

*Act Two*

*Interlude music, played in darkness.*

Piano

Marcato ♩ = 96      meno mosso ♩ = 66      tempo I ♩ = 96

Piano

molto meno mosso ♩ = 48

Piano

tempo I ♩ = 96      rit. -----

*(Lights come up on the verandah of Solness's house the following morning. Hilde stands at the downstage railing, gazing out past the audience at the new house. Stage right, a flight of steps leads down off the verandah. A door upstage leads into the house. Behind Hilde is a small outdoor table with two chairs.)*

Hilde

24 ----- ♩ = 72      poco meno mosso ♩ = 66      mp

Yes.      He was right.      It is

Piano

mf      mp      p

meno mosso ♩ = 48

31 Hilde high - er than the one in Ly - san - ger.

Piano

poco meno mosso ♩ = 44

34 Hilde And when the sca - fol - ding comes down, e - ven more beau - ti - ful I'm sure!

Piano

36 Hilde But first, he will as - cend that scaf - fol - ding,

Piano

38 Hilde step by step — by step — by step, till he reach - es the guest room with its

Piano

40

Hilde

bal - co - nies on ev - ery side and its view as far as Ly - san - ger,

Piano

42

Hilde

then on to the ve - ry top,

Piano

*mp*

43

Hilde

where he'll stand, proud and fear - less, as he hangs up that wreath,

Piano

45

Hilde

then turns to smile down on the crowd be - low as they shout

Piano

*mf*

47

Hilde

"Hoo-ray for Mas - ter Buil - der Sol - ness! Hoo-ray for Mas - ter Buil - der Sol - ness!"

Piano

*f* *ff*

(Mrs. Solness enters from inside  
the house, wearing a gray shawl  
over her mourning clothes.)

49 *piu mosso* ♩ = 52

Hilde

Oh!

Mrs. S.

Good mor - ning, Miss Vun - gel. Did I star - tle you? I'm sor - ry.

Piano

*f* *mp*

51

Hilde

Not if I have to go in - side.

Mrs. S.

I wan - ted to ask if you'd care for some break - fast.

Piano

poco rit. -----

53

Hilde

It's so love - ly out here.

Mrs. S.

Yes.

Piano

54

Hilde

Per - fect wea - ther!

Mrs. S.

Good wea - ther for the ce - re - mo - ny.

Piano

$\bullet = 48$

55

Hilde

Like a ba - by. Oh, ex - cuse me for..

Mrs. S.

Did you sleep well? If you wish,

Piano

*f* *mp*

57

Hilde

No thank you. I'm not real - ly hung - ry.

Mrs. S.

I could bring your break - fast out here.

Piano

*mf*

59 *poco piu mosso* ♩ = 56

Hilde

Is he a - wake?

Mrs. S.

If you mean my hus - band,

Piano

*mp*

(Pointing down the stage right steps)

61

Mrs. S.

for some time now. He's down there, giv - ing fi - nal in - struc - tions to the fore - man.

Piano

63

Hilde

I can't see that far down. Those trees \_\_\_\_\_ are in the way.

Piano

65

*meno mosso* ♩ = 44

Hilde

But the rest of the scaf - fol - ding's won - der - fly vi - si - ble!

Piano

*mf*

67

*piu mosso* ♩ = 52

Mrs. S.

Yes, it's bet - ter to watch from here. The streets will be packed with peop - le,

Piano

*mp*

rit. ----- ♩ = 48

69

Hilde

It's good of you to let me watch from here.

Mrs. S.

and ve - ry noi - sy.

Piano

*mf*

71

Hilde

(Gesturing at the table and chairs)

No. Please sit and talk to me.

Mrs. S.

Do you want to be left a - lone for now?

Piano

73

Mrs. S.

Ve - ry well, if you wish.

Piano

*mp*

(She sits in one of the chairs. Hilde sits in the other.)

poco piu mosso  $\bullet = 52$

Hilde

Are you pleased with the new house?

Mrs. S.

I should be. It's

Piano

Mrs. S.

ni - cer than this one. But then, this was my fam - ily's home.

Piano


Hilde

I did - n't know that.


rit. -----

Piano

82  $\bullet = 44$

Mrs. S. 

I grew up here, quite hap - pi-ly. Af - ter both my pa - rents died,

Piano 

Mrs. S. 

the house be-came mine. When Hal-ward and I were marr-ied,

Piano 

Mrs. S. 

it be-came ours. And there were some hap - py times then too.

Piano 

88

Hilde

Yes.

Mrs. S.

So you see, there are at-tach - ments.

Piano

*mf* *p*

90

Hilde

The loss of the chil - dren: it must have been aw - ful, for both of you.

Piano

*mp*

92

Mrs. S.

It was God's will. The boys are at peace in a bet - ter place.

Piano

*p* *mp*

94 *rit.* -----

Hilde

Yet be-lie-ving that you still mourn for them.

Piano

96 ♩ = 40

Hilde

For your-self then.

Mrs. S.

I mourn but not for them. And for him.

Piano

98 *rit.* ----- ♩ = 52

Hilde

Him?

Mrs. S.

He too is child-less. He too suf-fers.

Piano

*mp*

Mrs. S. <sup>101</sup>  
But his way of dea - ling with that is with pro - jects like that tow - er

Piano <sup>101</sup>

Mrs. S. <sup>103</sup>  
which serve no use - ful pur - pose, and are e - ven, if I may say so,

Piano <sup>103</sup>  
*mf*

Hilde <sup>105</sup>  
Sin - ful?

Mrs. S. <sup>105</sup>  
Sin - ful. Tow - ers, spi - res, stee - ples, what - e - ver one calls them,

Piano <sup>105</sup>  
*mp*

Mrs. S. <sup>108</sup> are prop - er - ly for church - es not or - din - a - ry hou - ses.

Piano <sup>108</sup>

Mrs. S. <sup>110</sup> It seems an act of ar - ro - gance to build one, and

Piano <sup>110</sup>

Mrs. S. <sup>112</sup> such a high one, o - ver a buil - ding that is hard - ly a sa - cred place.

Piano <sup>112</sup> *mf*

114

Hilde

It could be - come sa - cred, if filled with love.

Mrs. S.

I use the word

Piano

*mp* *mf* *mp*

117

Hilde

Of course.

Mrs. S.

in its re - li - gious sense.

Piano

*meno mosso* ♩ = 40

119

Mrs. S.

Tell me, Miss Vun - gel, your fa - ther, the may - or, and your mo - ther,

Piano

122

Hilde

Oh yes. But my place is no lon - ger with them

Mrs. S.

do they treat you well?

Piano

*f* *mp* *mf*

124

Hilde

or my two ol - der bro - thers.

Piano

125

Mrs. S.

Un-til a girl is mar - ried, is - n't her place in her fam - ily's home?

Piano

*mf*

127  $\bullet = 56$

Hilde 

Not if she feels like a caged bird there.

Mrs. S. 

I see. And

Piano

130

Hilde 

Oh no!

Mrs. S. 

you would be like some bird of the fo- rest.

Piano

133

Hilde 

They hide in trees and bush - es. I like the o - pen air.

Mrs. S. 

I see.

Piano

Mrs. S. <sup>136</sup> Like a bird of prey. Or a sca-ven-ger bird.

Piano <sup>136</sup> *f*

(Solness enters up the flight of stairs.  
Both of them rise.)

Hilde <sup>139</sup> Good mor-ning. *poco rit.*

Mrs. S. <sup>139</sup> Ah, Hal-vard! Good mor-ning.

Solness <sup>139</sup> Good mor-ning.

Piano <sup>139</sup> *ff* *f* *mf*

Hilde <sup>142</sup> ♩ = 52 And what a beau-ti-ful day for the ce-re-mo-ny!

Mrs. S. <sup>142</sup> Is all well down there?

Solness <sup>142</sup> Quite well.

Piano <sup>142</sup>

144

Hilde *A per - fect day!*

Mrs. S. *Yes it is.*

Solness *A per - fect day! Has Rag - nar come with the wreath yet?*

Piano

146 *piu mosso* ♩ = 60

Hilde *Not yet.*

Mrs. S. *Not yet. Well, it was nice tal - king with you, Miss Vun - gel.*

Piano

148

Hilde *Nice tal - king with you.*

Mrs. S. *Please let me know when the ce - re - mo - ny starts.*

Piano *mf*

150 *(She exits into the house.)*

Mrs. S. *Of course.*

Solness *We'll all know when the band starts play - ing.*

Piano *f mp*

*(Hilde and Solness watch her go, then stare at each other for a moment.)*

Piano

155 *meno mosso* ♩ = 52

Hilde *Com - fort - ablr.*

Solness *How did you find the nur - se - ry?*

Piano

(Gesturing out at the new house)

157

Hilde

Well soon there'll be a dif-ferent guest room,

157

Solness

You were-n't a bit un-ea-sy?

Piano

159

Hilde

in a house that is not her fam-i-ly's.

159

Solness

Yes, this house is sold al-rea-dy,

Piano

161

Hilde

I don't think

161

Solness

to be oc-cu-pied when we move there.

Piano

163 *(Hilde turns away from him.)*

Hilde  
it will help her for - get.

Solness  
Nei - ther do I.

Piano

165  $\bullet = 56$

Hilde  
A bird of prey. Or a sca - ven - ger bird.

Solness  
What? What did you say?

Piano  
*f* *mp* *f*

*(Ragnar enters from inside the house, carrying a large green wreath decked with flowers and ribbons.)*

167

Ragnar  
I've brought the wreath, Mas - ter Buil - der.

Piano  
*mf*

169  
Hilde  
Good!

169  
Ragnar  
Should I take it down to the fore - man?

169  
Solness  
Good!

169  
Piano

170  
Ragnar  
*(Taking the wreath from him)* Ve - ry well. Is there a - ny - thing else?

170  
Solness  
No. I'll take it my - self, la - ter.

170  
Piano

172  
Hilde  
Oh yes there is! Come, Mas - ter Buil - der, you know what I mean!

172  
Solness  
Not at the mo - ment.

172  
Piano  
*f* *mf* *ff*

(He lays the wreath on the table and turns to Ragnar.)

174

Solness

Oh. Yes.

Piano

*mf*

*mp*

3 3 3

176 *meno mosso* ♩ = 48

Hilde

Yes.

Ragnar

A let - ter?

Solness

I'd like you to go in - side and write a let - ter, - - - -

Piano

178

Ragnar

Ve - ry well.

Solness

ad - dressed to whom it may con - cern. - - - - A let - ter of re - fe - rence -

Piano

rit. ----- ♩ = 44

180

Hilde  
Yes —!

180

Ragnar  
8  
My - self?

180

Solness  
— for your - self. Sta - ting that I, Hal - vard Sol - ness,

180

Piano  
*mf*

182

Hilde  
Yes! You did.

182

Ragnar  
8  
Did I hear you co - rec - tly?

182

Solness  
rec - co - mend you to de sign - hou - ses. - - - - - You did. -

182

Piano  
*f*

184

Hilde

He is.

184

Ragnar

You're re-com-men-ding me?

184

Solness

If the let-ter is pro-per-ly writ-ten,

184

Piano

*mf*

186

Ragnar

I don't know whom I should thank for this.

186

Solness

I will sign it this mor-ning.

186

Piano

*mp*

188

Solness

Thank no one. Just write that let-ter well.

*poco piu mosso* ♩ = 48

188

Piano

*mf*

190

Solness

And you'd bet - ter de - sign well. There is stiff com - pe - ti - tion a - wai - ting you.

Piano

(He exits into the house.)

192

Ragnar

I know that. Yes sir.

8

♩ = 60 rit. -----

192

Solness

Go then.

Piano

*f*

194

Hilde

There! That was - n't so hard, was it?

♩ = 52

194

Solness

His eyes did light up.

Piano

*mp* *mf*

(Solness gazes at Hilde for a moment, then moves to her and takes her hands in his.)

196

Hilde

So did yours!

196

Solness

Hil - de,

196

Piano

*mp*

*p*

199

Solness

tell me: though it's not a cas - tle, and you're not a prin - cess,

199

Piano

*mf*

201

Solness

could you see your way to be - ing the first — guest

201

Piano

*mp*

203

Solness

in that new guest room?

203

Piano

*mf*

*mp*

205 rit. -----

Hilde *tr*

Could you see your way to vi - si - ting me there?

Piano

207  $\bullet = 48$

Hilde

But would - n't you get diz - zy

Solness

If you were to in - vite me.

Piano

209  $\bullet = \bullet$

Hilde

at such a height?

Solness

Not if I did - n't look down.

Piano *mf* *mp*

211 *rit.* -----

Hilde  
Ah, but soo - ner or la - ter you'd have to look down.

Piano  
*mf*

(She withdraws her hands, turns from him and looks out over the railing.)

213  $\bullet = 40$

Piano  
*mp* *p*

215 *poco piu mosso*  $\bullet = 44$

Hilde  
If I were a bird of prey,

Piano  
*mp*

216

Hilde  
or a sca - ven - ger bird, I would have no qualms.

Piano  
*mf*

218

Hilde

a - bout swoo - ping down on what - e - ver I craved.

Piano

220

Hilde

But I'm not an - y kind of bird.

Piano

222

Hilde

I'm as wo - man of twen - ty - - - three

Piano

223

Hilde

to whom, once u - pon a time,

Piano

224

Hilde

you said, per - haps hav - ing drunk too much, that she looked like a prin - cess

Piano

*mp* *p*

226

Hilde

whom you wished you could car - ry a - way to some cas - tle you'd build for her,

Piano

*mf*

228

Hilde

some - where or o - ther, some - how or o - ther. rit. -----

Piano

*mp*

230

Hilde

And for ten years I've dreamed of lit - tle else.

Piano

*p* *mp*

a tempo ♩ = 44

232

Hilde

But now that I'm here, I re - a - lize that what I've dreamt of \_\_\_\_\_ all these years

Piano

*f* *mp*

234

Hilde

was in fact a cas - tle in the air.

Solness

234

You mean, an il - lu - sion;

Piano

*f* *mf*

236

Solness

a mere child's fan - ta - sy. Noth - ing more.

Piano

*mp*

rit. -----

238

Hilde

And a grown man's fan - ta - sy. Noth - ing more.

Piano

(They stand gazing separately out over the railing for a while. Then Hilde turns abruptly to him.)

rit. -----

240

Hilde

So

Piano

242

Hilde

what will you build next, Mas - ter Buil - der?

Solness

I don't know

Piano

244

Hilde Well I know.

Solness what's worth build - ing an - y lon - ger. Then tell me, Hil - de.

Piano *f* *p*

247 rit.  $\bullet = 40$

Hilde A real cas - tle in the air!

Solness What should I build next? A

Piano *mf* *f* *mp*

249

Hilde E - ven high - er than that one. And e - ven more beau - ti - ful.

Solness real...? E - ven high - er than...?

Piano *mf* *mp*

251  $\bullet = 52$

Hilde

And where, no mat-ter how far up you go in it, you'll ne-ver get diz-zy,

Piano

*mf* *f*

254 rit. -----

Hilde

be - cause you'll nev - er have to look down. (Catching her drift)

Solness

254 I see.

Piano

*mf* *p*

256  $\bullet = 48$

Solness

But will it have a firm foun - da - tion?

Piano

*mp*

257

Solness

Ev - ery - thing I've built

Piano

258

Hilde

As firm a foun - da - tion

Solness

has a firm foun - da - tion.

Piano

260

Hilde

as the one and on - ly Mas - ter Buil - der Sol - ness can lay un - der it.

Piano

*mp* *mf*

262

Solness

And will there be a room near the top to re-ceive a vis-i-tor - from Ly-san-ger?

Piano

*p* *mp*

264

Hilde

Once it is built

Piano

*f* *pp* *mp*

266

Hilde

may I be al-lowed to join you there.

(Clutching her hands)

Solness

Oh Hil - de! Hil - de!

Piano

*f*

poco rit. ----- ♩ = 44

268

Hilde

Our cas - tle in the

Solness

A - men to that! Our cas - tle in the air,

Piano

*mp*

270

Hilde

air, high - er \_\_\_\_\_ and more beau - ti - ful \_\_\_\_\_ than

Solness

high - er \_\_\_\_\_ and more beau - ti - ful \_\_\_\_\_ than an - y here! \_\_\_\_\_

Piano

272

Hilde

an - y here! \_\_\_\_\_ And on a firm foun - da - tion! \_\_\_\_\_

Solness

\_\_\_\_\_ And on a firm foun - da - tion! \_\_\_\_\_

Piano

(Ragnar enters with a sheet of paper.)

274 *f*  $\bullet = 60$

Ragnar *f* I've writ - ten it, Mas - ter Buil - der.

Piano *f*

(Ragnar hands the sheet to Solness. Solness quickly scans it.)

276 Good!

Ragnar *mp* Is it wor - ded pro - per - ly?

Piano *mp*

279 Then sign it. Go in there, take pen amd ink,

Hilde

279 Yes. It's fine.

Solness

Piano *mf* *f*

rit. ----- ♩ = 40

282 Hilde and sign it.

282 Solness (He exits into the house.)

282 Piano Yes.

*p*

284 Ragnar I owe this to you,

284 Piano

285 Hilde It is his be - quest to your ge - ne - ra - tion.

285 Ragnar don't I?

285 Piano *mf*

287 *piu mosso* ♩ = 76

Hilde

Ah, the band's star - ted play - ing!

(Offstage band, taped)

Piano

*f*

Hilde

The ce - re - mo - ny is a - bout to be - gin!

(Mrs. Solness enters.)

Ragnar

Yes!

Piano

Ragnar

*meno mosso* ♩ = 60

Thank you.

Solness

I've signed it.

Piano

*ff* *mp* *Piano*

Mrs. S. *301*

*(Picking up the wreath)* But Hal-ward, can't Rag-nar do that?

Solness *301*

I must take this down there.

Piano

*(Solness and Hilde exchange a long understanding look)*

Solness *306*

*meno mosso* ♩ = 52 *rit.* -----

Rag-nar is not a ser-vant an-y lon-ger. *lunga*

Piano

*p* *pp* *f*

*(Solness quickly exits down the flight of steps)* *a tempo*

Mrs. S. *313*

*piu mosso* ♩ = 60 *(Calling after him)*

But you will come back up here and

Piano

*mf*

318 rit. ----- ♩ = 48 *(Gazing out over the railing)*  
*p*

Hilde He won't be com - ing back.

Mrs. S. watch with us?

Ragnar *(Moving up beside her)*  
 What do you mean?

Piano *mp* *mf*

323 *(To herself)*  
 Hilde For ten years I've dreamed of this.

Mrs. S. *(Moving to the railing on the other side of Ragnar)*  
 Why do I have this un - ea - sy fee - ling?

Piano *p*

329 Hilde Of this. \_\_\_\_\_ and more!

Ragnar *(To himself)*  
 He would - n't dare. He would - n't dare.

Piano *mf* *Offstage band*

Piano

334 *f* *ff*

Mrs. S.

341 *f* = 60

Look! There goes the fore - man with...

Ragnar

341 *ff*

No! It's not the fore-man!

Piano

341 *Piano* *p* *f* *ff*

Hilde

346 *f*

It is he!

Mrs. S.

346 *ff*

Oh dear God! Stop him! Some - one stop him!

Ragnar

346 *f*

It is he, yes! He's

Piano

346

350

Hilde

Mrs. S.

Ragnar

Piano

Yes he will!

Hal - vard, go back!

real - ly try - ing it! He'll ne - ver make it!

354

Hilde

Ragnar

Piano

No he

He'll stop an - y min - ute, and crawl back down!

357

Hilde

won't! No he won't! Look at him go, so con-fi-dent-ly!

Mrs. S.

357

Hal-ward, be care-ful!

Ragnar

357

8

He real-ly

Piano

357

362

Hilde

Now he's reached the bal-co-ny \_\_\_\_\_ of the guest room

Ragnar

362

8

seems to be do-ing it!

Piano

362

*mf*

*meno mosso* ♩ = 48

367

Hilde

And is loo - king o - ver toward Lys - an - ger!

Mrs. S.

Oh be care - ful,

Ragnar

And he's stopped!

Piano

371

Hilde

And there he goes, to the

Mrs. S.

Hal - vard, be care - ful.

Piano

374  
Hilde  
ve - ry top!

374  
Mrs. S.  
I can't look!

374  
Ragnar  
8 Im - pos - sib - le!

374  
Piano

378  
Hilde  
And there he stands, lar - ger than life!

378  
Ragnar  
8 My God, he's made it! And han - ging that

378  
Piano  
*ff* *mf* *f*

*piu mosso* ♩ = 60

Ragnar

383 wreath on the wea - ther - vane!

Offstage Crowd

383 *ff* Hoo - ray for Mas - ter Build - der Sol - ness!

Piano

383 *ff*

*meno mosso* ♩ = 48

Hilde

388 And look! He's tur - ning a - round,

388 *ff* Hoo - ray for Mas - ter Build - der Sol - ness!

Piano

388 *mf*

*(She runs over behind Mrs. Solness. pulls off her shawl and waves it)*

Hilde

392 and he's loo - king this way! Hoo -

Piano

392 *ff*

(She runs back to where she'd been standing and continues to wave the shawl)

394

Hilde ray for Mas - ter Buil - der Sol - ness! Hoo -

Ragnar *ff* No! Stop that!

Piano

396

Hilde ray for Mas - ter Buil - der Sol - ness! Hoo -

Mrs. S. *ff* Stop! You'll make him diz - zy!

Piano

(Evading their attempts to stop her)

398

Hilde ray for Mas - ter Buil - der Sol - ness! Hoo - ray - -for -Mas -- ter Buil - der Sol - ness! -

Piano

meno mosso ♩ = 40

Hilde

ray for Mas - ter Buil - der

(A scream, from Mrs. Solness and the offstage crowd)

*ffff*

Mrs. S.

Ragnar

Oh God!

He's

Piano

Mrs. S.

Oh my God!

Ragnar

fal - len!

From a height like that

Piano

rit. ----- ♩ = 32 (Sinking down into one of the chairs)

Mrs. S. 404  
Oh my God! Oh my God!

Ragnar 404  
he could ne - ver sur - vive! You've

Piano 404  
*mp*

(Looking with horror at Hilde)

(Hilde crosses behind Mrs. Solness and lays the shawl gently around her shoulders)

Hilde 406  
He's in a bet - ter place.

Mrs. S. 406  
God have mer - cy on him!

Ragnar 406  
killed him!

Piano 406  
*ff* *mf* *mp*

poco piu mosso ♩ = 40 *mp*

409

Hilde

We know that, don't we?

409

Mrs. S.

*p*

If it's with the twins.

409

Piano

*p*

*f*

*(Hilde continues to hold Mrs. Solness gently by the shoulders as she gazes out over the railing. Ragnar continues to stare at her with horror as lights fade to black.)*

412

Piano

*ff*

*fff*

$\bullet = 48$

*The End*