those flower
maidens ... Those poor
cenerent-oh-la-la-lahs! ...
Those worrawarwurms! ...
Abducted by Sir Allio and and
Wally and Scar-Pee-Ah ...
Gondoliers all! ... Arlecchinos
all! ... Take them by the
Gerol-Steins! ... Hold them by
the tenor! ... And eats and
nines to the litter ...
thundersong ... We ah! Waga!
Woga! Wall-ah! Patience all ...
no ... fright go ... stop ...
stop ... Yo!

Tenor

Ha ha ha ... ah ha ... I ...
Finnegans do wake! ... Ho!
Verity! Porchini! Rustini!
Bellini! Ha, ha, ha! Figaro,
Figaro, Figaro! Ballo, Otello,
Rheingo, Yo, yo. Go-low! ...
Sick and tawdry! My, her beer!
Mask era! ... Gee! Oh! Van!
Knee! ... Tristan and I sold
her ... Tan house, her!
Bohemian buttery bride! ...
False staff! Bugger ah! ... Miss
Butterfly? ... Peeni ... Lope! ...
Diable! Arrêtez! Les-caut! ...
Franca lingua ... Patience ... A
fool to the last Decemberer ...
sparefours and spoilfives
northsix and suds-sever ...
rumble ... Ho-Ho-He-
Hallo! ... Sit tight ... No
fright ... Yes, no ... No Yes ...
Pssst ... Psssst! ... I'll tell you
a test ... stop ... Ha! Ahyah!

Baritone

Ha ah ha ha ah ha ah ha ha ha
ah ha ... We and Thou had it
out already! ... Finne ...
Hummm! Carlos, Carmen,
Cavalier to you! ... Hay! Ring
Glinka! Gay Gluck! ... Catalany
boossy! Rosé and cava, leer! ...
Flayed her mouse! ... Un-
magic flute! Huge? Not! ...
Pirata! ... Arrêtez! Les-
caut! ... Par exemplum, ah! ...
The more the merrier, won
twills and trills, ... And I no
way need you ... tumble ...
Jerum! Jerem! Jaram! Jirum! ...
Patience ... But you must sit
still ... stop ... whaaya!

“Roots on Earth” – Excerpt 8, 2:02

Soprano A

Ah ... By the salt and the sand
of the rivering waters ... My
roots ... taking ... place on
earth ... alluvial ...

Soprano B

Listen Leafy Liffey Listeneth!
Amoury Treestam and Icy
Siseule ... My roots ...
taking ... place on earth ...
alluvial ...

Tenor

My roots ... lofty ... are ...
take ... ariel ... Here's a leaf
from her book and a book
from her leaf ... Water-
woman streaming her
Rhinestone waters.

Baritone

Lofty ... are ... take ... We
have hung our hearts ... in her
trees ... Ariel ... Water-
woman ...

“River of Dreams” – Excerpt 9, 6:01

Note: words between curly brackets { } are narration

Soprano A

[A]lone ... river and waters ...
Can't ... Till tree from tree ...
Erin rung ... Water ... water
light ... the lune flies ... until
the honeying of the lune ... A
tale ... ah ah ha ... Rockbound
and all in the
swimswamswum ... oh look ...
look ... the dusk is growing ...
By the rending of the rocks ...
salt sand ... {Rockbound ...
Beside the river ring waters of
the rivering waters} ... the
hither and thithering waters
of ... and the light ... waters
of ... what a tale ... and the
mouth of all waters ... Tale
now told ... so long, so
long ... night.

Soprano B

Beside the water ... last
love ... along the riverrun ...
Can't ... wait among trees ...
thither ... of night ... wait ...
until honeying ... moon ... A
tale ... ah ah ha ... look look
the dusk grows ... the
rêverons ... Look, look ... the
dust is going ... Wait ... until
the honeying of the lune ... the
rivering waters ... {swim swam
swum} ... Beside the Erin-rung
waters of ... night water ...
and the mouth of all waters ...
Water-woman streaming on
on ... By the salt and water
night ... night.

Tenor

Away, alone ... last ...
Beside ... along ... night ...
rêverons ... a lune ... flies ...
Wait until the honeying of the
lune ... rivering waters ...
tale ... tide ... tree among
trees ... wait ... {of stem and
stone} ... Can't hear with the
waters of ... The chitt-
chattering waters of ... Dreams
of the river as the river dreams
on ... {sauntering by silver-
moon-lake} ... night.

Baritone

Alone ... river ... Beside ... a
last ... a loved ... dream ...
night ... hither and thither ...
look ... a lune ... dusk ...
rêverons moon ... A tale ... a
tale of stem or stone ... the
hither and thithering tale
grows ... tide ... By salt and
sound ... wait! Rock bound ...
{love loves to love love} ...
stone and {stone, ever for
now} ... With the river-mouth
and the mouth of all waters ...
all waters of ... dreams ...
With the river-mouth ... A
tale told ... Night. Night ...
On-on ... night.