

PROGRAM NOTES

Scrapbookers is a micro operetta for soprano duet and piano. The piece was commissioned by Indiana-based ensemble, Soprani Compagni, for their project, "Portraits of Women in Contemporary Soprano Duet." In the operetta, Carol and her sister, Noelle, are at Carol's weekly crop night to work on a wedding anniversary scrapbook for their parents. Carol is an avid and long-time scrapbooker. Noelle knows nothing about scrapbooking. The sisters bicker as they take a trip down memory lane, but also remember their strong family connection.

Duration: 14:00

SYNOPSIS

Carol and Noelle are at Carol's weekly crop night. Carol has talked Noelle into coming with her to work on a wedding anniversary scrapbook for their parents. They are seated among a gathering of women working on scrapbooking projects. We do not see the other women, but occasionally Carol and Noelle look around the room and engage with these invisible scrapbookers.

At the beginning of the operetta, the two sisters have just arrived and are getting settled at their spot. Carol pulls out her supplies and equipment and talks with some of her fellow scrapbookers, while Noelle, obviously uncomfortable, complains about doing the project. Tiffany (the pianist for the operetta) asks Noelle if this is her first time scrapbooking, to which Noelle retorts that the scrapbook bug never bit her.

Carol plops down a huge box of family pictures in front of Noelle. Noelle rummages around in the box and pulls out a picture of herself and Carol at age five and age ten. In the photo, they are dressed in matching red sweaters that their mother knit for them. The picture launches Noelle into memories of a childhood song, which she sings aloud to the group. Noelle coaxes Carol into singing with her despite Carol's resistance.

As they finish their impromptu performance, Carol is embarrassed while Noelle basks with the attention. Finally, they settle into working on the scrapbook. As Noelle selects pictures, Carol looks through her cardstock for design ideas. They sing in fond remembrance of all the things that their family did together.

CAST

Carol: Soprano, middle-aged
Noelle: Soprano, Carol's younger sister by five years
Tiffany: Speaking role played by the pianist

SETTING

There is a table and two chairs center stage. Carol has a large craft tote full of her scrapbooking supplies and equipment. She also has a large box of family photos.

PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

The piece was premiered November 13–14, 2015 by Soprani Compagni as part of their new works symposium, "Portraits of Women in Contemporary Soprano Duet;" Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana.

Leanna Kirchoff (b. 1969)

For biographical information visit: www.leannakirchoff.com

LIBRETTO

(Scene: There is a table and two chairs center stage. Carol has a large craft tote full of her scrapbooking supplies and equipment. She also has a large box of family photos. Carol had talked her sister, Noelle, into coming to Carol's crop night to work on an anniversary scrapbook for their parents. They are seated among a gathering of women working on scrapbooking projects. We do not see the other women, but occasionally Carol and Noelle look around the room and engage with these invisible scrapbookers. Carol is an avid and long-time scrapbooker. Noelle knows nothing about scrapbooking. The two sisters have just arrived and are getting settled at their spot.)

Carol *(She pulls each of these things out of her craft tote and plops them on the table.)*

Pictures, paper, pens, scissors, stickers, glue.
The album, page protectors, stamps, punches, embellishments, decorative tape.
Buttons, trimmers, rulers, fonts.

Noelle *(As Carol continues to list, Noelle mockingly echoes Carol.)*

Pictures, paper, pens, scissors, stickers, glue.
Expensive, obsessive, time-consuming.
Just a hobby, decorative tape has taken over your life.
Just a hobby, all the essentials.

Carol

Cardstock, patterned papers, cutting tools, adhesives, glitter, ribbon, fringe, sequins, tags, tacks, brads, crimpers, embossing powder.

Noelle

Do you really need all this stuff, Carol?
(Looks around the room at another woman's supply box.)
Look at her toolbox!
It's even bigger than yours!

Carol *(as if talking to another woman walking by)*

Hi Bonnie!
Did you see these new embellishments?
Aren't they the cutest things?
I can't wait to use them!

Noelle

Won't a photo album do?
Mom and Dad don't care anyway.

Carol *(to Noelle)*

A nice scrapbook will show our love.
Anyone can put pictures in a photo album, even you, Noelle. *(coily insulting Noelle)*

Noelle *(annoyed)*

Well, thanks, Carol.

Carol *(as if talking to another woman walking by)*
Nancy!

We enjoyed Christina's birthday party on Saturday.
Can you believe she's ten years old?

Noelle *(replaying Carol's comment in her head)*

"Anyone can put pictures in a photo album, even you, Noelle."
Can't we do this at home?
I don't know anyone here.

Carol

It's more fun to work in a group.
(becoming annoyed with Noelle)
Socialize, Noelle! *(imploringly)*
Share stories.
Have some snacks!
For heaven's sake!

Tiffany *(played by pianist, speaks from where she is seated at the piano.)*

Hey, Carol, is this your sister?

Carol

Tiffany, meet my sister, Noelle.

Tiffany

Nice to meet you Noelle.
Are you in town for a visit?

Carol and Noelle

Our parent's fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Tiffany *(to Noelle)*

You seem a little...uncomfortable.
Is this your first time scrapbooking?

Noelle

The scrapbook bug never bit me.

Tiffany

You're kidding?
You've got a lot to catch up on.
Welcome to the crop!

Noelle *(exasperated)*

Can we just get this done?

Carol *(irritated)*

You don't have to like this, Noelle. *(becoming tender)*
But, Mom and Dad will be happy knowing we did this together. You know how they always wanted us to be close.
(Carol plops down a huge box of family pictures directly in front of Noelle. They begin to rummage around in the box.)

LIBRETTO

Noelle *(She pulls out a particular picture and is immediately delighted.)*

Christmas, 1973!

Mom knit us each red sweaters, our names on the front.

(Noelle launches into a childhood song she used to sing.)

My name is Noelle Klingendorf.

I live on Silverbell Lane.

I was born on Christmas Day,

so my parents gave me the name, Noelle.

Carol *(Trying to change the subject, she suddenly grabs the photo out of Noelle's hand.)*

Okay! We can use that one.

Pick something else.

Noelle *(continuing with her song)*

(Optional: Noelle stands as if she is giving a performance.)

My sister's name is Carol Klingendorf.

She's five years older than me.

Tiffany *(from the piano)*

Hey, Noelle, you can really sing!

Carol *(to Tiffany)*

That's my sister!

She likes to embarrass me.

Noelle *(continuing with her song)*

Mom wants us to do things together.

Knit us each a matching sweater.

Although we're really not alike,

I think Mom likes me better.

(Noelle nudges Carol to get up from her chair)

Come on, Carol!

Don't you remember?

It's your turn!

Sing with me, Carol!

Carol *(Finally, Carol gets up and joins in, adding her married name as an aside.)*

My name is Carol Klingendorf-Peterson.

I have an annoying little sister.

I was born on the tenth of July,

and I have no idea why my parents named me "Carol,"

when I wish my name was "Katherine!"

Carol and Noelle

(Carol and Noelle continue their impromptu performance, but singing more to one another as if they are back in the present.)

I think I'm lucky that you're my sister.

All that we've shared;

I hope I don't forget all these memories.

Tiffany *(Tiffany claps wildly from the piano, perhaps whistles and hollers.)*

(As if the entire room has erupted in applause, Carol and Noelle nod "thank yous" to the invisible people sitting around them. Noelle basks in the applause; Carol feels awkward.)

Carol *(embarrassed)*

Well, thanks for that, Noelle.

Noelle *(very pleased with herself)*

That was one for the scrapbook!

I'm just sharing our story.

Carol

You organize the pictures;

I'll pick out paper.

(They get to work. Noelle sorts through pictures, and Carol looks through her cardstock. It becomes obvious that they both are enjoying what they are doing.)

Noelle

Mom and Dad's wedding, their honeymoon, pictures of me...

Carol *(peeking over at what Noelle is doing and interjecting)*
and pictures of me...

Carol and Noelle

and pictures of you, trips we took, and holidays.

Carol *(in reverie)*

My wedding day...

Noelle

Mom and Dad's work, Mom and Dad's church groups...

Carol

and my Sylvie, Josh, Rachel, Ben...

Noelle

and the family pets.

Carol and Noelle

Our senior pictures, and every birthday, Dad's car collection, Mom's fancy crochet, Grandma, Grandpa, our favorite Aunt Jo, and Uncle Lou.

Carol

Pictures of all the things that families do.

Noelle

Family picnics, reunions, friends of the family, best friends, boyfriends, family pictures.

Carol and Noelle *(tenderly)*

Pictures of all the things that families do.

THE END

Commissioned by Soprani Compagni
(Lisa Dawson, Tammie Huntington, and Phoenix Park-Kim)

Scrapbookers

a Micro Operetta for Two Sopranos and Piano

Libretto and Music by
Leanna Kirchoff (BMI)

(Scene: There is a table and two chairs center stage. Carol has a large craft tote full of her scrapbooking supplies and equipment. She also has a large box of family photos. Carol had talked her sister, Noelle, into coming to Carol's crop night to work on an anniversary scrapbook for their parents. They are seated among a gathering of women working on scrapbooking projects. We do not see the other women, but occasionally Carol and Noelle look around the room and engage with these invisible scrapbookers. Carol is an avid and long-time scrapbooker. Noelle knows nothing about scrapbooking. The two sisters have just arrived and are getting settled at their spot.)

exact range tessitura **Jaunty, with good-natured feeling** ♩ = 88

Carol

Noelle

Jaunty, with good-natured feeling ♩ = 88

Piano

p

(no damper pedal) *mf cantabile*

4

8

(She pulls each of these things out of her craft tote and plops them on the table.)

12 *mf* perky, excited

C. Pic - tures, pa - per, pens, scis - sors, —

N. *p* a less than excited echo to Carol
Pic - tures, — pa - per,

p

16 *f*

C. stick - ers, glue. —

N. *mf* *poco port.* *f*
(As Carol continues to list, Noelle mockingly echoes Carol.)
pens, scis - sors, — stick - ers, — glue. —

20 *mf*

C. The al - bum, —

N. *mf* *poco port.*
Ex - pen - sive, —

23

C. *mp* page pro-tec-tors, stamps, punch-es,

N. *poco port.* ob-ses-sive, —

26

C. *f* em-bel-lish-ments, — dec-

N. time-con-sum-ing, — Just a hob-by, —

29

C. o-ra-tive tape.

N. *f* dec-o-ra-tive tape has tak-en o-ver your

32 *mf*

C. But - tons, trim - mers, rul - ers, fonts,

N. life. — Just a hob - by, — *mf*

f *p*

35

C. ah, — fonts. —

N. — just a hob - by, — *f*

p *mf*

38 *poco rit., slacken the tempo a little*

C. —

N. *poco port.* all the es - sen - tials. —

poco rit., slacken the tempo a little

pp

(In the background Carol continues to list her scrapbooking supplies.)

41 **a tempo** *p*

C. Card-stock, pat-terned pa-pers, cut-ting tools, ad - he - sives, — glit-ter,

N. Do you real-ly need —
distant,
ppp out-of-time,
dreamy feel

a tempo *

mf *p* legato, espressivo

(*♩* lib. liberally)

44

C. rib-bon, fringe, se- quins, — tags, tacks, brads, crimp-ers, —

(Looks around the room at another woman's supply box.)

N. all this stuff, Car - ol? —

ppp

mf *p*

* In passages with a key signature, accidentals are in effect throughout the measure, as typical.

In passages without a key signature, accidentals remain in effect throughout the beat or within a beamed figure.

47 *poco rit.*

C. em - boss - ing pow - der, — em - boss - ing —

N. Look at her tool - box! — It's ev - en big - ger than yours!

ppp *mf* *p* *mf* *poco rit.* *espressivo*

50 **Tempo I subito**

C. pow - der. —

Tempo I subito
8va

p *f*

(no damper pedal)

52 (as if talking to another woman walking by) *f*

C. Hi Bon - nie! — Did you see these new — em -

(8va) *mf*

54

C.

bel - lish - ments?

(8^{va})

56

C.

Aren't they the cut - est things? I can't wait to use them!

(8^{va})

59

N.

a piacere
♩ = ca. 66
f

Won't a pho - to al - bum do?

a piacere
♩ = ca. 66

ppp distant, out-of-time, dreamy feel

8^{va} loco

f *p legato, espressivo*

(*♩* lib.)

(blur r.h./l.h. tonalities with the *♩*.)

(to Noelle)

mf *dolciss.*

62

C. 

N. *poco port.* 

Mom and Dad don't care an-y-way.—

A nice



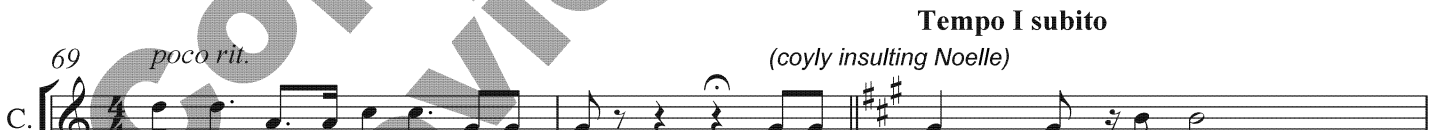
66

C. 

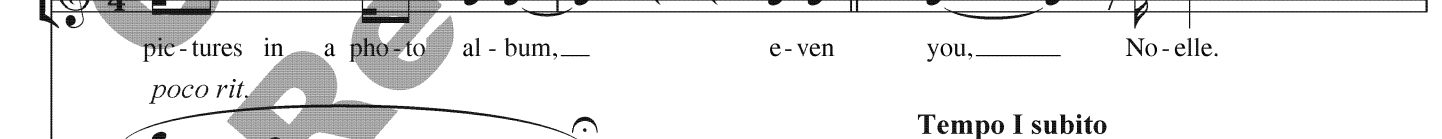
scrap-book will show our love. An-y-one can put

p *dolciss.* 

mf

69 *poco rit.* 

pic-tures in a pho-to al-bum, e-ven you, No-elle.

poco rit. 

pp *colla voce* **Tempo I subito** *mf* *leggiero*

(no damper pedal)

(as if talking to another woman walking by)

72

C. *f* Nan - cy! We en - joyed Chris -

N. *f poco port.* (annoyed) Well, thanks, Car - ol.

mp

74

C. ti - na's birth - day par - ty on Sat - ur - day.

N. *mf* (replaying Carol's comment in her head) An - y - one can put pic - tures

76

C. Can you be - lieve

N. in a pho - to al - bum, ev - en you,

78

C. she's ten years old?

N. No - elle.

becoming tumultuous, agitated

mf legato

80

C.

N. *f* Can't we do this at

82

N. *poco port.* home? I don't know an - y - one here.

f

84 **Meno mosso** ♩ = ca. 66 *p* good-naturedly

C. It's more fun to work in a group. —

Meno mosso ♩ = ca. 66 *becoming gentle*

p

(damper pedal as needed)

86

C.

88 *(becoming annoyed with Noelle)* **f** imploringly

C. So - cial - ize, No - elle! —

90

C. *Share* *sto - ries...*

gentle, dreamy

mp (legato)

5 3

92

C. *Have some snacks!*

f

mf

5 3

95 **Tempo I**

C. *For heav-en's sake!*

Tempo I

jaunty feel (as in the beginning)

mf

(Tiffany, played by pianist, speaks from where she is seated at the piano:)
Hey, Carol, is this your sister?

(no damper pedal)

98

C. *Tif-fa-ny, — meet my sis-ter, No - elle.*

(Tiffany:)
Nice to meet you, Noelle.
Are you in town for a visit?

101 **Tempo I**

C. *mf* Our par - ents fif - ti - eth wed - ding

N. *mf* Our par - ents fif - ti - eth wed - ding

Tempo I
lush, dreamy

p *mf*

(Ed. liberally)

104

C. *poco rit.* an - ni - ver - sa - ry.

N. *poco rit.* an - ni - ver - sa - ry.

(Tiffany to Noelle:)
You seem a little...
uncomfortable.
Is this your first
time scrapbooking?

poco rit. *sfz*

107 **Tempo I**

N. The scrap-book bug nev-er bit me.—

(Tiffany:)
You're kidding?
You've got a lot
to catch up on.
Welcome to the crop!

Tempo I

f *sfz* *f* *sfz* *sfz*

(punctuate the end of Tiffany's line)

112 *a piacere* ♩ = ca. 66 *f* exasperated

N. Can we just get this done?—

ppp distant, out-of-time, dreamy feel

a piacere ♩ = ca. 66

mf *p* legato

(Ped. liberally)

115 *f* irritated

C. You don't have to like this, No - elle.

ppp sim.

f *p*

118 *mf becoming tender*

C. *mf becoming tender*

But, Mom and Dad— will be hap-py— know-ing we did this to-geth-er.

p dolciss.

(damper pedal as needed)

121

C. *poco rit.*

You know— how they al-ways— want-ed us— to be

poco rit.

mf *p*

125 *a piacere* ♩ = ca. 66

C. *close.*

a piacere ♩ = ca. 66 *ppp distant, out-of-time, dreamy feel*

8va

(legato)

3 3

(Carol plops down a huge box of family pictures directly in front of Noelle. They begin to rummage around in the box.)

(Noelle pulls out a particular picture and is immediately delighted.)

129

N. *excitedly*

Christ-mas, nine-teen sev-en-ty three!

8va

p

133 **Animated, playful** ♩ = 92

N. Mom knit us each red sweat-ers, our names on the front.

Animated, playful ♩ = 92

colla voce

137

(Noelle launches into a childhood song she used to sing.)

N. *mf*

My_ name is No-elle Kling-en-dorf. I live on Sil-ver-bell Lane.

8va

mp

142

N.

I was born on Christ-mas Day, so my par-ents gave me the name, No - lle.

sfz *mp* *sfz* *sfz*

15^{ma} 7

(Trying to change the subject, she suddenly grabs the photo out of Noelle's hand.)

149

C.

mf

O - kay! We can use that one. Pick some-thing else.

(continuing with her song)
(Optional: Noelle stands as if she is giving a performance.)

N.

My - sis-ter's name is

mp

153

N.

Car - ol Kling-en-dorf. She's five years old-er than me.

Briskly moving
♩ = 92

mf *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *f legato*

8^{vb}

156 (Tiffany:)
Hey, Noelle, you can really sing!

(damper pedal as needed)

158 to Tiffany *mf*

C. That's my sis - ter! She likes to em -

160

C. bar - rass me!

N. *mf* (continuing with her song)

Mom wants us to do things to- geth - er.

162

N. Knit us each a match - ing sweat - er.

164

N.

Al - though we're real - ly not a - like, I

mf

f

8^{vb}

167

N.

think mom likes me_ bet - ter._

p *sfz* *p* *bell-like*

8^{va} 1

8^{va}

170 (Noelle nudges Carol to get up from her chair.)

N.

Come on, Car-ol! Don't you re-mem - ber? It's your

(8^{va})

173

N.

turn! Sing with me, Car - ol!

(8^{va}) *loco*

Slower, unrushed ♩ = 60

(Finally, Carol gets up and joins in, adding her married name as an aside.)

177 *mf*

C. My name is Car-ol Kling - en-dorf - Pet-er-son. I

Slower, unrushed ♩ = 60

8va *mf* *mf strongly, full sound*

181

C. have an an- noy-ing lit-tle sis- ter. I was born on the tenth of Ju-ly, and I have no i -

mp *p*

185

C. de-a why my par-ents named me "Car-ol," when I wish my name was "Kath-e-rine!"

f *sfz*

Abruptly animated, playful

190 ♩ = ca. 92

f

(Carol and Noelle continue their impromptu performance, but singing more to one another as if they are back in the present.)

192

C. I think I'm luck-y — that you're my

N. I think I'm luck-y — that you're my

p

195

C. sis - ter. All that we've shared,

N. sis - ter. All that we've

p legato *f* (l.h. *p sempre*)

Ped.

197

C. all that we've shared;

N. shared, all that we've shared;

f *f* *p*

199

C. I hope I don't for - get

N. I hope I don't for - get

f *espressivo*

(Ped. as needed)

201

C. all these mem o - ries.

N. all these mem o - ries.

poco rit. *f* *p*

(As if the entire room has erupted in applause, Carol and Noelle nod "thank yous" to the invisible people sitting around them. Noelle basks in the applause; Carol feels awkward.)

204

C. Well, thanks for

(Tiffany claps wildly from the piano, perhaps whistles and hollers.)

a piacere ♩ = ca. 63 *f* *embarrassed*

a piacere ♩ = ca. 63 *mp* *legato*

Ped.

206

C. *that, No-elle.*

ppp distant, out-of-time, dreamy feel

209

N. *very pleased with herself*

That was one for the scrap-book!

212

N. *I'm just shar - ing our sto - ry. —*

214

C. **Gently rocking**
♩ = 50

You or-gan-ize the pic-tures; — I'll pick out pa-per..

Gently rocking
♩ = 50

p legato

(light Ped. as needed)

(They get to work. Noelle sorts through pictures, and Carol looks through her cardstock. It becomes obvious that they both are enjoying what they are doing.)

219

mf espressivo

223

228

nostalgically

N. Mom and Dad's wed-ding, _____ their hon-ey - moon, _____

p

233

interjecting

C. _____ and pic-tures of me... _____ and pic-tures of you, _____ *to Noelle*

N. pic-tures of me... _____ and pic-tures of you, _____ *to Carol*

237

C. _____ trips we took, and hol - i-days.

N. _____ trips we took, _____ and hol - i-days.

mf

241

C. *in reverie*
My wed - ding day...

N. Mom and Dad's work, Mom and Dad's church groups...

p

243

C. and my Syl - vie, _____ Josh, Ra - chel, _____ Ben... _____

246

C.

N.
and the fam-i-ly pets.

250

C.
Our sen-ior pic-tures, and ev-'ry birth-day,

N.
Our sen-ior pic-tures, and ev-'ry birth-day,

254

C.
Dad's car col-lec-tion, Mom's fan-cy cro-chet, *poco rit.*

N.
Dad's car col-lec-tion, Mom's fan-cy cro-chet, *poco rit.*

258 *(rit.)*

C. *f* *p*
Grand - ma, Grand - pa, our fav - 'rite Aunt Jo, and Un - cle Lou.

N. *f* *p*
Grand - ma, Grand - pa, our fav - 'rite Aunt Jo, and Un - cle Lou.

(rit.)

262 *a tempo* *mf*

C. *mf*
Pic - tures of all the things that

a tempo

p

266

C. *mp*
fam - i - lies do, pic - tures of all the things that

N. *mp*
Fam - i - ly pic - nics, re - un - ions, friends of the fam - i - ly,

270

C. fam - i - lies do, _____ pic - tures of all the

N. _____ best friends, boy - friends, _____

mf

273

C. things _____ that fam - i - lies do, _____

N. *mp* fam - i - ly pic - tures, _____ fam - i - ly pic - tures, _____

mp

276 *rit.*

C. _____

N. _____

rit.

mp

Very slowly and unrushed ♩ = ca. 54

279

C. *tenderly*
pic - tures of all the things _____ that

N. *tenderly*
pic - tures of all the things _____ that

Very slowly and unrushed ♩ = ca. 54

p

282

C. fam - i - lies do. _____

N. fam - i - lies do. _____

espr.

(slow roll)

8^{vb}

THE END