

TSIPPI FLEISCHER

VICTORIA AND THE MEN

*For Soprano/Mezzo Soprano, 4 Guitarists,
3 Percussionists and a Cellist)*

*Out of the Chamber Opera
after Sami Michael's novel
Libretto: Roni Keinan
Op. 56a*

ציפי פליישר

ויקטוריה והגברים

לסופרן/מצו סופרן, 4 גיטריסטים, 3 נקשנים וצ'לן

מתוך האופרה הקאמרית
בעקבות הרומן של סמי מיכאל

ליברית: רוני קינן



Tsippi Fleischer

Victoria and the Men, for Soprano/Mezzo Soprano, 4 Guitarists, 3 Percussionists and a Cellist

op. 56(A)

Out of the Chamber Opera after Sami Michael's novel

Libretto, Roni Keinan

2001/2005, IMC-3819 (15 p.) CGI

Duration: 6'

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Victoria and the Men (after Sami Michael) – For Female Vocalist and Eight Men: 4 Guitarists, 3 Percussionists, Cello (Opus 56a) © 2001/2005

A section from the complete opera, **Victoria**; the male instrumentalists also sing and act.

Libretto: Roni Keinan

Victoria, the refined young Jewish woman, born in Iraq before the establishment of the State of Israel, is deserted by her husband Raphael while carrying his child. All the women surrounding her had been jealous of her on account of him. Her surviving daughter mocks her ceaselessly; her mother is always cruel to her and the men around her add to her humiliation. It is her inner strength that enables her to withstand all of this. The fact that she gives birth to a son suddenly will cause her husband to return to her.

The opera opens with the scene of Victoria walking over a bridge, a fugue of derisive male voices in the background. She joins in with shouts of despair.

An instrumental interlude leads to a change of *mise-en-scene*; we now come upon her while she is in labor. She is convinced that she will once more give birth to an accursed daughter and consequently begs her cousin Mariam not to throw the baby into the sea. She also voices her grievances against her faraway husband Raphael – ‘le’an heveta ’oti ya ben-satan’ (To where have you dragged me, you son of the Devil); she will surely give birth to another baby girl and then ‘gekhalim yitsrevu ’et ’eynai kshe’er’e yeled katan kol yemey khayai’ (hot coals will burn my eyes every time I see a little boy for the rest of my life).

During her labor the men in the room are now encouraging her in the moments of her intense effort – ‘havi’u shikuy sheyargi’a rukha (Bring her a draft to calm her down);

their past animosity has disappeared. The *accelerando* drumming marks the end of her labor. And suddenly – it's a son!

The concluding aria, a vocalise, comes immediately after the birth and brings the scene to an end with Victoria crying for joy.

The use of the operatic genre reinforces the feminist statement while the stylistic framework includes many oriental elements, both as regards the way of life in which the story takes place and the accompanying musical style. The Hebrew language is interspersed with words in Arabic, all flowing above the basis of Arab rhythms. The acoustic guitars reflect a world resplendent with color, reveling in imitations of the 'ud and the qanun. The harmonic tonus is one of hollow-sounding yet dissonant resonances.

The vocalist's demanding *glissandi* are part of her dramatic expression while in the guitars they fulfill the role of producing quarter-tones (the mainstay of traditional Arab music).

אנסמבל (כולם + ויקטוריה)

אנסמבל (ויקטוריה + כולם)

אִשָּׁה לֹלָא אִישׁ

אִין בְּדָ צַרְדָּ

[קָרַעְתִּי אוֹתָהּ]

הַשְּׁלִיכִי נַפְשִׁךְ

הַשְּׁלִיכִי גּוּפְךְ

[אִשָּׁה] לֹלָא אִישׁ

וִיקְטוֹרִיָּה

וִיקְטוֹרִיָּה - אַרְיֵטָה

מְרִים, מְרִים, חֲזָרִי מְרִים

אֶל תְּשְׁלִיכִי אוֹתָהּ לִים מְרִים

לְאֵן הַבֵּאתָ אוֹתִי רַפְּאֵל

לְאֵן מְשַׁכַּתָּ אוֹתִי יָא בְּנֵן-שֶׁטֶן

גְּחָלִים יִצְרְבוּ אֶת עֵינַי פֶּשְׁעָרָא

יֵלֵד קָטוֹן כָּל יְמֵי חַיֵּי

וִיקְטוֹרִיָּה

דִּי

הַגְּבָרִים

הַבֵּיאוּ שְׁקוּי שְׁיִרְגִיעַ רוּחָהּ, כְּלָהּ בּוֹעֶרֶת

אינטרלוד כְּלִי

אינטרלוד כְּלִי

וִיקְטוֹרִיָּה

בְּנֵן

(ווקאליזה (ללא מילים; בוכה מאושר)

וִיקְטוֹרִיָּה וְהַגְּבָרִים

(2001/2005)

בִּהְשָׂרָאת סָמִי מִיכָאֵל

לְזַמְרַת וּשְׁמוֹנָה גְבָרִים: 4 גִּיטְרִיסְטִים, 3 מְתוּפְפִים, צִ'לֵן
קִטְעַת מִתּוֹךְ אוֹפֶרָה שְׁלִימָה בִּשְׁם "וִיקְטוֹרִיָּה" בְּבִימוּי מִלֵּא
(הַגְּבָרִים הַמְנַגְנִים גַּם שָׂרִים וּמִשְׁחָקִים)

לִיבְרִית: רוֹנִי קִינָן

וִיקְטוֹרִיָּה הָאֲצִילָה, הָאִשָּׁה הַיְהוּדִיָּה בְּעִירֵק שֶׁלִּפְנֵי קוּם הַמְדִינָה, נִעְזְבַת עַיִן רַפְּאֵל
בְּעֵלָה כְּשֶׁהָיָה בַּהֲרִיזוֹן. הַגְּבָר הִנְאָה שֶׁלָּהּ מַעוֹרֵר אֶת קִנְאָת כָּל הַחֹצֵר. בְּתָה שְׁנוּתָרָה
בְּחַיִּים לוֹעֶגֶת לָהּ בְּלִי הַרְף, אִמָּה מִתְאֲכַזֶּרֶת אֵלֶיהָ חֲדָשׁוֹת לְבַקְרִים, וְהַגְּבָרִים מִסְבִּיב
גַּם הֵם מְצַטְרְפִים לְמַסַּע הַהִשְׁפָּלוֹת. רַק חוֹסְנָה הַפְּנִימִי מִשְׁמֵר אֶת עֲמִידָתָהּ בְּפָנֵי
כָּל אֱלֹהִים. הָעוֹבְדָה שֶׁהָיָה יוֹלְדָת לִפְתַּע בֶּן - תְּחִזִּיר אֵלֶיהָ אֶת בְּעֵלָה.

הָאוֹפֶרָה נִפְתַּחַת בְּתִמּוֹנַת הַלִּיכְתָּהּ שֶׁל וִיקְטוֹרִיָּה עַל הַגֶּשֶׁר עִם פּוֹגַת-הַקְּרִיאוֹת
הַגְּבָרִיּוֹת כְּנֶגְדָה בְּרַקַּע. הַסִּיּוֹם הוּא בְּאַרְיֵת וּוּקְאֵלִיזָה שֶׁל הַגִּיבּוֹרָה מִיַּד לְאַחַר הַלִּידָה,
הַבּוֹכָה מֵאוֹשֶׁר.

הַשִּׁימוּשׁ בְּזִ'אֲנֵר הָאוֹפֶרָאִי מַחְזֵק אֶת הָאִמִּירָה הַפְּמִינִיסְטִית, כְּשֶׁהַמְסַגֶּרֶת הַסְּגוּנִית
עֲטוּפָה בַּהֲרָבָה סְמִמָּנִים מְזַרְחִים, הֵן בַּהוּוִי הַחַיִּים שֶׁבְּתוֹכָהּ מִתְרַחֲשִׁים הַדְּבָרִים
וְהֵן בְּסִגְנוֹן הַמוֹסִיקָלִי הַמְּתִלוּוָה. הָעֵבְרִית מִתּוֹבֵלֶת בְּמִילִים בְּעֵרְבִית פֶּה וּשְׁם, הַכֹּל
נֶעַל עַל תְּשִׁיתִּית שֶׁל מְקַצְבִּים עֵרְבִיִּים. הַגִּיטְרוֹת הָאֲקוּסְטִיּוֹת מִשְׁקַפּוֹת עוֹלָם וּמְלוֹאוּ
שֶׁל צִבְעַת הַכּוֹלָל חִיקוּיִים שֶׁל עוֹד וּקְאָנוֹן. הַטוֹנוֹס הַהֲרִמוֹנִי הַנִּשְׁמַע הוּא זֶה הַמוֹכֵר
הַיִּטֵּב מִתּוֹךְ סְגוּנָה שֶׁל הַמְּלַחֲינָה - שֶׁל מִיצְלוּלִים חֲלוּלִים וְדִיסוֹנַנְטִיִּים כְּאַחַת.
אֲנִסְמַבֵּל הַנְּגִינִים בְּנוִי כּוֹלוּ מְגַבְרִים שֶׁגַם מִשְׁתַּתְּפִים בְּמִשְׁחָק וּבְזִמְרָה. אֱלֹהִים הֵם
הַגְּבָרִים הַמְּתַגְרִים בּוִיקְטוֹרִיָּה.

Victoria and the Men

op. 56(a)

Tsippi Fleischer

All players must be men
Opening scene (ensemble). Location: on the bridge

1 ♩ = 130

Victoria walks -quite slowly, but knows the rhythm that goes.
They tackle her (her walk = "slow cpt" to the rhythm), move a little,
the whole scenery - as a "dance of humiliation". Each one speaks in his natural voice - variety of timbres.

Victoria

Guitar 1 Speech *mf-f*
I - sha le - lo

Guitar 2 Speech *mf-f*
I - sha le - lo ish

Guitar 3 Speech *mf-f*
I - - - sha le - lo ish

Guitar 4 Speech *mf-f*
I - - - sha le - lo ish

Violoncello Speech *mf-f*
I - - - sha le - lo ish

Congas With improviz. - engrowing slowly, gradually

Percussion 1 *mf*

Percussion 2 *mf*

Percussion 3 Speech *mf-f*
I - sha le - lo ish

sh = ש
kh = כ , ח
בהיגוי
עברי

List of Pitched Percussion
(Perc. 3)
Glock.
Xyl.
Vibr.

While walking *mp* non pitched

Vic.

Ein bakh tso-rekh

Gtr. 1

quick speech, non measured

Gtr. 2

mf-f

(only 2 out of the 4 guit's)

speech con'd as before

Gtr. 3

mf-f

kara'ti 'ota

speech con'd as before

Gtr. 4

kara'ti 'ota

Vc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

non pitched, higher than previously

mf

Vic.

ein bakh tso-rekh hash - li - khi naf - shekh hash - li - khi gu - fekh

Gtr. 1

quick speech, non measured

Gtr. 2

mf-f

(only 2 out of the 4 guit's)

speech con'd as before

Gtr. 3

mf-f

kara'ti 'ota

speech con'd as before

Gtr. 4

kara'ti 'ota

Vc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

16

Vic. *f* quite a high pitch as long as possible
le - lo _____ esh _____

Gtr. 1 *mf sub.mp* *mf*

Gtr. 2 *mf sub.mp* *mf*

Gtr. 3 *mf sub.mp* *mf*

Gtr. 4 *mf sub.mp* *mf*

Vc. *mf sub.mp* *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf sub.mp* *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf sub.mp* *mf*

Perc. 3 *mf sub.mp* *mf*

23 *f* *ff non vibr.*
Vic - tor - ia _____ dai _____

Gtr. 1 *f* *cut of all together*

Gtr. 2 *f* *cut of all together*

Gtr. 3 *f* *cut of all together*

Gtr. 4 *f* *cut of all together*

Vc. *f* *cut of all together*

Perc. 1 *f* *cut of all together*

Perc. 2 *f* *cut of all together*

Perc. 3 *f* *cut of all together*

Vic.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

Gtr. 4

Vc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3



Vic.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

Gtr. 4

Vc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

3 slower Arietta

Location: in the room, giving birth

34 *mf*

Vic. mar - yam mar - yam khiz - ri

Gtr. 1 *mf*

Gtr. 2 *mf*

Gtr. 3 *mf*

Gtr. 4 *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *arco* *p* *pizz.* *arco* *long gliss.*

Perc. 1 *mp - mf*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 Xyl. *mp*

35 *mf*

Vic. mar - - - - - yam al tash - li - khi 'o - ta

Gtr. 1 *f scrup*

Gtr. 2 *f*

Gtr. 3 *mf*

Gtr. 4 *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *pizz.* *arco* *f*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 Xyl. *mf*

36 *f*

Vic. la - yam mar - - - - yam le -

Gtr. 1 *f* scrap (word painting) *sub.mp* *ff* (word painting) Guitars 1 + 2: scrap nail alo[®], fast, reach high pitch

Gtr. 2 *f* *sub.mp* *ff*

Gtr. 3 *f* *sub.mp* *f*

Gtr. 4 *f*

Vc. *pizz arco* *sub.mp* *f*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 (Xyl.)

Perc. 3 *sub.mp* *mf*

37 (*f*) 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Vic. - 'an he - ve - ta 'o - ti ra - fa - 'el le - 'an ma-shakh - ta 'o - ti ya ben sa - ta(n)

Gtr. 1 *mf*

Gtr. 2 *mf*

Gtr. 3 *mf*

Gtr. 4 *f* 7 quick free permutations faster than in bars 33-34

Vc. *pizz* (d.) *pizz* *arco* (o) *tremolando* (very high pitches) *mf*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 (Xyl.) 7 quick free permutations faster than in bars 33-34 in Guit. 4

38 *rit. un poco*

Vic. *a n*

Gtr. 1 *sul pontic.* "ugly" sound of 4 guitars

Gtr. 2 *f* *ff* *sul pontic.*

Gtr. 3 *f* *ff* *sul pontic.*

Gtr. 4 *f* *ff* *sul pontic.*

Vc. *f* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

Perc. 1 *(free to celloist's imagination)* *Sul talone + molto sul ponticello*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

39 *f* *ff*

Vic. *ge - - - kha - lim yits - re - vu 'et ei - nai kshe - - - 'er - 'e ye - led ka -*

Gtr. 1 *mf-f* *3*

Gtr. 2 *mf-f* *3*

Gtr. 3 *mf-f* *3*

Gtr. 4 *mf-f* *3*

Vc. *mf-f* *3*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *(Xyl.)* *f/mf* *3*

Vic. *40*
 - tan kol ye - mey kha - yay —

Gtr. 1 *(f)* *mf*
 Play Sing
 ha - vi - 'u shi - kuy she - yar - gi - 'a ru - kha ku - la bo - 'e - ret

Gtr. 2 *(f)* *mf*
 Play Sing
 ha - vi - 'u shi - kuy she - yar - gi - 'a ru - kha ku - la bo - 'e - ret

Gtr. 3 *(f)* *mf*
 Play and sing the same
 ha - vi - 'u shi - kuy she - yar - gi - 'a ru - kha ku - la bo - 'e - ret

Gtr. 4 *(f)* *mf*
 Play and sing the same
 ha - vi - 'u shi - kuy she - yar - gi - 'a ru - kha ku - la bo - 'e - ret

Vc. *mf*
 Sing Play
 ha - vi - 'u shi - kuy she - yar - gi - 'a ru - kha ku - la bo - 'e - ret

Perc. 1 both sing and drum *mf*
 ha - vi - 'u shi - kuy she - yar - gi - 'a ru - kha ku - la bo - 'e - ret

Perc. 2 both sing and drum *mf*
 ha - vi - 'u shi - kuy she - yar - gi - 'a ru - kha ku - la bo - 'e - ret

Perc. 3 (Xyl.) *mf*
 R. H. L. H. Sing
 ha - vi - 'u shi - kuy she - yar - gi - 'a ru - kha ku - la bo - 'e - ret

4

♩ = 88 Short Instrumental Interlude

41

Vic.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

Gtr. 4

Vc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

a a a

mf f mf

mf f mf

mp mf mp

mp mf mp

a a a

p mp p

a a a

a a a

a a a

bend

bend

bend

bend

both hands nocking on string

to D# with bent string

43

Vic.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

Gtr. 4

Vc.

bend *gliss* *bend* *bend* *gliss* *gliss*

mp *f* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

mp *f* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

p *mf* *mf* *mp* *p* *gliss* *gliss*

p *mf* *mp* *p* *gliss*

pp *mp* *p* *pp*

in Guitars 1, 2, 4 bend to A₂ with a leant string

Feel of "Hafla" with finés in Guitars

45 $\text{♩} = 130$ *accel.* *accel. molto* *ff* **Total break (silence)**

Vic.

ben

high: played by nuckle on top
middle: played by nuckle on side
low: played by thumb on bridge

everybody nocks on wood or body of instrument

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

Gtr. 4

Vc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f *f* *f* *f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Total break (silence)

52

Vic. *mp - mf*

Gtr. 1 *mp* *p* *p+*

Gtr. 2 *mp* *p* *p+*

Gtr. 3 *mp* *p* *p+* *non trem.*

Gtr. 4 *mp* *p* *p+* *non trem.*

Vc. *p* *mp* *p* *mp - mf* *gliss.*

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *p*

Perc. 3 *mp*

VII

XII

56

Vic.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

Gtr. 4

Vc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

59

Vic. *f* *mf*

Gtr. 1 *(p+)*

Gtr. 2 *slow (p+)*

Gtr. 3 *slow (p+)*

Gtr. 4 *(p+)*

Vc. *quite slow*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

XII

XII

XII

with flat index's flesh

rasg. with side of index's flesh

63 *mf-mp*

Vic.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 3

Gtr. 4

Vc. *gliss.*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

66

Musical score for measures 66-68. The score includes parts for Violin (Vic.), four Guitars (Gtr. 1-4), Violoncello (Vc.), and three Percussion parts (Perc. 1-3). Measure 66 features a violin melody starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic, which then transitions to mezzo-forte (*mf*) and mezzo-piano (*mp*). The guitar parts are highly rhythmic, with Gtr. 1 and 2 playing sixteenth-note patterns, Gtr. 3 playing eighth-note patterns, and Gtr. 4 playing a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The cello part provides a low-frequency accompaniment. Percussion parts 1 and 2 have rests with slashes, while Perc. 3 plays a rhythmic accompaniment.

69

Musical score for measures 69-71. The score includes parts for Violin (Vic.), four Guitars (Gtr. 1-4), Violoncello (Vc.), and three Percussion parts (Perc. 1-3). Measure 69 features a violin melody with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The guitar parts continue with rhythmic patterns, including triplets in Gtr. 3 and 4. The cello part includes a section marked "8va (harmonics)" with a dashed line above the staff. Percussion parts 1 and 2 have rests with slashes, while Perc. 3 plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The score concludes with a dynamic change to piano (*p*) in the final measure.

72

Vic. *x3 gradual descrec. during three bars*

Gtr. 1 *pizz. p*

Gtr. 2 *p-p-p pizz. mp*

Gtr. 3 *pizz. p*

Gtr. 4 *pp*

Vcl. *mp gliss. intonation according to graph x3 p ppp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Bar 73 upper line in Vcl.:
Harmonic arpeggios across
all four strings

75

The musical score consists of the following parts and staves:

- Vic.**: Violin, Treble clef, empty staves.
- Gtr. 1**: Guitar 1, Treble clef, empty staves.
- Gtr. 2**: Guitar 2, Treble clef, empty staves.
- Gtr. 3**: Guitar 3, Treble clef, contains a few notes in measure 75.
- Gtr. 4**: Guitar 4, Treble clef, empty staves.
- Vc.**: Violoncello, Bass clef, contains a harmonic arpeggio in measure 76.
- Perc. 1**: Percussion 1, Treble clef, empty staves.
- Perc. 2**: Percussion 2, Treble clef, empty staves.
- Perc. 3**: Percussion 3, Treble and Bass clefs, empty staves.

Bar 73 upper line in Vcl.:
Harmonic arpeggios across
all four strings