

The Box

Text by Laura E. Goodin

a short opera about love
(Duration approximately 91/2 minutes)

Music by Houston Dunleavy

♩ = 116 *A warehouse. A radio is broadcasting news, only just loud enough to know the radio is on.*

Leona

Gil

Byron

Piano

f

This musical system consists of four staves. The top three staves are for vocalists: Leona (treble clef), Gil (bass clef), and Byron (bass clef). Each staff contains a whole rest in the first measure, a whole rest in the second measure, and a whole rest in the third measure. The time signatures are 4/4, 3/4, and 4/4 respectively. The piano accompaniment is on the bottom staff, featuring a right-hand melody with eighth and sixteenth notes and a left-hand accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes. The piano part begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

LEONA is working on the factory floor: she slices boxes open, places contents -- smaller boxes, books, whatever -- onto shelves.

Leona

Gil

Byron

Pno.

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*While she's working, GIL and BYRON enter separately.
They give each other cheery waves: clearly they are all fond of each other.*

8

Leona

Gil

Byron

8

Pno.

As LEONA opens a particular box, nothing special to look at, she is staggered by an odd sensation.

12

Leona

Gil

Byron

12

Pno.

The box is empty, which puzzles her still more, but she shrugs, tosses the open box aside, and resumes unpacking as GIL looks up from his own work. He is distracted, staring into space.

15 Very freely, dreamily

Leona

Gil

Byron

15 Big, messy palm cluster!

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 116$

19

Leona

Gil

Byron

What was that? A ___ feel -

19 *loco*

Pno.