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Bonny and Read: A Musical of Love and Pirates

A Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of the

Department of Music Theory, History, and Composition

West Chester University

West Chester, Pennsylvania

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of

Master of Music

By

Jared Scheetz

May 2020

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Abstract

The purpose of my master's thesis is to compose six songs that will become the basis of a new musical, loosely based on the lives of two female pirates, Anne Bonny and Mary Read. These songs will be a mixture of solo ballads, duets and trios, and larger ensemble pieces. Each piece will be composed for singers with piano accompaniment. This exploration into writing for theatre will involve historical research to uncover and fully understand the story. I will be writing the original libretto myself. This project will be a deep dive into how to effectively use music to dramatize a story. I am hoping to identify and explore moments of human emotion in storytelling that not only can be thoroughly enhanced through musical dramatization, but those moments that MUST be conveyed through music and song.

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The Story

Anne Bonny and Mary Read were two women that grew up in the early 18th century. Anne was born in Ireland to a father that dressed her as a boy in an attempt to provide her with more opportunities in life. Mary was born in England to a mother that passed her off as her dead son to receive inheritance money from her deceased husband's mother. This musical begins when the two girls come of age and continue to use their ability to pass as men in order to better their position in the world. The two end up in the Caribbean for different reasons. Anne is swept away by the glamour of the pirating lifestyle. She leaves her husband and runs off with Captain "Calico Jack" Rackham. The two come across Mary Read, who they believe to be a man named Mark Read. They are both impressed by her and invite her to join their crew. Over the course of their short time together, the three pirates enter a dangerous love triangle as Anne and Mary fall in love with each other, all the while maintaining their own relationships with Calico Jack. In an effort to profess her love, Mary Read reveals herself to Anne as a woman. Anne's response to this is an acknowledgment of the love they've been experiencing. Anne decides to let Calico Jack in on the secret that Mary is also a woman in order to keep his growing jealousy at bay. Their ship is ultimately captured by a pirate hunter working for the Governor of Jamaica. The three are put on trial, found guilty, and sentenced to hang. At the final hour, both Anne and Mary are granted a stay of execution because it is revealed that they are both pregnant. Anne Bonny's final words to the father of her child Captain "Calico Jack" Rackham were, "Had you fought like a man, you need not have been hang'd like a dog."

Original Libretto

1 - Welcome to Mankind (~7:50)

Characters:

Anne Bonny's Father (A middle-class lawyer) Mary Read's Mother Ensemble

Anne Bonny's father struggles with the fact that girls seem to be set on a path towards marriage and family from birth while boys are afforded more opportunity. He himself was afforded a great deal of opportunity which allowed him to become a successful middle-class lawyer. If only there was some way to afford his daughter, whom he loves so dearly, the same opportunity that he himself had.

Mary Read's mother is left to possible destitution. She gets pregnant with an unknown lover's child while her husband is lost at sea and likely dead. After hearing of the likely death of her son, her wealthy mother-in-law starts sending her money to support her and her 2 year old son. The 2 year old son dies of a fever shortly before she gives birth to Mary. She decides to dress Mary as a boy and call her Mark in order to pass her off as her dead son and continue to receive financial support from her mother-in-law.

Ensemble:

Welcome to mankind
We enter this world essentially blind
Before we're born, our lives defined
A girl must learn to be strong and brave
A boy takes emotion to his grave
Into these boxes we are confined
Of these feelings I am a slave

Anne Bonny's Father:

I was born into this earthly domain With so many chances to succeed Though I carried a heavy chain I was free to carry it where I pleased

I was not born of the bourgeois
If given complete freedom of choice
I wouldn't have decided to practice law
But in my future I was given a voice

A chance to take a job that pays, Provide a roof for all my days, Yes, to survive, I rely on only me Yes, I consider myself almost nearly free

Ensemble:

We are born with our lives defined

Mary Read's Mother:

I had tried to be a faithful wife And stand by my husband's side But just before he lost his life I took another man inside

From this disgrace my sweet Mary was born And for just a week, I was elated Until that terrible day my heart was torn And I was struck by what was fated

Not two days before he turned three My baby boy Mark was taken from me A fever took hold in the night And he was lost before daylight

Ensemble:

We are born with our lives defined

Mary Read's Mother:

Yes, from this disgrace my sweet Mary was born

A rose in truth, but to me a thorn For when my husband's family learns I've strayed

They'll surely end their financial aid

When my husband's family learns that Mark is gone

I will lose their help
I will lose their support
And Mary and I will be out on the street
With nowhere to go and nothing to eat

(Speaking to the infant Mary)

How my dear are you to survive in this world

without nourishment

Anne Bonny's Father:

(Speaking to a very young Anne)

How my dear are you to survive in a world so

filled with prejudice

How my dear are you to thrive in spite of our

circumstance

How my dear are you to thrive in spite of our

circumstance

In this world, the status quo takes a precedence

In this world, our survival takes a precedence

And to be a girl is to be a wife and display

Pleasantness

And to be a mother to a child takes

Tenacity

Elegance,

Audacity,

Gentleness,

Salacity,

Benevolence,

A capacity

No hesitation or trepidation

Only joy and pure elation

To give up hesitation or trepidation

Only ruthless innovation

Your husband and your kids alone

At the thought of living just to serve

We don't need another thoughtless clone

It's your own ambitions your deserve

To find a way to survive
By any means obtainable
To keep Mary safe and alive
I must make our lives sustainable

Choose your own eternal fate
And do what keeps you satisfied
You may choose to don a breastplate
And be the sword's most faithful bride

You're only a few weeks old now

And I am so, so weak

You'll need a home and food to eat

This world is cold and bleak

It's an unmistakable slavery

How a wife is chained to her husband's wealth

It's an unmistakable slavery

How my life is chained to my husband's

wealth

Suppose he is brought down by something

unsavory

Suppose he is taken ill of health

Suppose they find out Mark has lost his life Suppose they cut us off with their remorseless

knife

And God forbid he follows a path like I

God forbid he takes a lover on the side

God forbid he leaves you high and dry

And you're left with no means to provide

And God forbid they learn I went astray

God forbid they learn of my Mary child

God forbid your gender does betray

And we're cast out and exiled

And so the only way that I can see

A path towards a better life Is to hide that you're a girl And not become a wife

And so the only way that I can see

A path towards a better day Is to hide that you're a girl And not become easy prey

I'll take you with me to my work

You'll learn the law Become a legal clerk

I'll raise you as my lost son Mark

You'll learn to be The patriarch

I'll dress you up in boyish clothes

I'll call you Andy

I'll dress you up in boyish clothes

Yes, we'll embark

So I propose

Yes I propose To not expose Your female ways

To not expose Your female ways And not disclose And not disclose Your name of Mary

Your name of Anne

Stay strong and wary

Grow as a man

And we'll dispose

And we'll dispose

Of all that shows You as a girl

If Only I didn't have to make this choice
To hide your feminine face
If Only I could give you a voice
In how you race this race
If Only love was a guarantee
That you would find a place
If Only becoming a divorcee
Wouldn't cast you down from grace

Full Ensemble:

Welcome to mankind
We enter this world essentially blind
Before we're born, our lives defined
A girl must learn to be strong and brave
A boy takes emotion to his grave
Into these boxes we are confined
Of these feelings I am a slave

Of all that shows You as a girl

If Only I didn't have to make this choice
To hide your feminine face
If Only I could give you a voice
In how you race this race
If Only love was a guarantee
That you would find a place
If Only being spouse deficient
Didn't cast me down from grace

Full Ensemble:

Welcome to mankind
We enter this world essentially blind
Before we're born, our lives defined
A girl must learn to be strong and brave
A boy takes emotion to his grave
Into these boxes we are confined
Of these feelings I am a slave

2 - Fractured Stone (~5:15)

Characters:

Pirate Ensemble Anne Bonny John Bonny

Outline:

Fast forward in time and Anne is about 20 years old and living in the Bahamas with her husband John Bonny. Anne is down by the docks watching a crew of pirates board their ship and getting ready to head out to sea. Anne looks upon this lifestyle with reverence and jealousy. John Bonny walks towards the docks and sees Anne staring longingly at the pirates as they board their ship. He has been having doubts about his pirating lifestyle. He's been offered a chance to wipe his crimes clean if he helps to arrest and betray some of his fellow pirates. John tells Anne of the offer the state has made him and his plans to lead them towards a more moral life. She is disgusted by his weakness and is swept up by the glory of the pirate life.

Ensemble of Pirates:

Our lives are written in fractured stone
We have but one to live
Just one alone
We take no bother to atone
For taking action
A small infraction
For our satisfaction
We have the nerve
To better serve
What we deserve

Anne: (Singing to herself as she watches the pirates board their ship)

The life they lead is all I dream

To be a part of a pirate team

Not just the girl to stand on the side

Not just the girl along for the ride

For I know how to fight like a man

I dressed as one since I was three

At thirteen I stabbed a girl for looking at me

We'll crush our brittle fractured stone And spread the pieces on our own And that is only where it began

My father learned the hard way

When he raised me to display

A selfish nature and disagree

With what this society

Says that a woman should be

Yes he surely learned the hard way

When I burned his plantation for disowning me

Anne:

My life was written in fractured stone

I have but one to live

Just one alone

A moral life is what I've known

(brief pause)

But now taking action

Is a small infraction

For my satisfaction

I'll have the nerve

To better serve

What I deserve

I'll crush this brittle fractured stone

And spread the pieces on my own

John Bonny: (He approaches and sees the longing look on Anne's face as she watches the pirates)

Anne, Perhaps I've taken this too far I've led you towards a life of a bright shooting star
Short and tragic and concise

Anne:

A lifetime wasted pursuing a dream For ordinary people like me Chasing a running, elusive stream I'd rather spend my time at sea With those who some deem cavalier

John Bonny:

I've been granted a chance to leave this life, And Live without this constant fear We'll start anew and make it right

Anne:

But I accept my own mortality

John Bonny:

I can lead us towards morality

Anne:

Will you make this mundane life worth living?

John Bonny:

If I serve the state, they'll be forgiving If I turn them in they'll let me be free

Anne:

When you serve another you'll never be free If you turn these pirates in today
Just know that I will never stay
I need a man that lives each day
As though his life will be taken away
At any moment or any time
Won't shy away from any crime
Won't hesitate to betray
As long as he continues to climb

(Direct segue into next song)

3 - Captain Calico Jack (~5:45)

Characters:

Pirate Ensemble:

Calico Jack

Anne Bonny

John Bonny

Outline:

As the pirates are finishing up preparing their vessel, their Captain approaches. As Captain "Calico Jack" Rackham passes Anne on the docks, he makes note of her, recognizing her as someone he's seen around. When Anne meets the Captain, she immediately falls for him, or possibly the way his lifestyle makes her feel and the freedom it represents. Calico Jack offers John Bonny money to divorce Anne. When John Bonny refuses, Anne and Calico Jack run off together anyway.

Ensemble of Pirates: (Singing as they watch their Captain approach)

His life is written in fractured stone

He has but one to live

Just one alone

He takes no bother to atone

For taking action

A small infraction

For his satisfaction

He has the nerve

To better serve

What he deserves

He'll crush his brittle fractured stone

And spread the pieces on his own

Calico Jack: (looking back at Anne on the docks and singing to his crew)

Who is this woman hanging about

This silly girl who has caught my eye

A poor beggar girl, I have no doubt

But She looks nice enough to keep nearby

Bring her with aboard the ship

No! This is not a forced abduction

I'll convince her to come join our trip

With some casual seduction

Anne: (speaking to John)

Look at that man who knows what he wants
He takes it without any second thought
He does so with a stirring nonchalance
This is the type of man I have sought
John, you no longer satisfy my needs
No, this isn't some kind of trick
I don't care about your shallow "good deeds"
Your pitiful weakness makes me sick

Calico Jack: (He jumps down off his ship and approaches Anne on the docks) Hello there sweetie, you've caught my eye

I'm leaving tonight and I'd like if you came There's always a chance that you could die

Oh, by the way, what is your name?

Anne:

Anne, my name is Anne Bonny I'd join you in a heartbeat if I could

Calico Jack:

I'll not hear your excuses, is that understood?

Anne:

I would join you today if I were free See I'm married sir, and with John I stay I made a promise that I can't un say

Calico Jack:

Introduce me to John and I will pay
To have you released from your vows today

Anne: (Anne runs back to John and grabs him by the arm. She drags him towards the docks and Calico Jack.)

Look at this man they call Calico Jack A walking demonstration of all that you lack It seems he's taken note of me He wants to bring me out to sea Calico Jack (Anne and John approach the Captain. Calico Jack speaks to John Bonny):

Hello my boy, let's make a deal I'll pay you kindly for your Anne You see this steel? Make no appeal To negotiate with a madman Your girl's a treasure

John Bonny:

That I intend to keep You can't have her for your pleasure At a price so low and cheap

Calico Jack: (speaking to Anne)

Anne, I won't be hearing any more of this insolence from a moron Come with me today and see that your husband will not fight on

(Calico Jack draws his sword)
Show your steel, show your worth
I would send you into the earth

John: (to Calico Jack)
I won't dignify your words today
This game is merely child's play

Anne: (Speaking to John)

That's right: Make no attempts at bravery I already know that I must go
Because your conscious is your slavery
And I've had quite enough of this show

Anne: (maybe get rid of this from earlier)
This life you lead is all I dream
To be a part of this pirate team
Not just the girl to stand by your side
Not just the girl along for the ride
For I know how to fight like a man
I dressed as one since I was three
At thirteen I stabbed a girl that looked at me
And that is only where it began

Calico Jack:

I have no care, this could be interesting
To see a woman pillaging
But there will be certain judgements made
When the crew sees a woman with a blade
Your feminine way will surely show
So dress as a man and none will know

4 - Pirating Adventure Song (Unwritten)

5 - I Want a Place to Call My Own (~2:45)

Outline:

The story now turns to Mary Read. She is living in the Carribean on her own and dressed as a man. She has been bouncing around from place to place for years now. She is tired of running away and starting a new life each time the people around her inevitably discover that she is actually a woman.

Characters:

Mary Read

Mary Read:

My life, constant masquerade Hiding behind the role that I have played I feel like have betrayed The life I might have made

Take my eyes but don't take my pride
I want a place to call my own
I no longer wish to imbide
I feel my strength to the bone
I want a place to call my own

I want to be with those who see me for who I am
I want to fight and show them that I don't give a damn
For the way that pirates try to break my stride
Because I do not abide
By the way they try to cast aside my pride

All of these people assume that I'll fall in line Born a girl, but those feminine ways do not align With those who will try to take my voice I will not rejoice To be confined to this life, but do I even have a choice?

If hiding behind these boyish clothes I've worn
Gives me a chance to live the life I please
Then the world will see Mark Read reborn
And I will make these pirates tremble in their knees
I feel my strength to the bone
I want a place to call my own

6 - Tavern Confrontation (~6:15)

Characters:

Anne Bonny Calico Jack Pirate Ensemble Unknown Townswoman Unnamed Priest Mary Read

Outline:

In a small tavern, Anne Bonny, Calico Jack, and their pirating crew are drinking and celebrating after returning from a profitable pillaging. They overhear an argument outside and Anne, Calico Jack, and some of the other pirates come outside to see what all the commotion is about. A Priest is trying to persuade a local authority that a woman is guilty and should be arrested for burning down her husband's home. The woman tries to explain that her husband abandoned her and left her destitute and without any other choice. An unknown pirate (Mary Read, going by Mark Read) intervenes and publicly shames the Priest into backing down. Anne is so impressed by this interaction that she invites Mark to join their crew. Calico Jack agrees. Mark is initially reluctant, but intrigued at the thought of Anne pirating as a woman. Mark ultimately agrees to join them as long as "he" is free to fight.

Anne Bonny, Calico Jack, and Pirate Ensemble:

Take heed, take care Come on aboard if you dare They'll pay ransom for the chance To improve their circumstance

Pirate 1:

They'll remain in anonymity
When they're within our swords proximity

Pirate 2:

One false glance
One more advance

And I'll send you into the expanse

Pirate 3:

Of the unforgiving ocean

Pirate 4:

That we worship, our devotion

Pirate 5:

Oh your life will take demotion

Pirate 6:

The bards will make no more commotion

Pirate 7:

Of your delicate emotion

Pirate 8:

What an unusual notion

Pirate Ensemble:

That we should take what comes to us by chance To improve our own circumstance

Anne Bonny, Calico Jack, and Pirate Ensemble:

Take heed, take care Come on aboard if you dare They'll pay ransom for the chance To improve their circumstance

(Outside the tavern, a priest can be heard shouting at a woman. Mary, Anne, Calico Jack, and some of the pirates in the tavern rush out to see what the commotion is all about.)

Woman:

How can I take so seriously
The laws of god and man
When I'm being punished so furiously
For a sin I did not plan
I'm a faithful wife and did all I could
But was shunned and exiled
When I couldn't give my husband fatherhood
Yes, I couldn't give him a child

Priest:

But that doesn't excuse the choice you made Was only revenge that you displayed When you set fire to the house Of your decent, god fearing spouse

Woman:

I had no choice but to take some action For my husbands extreme reaction He put me out on the street When he learned I was barren And left me in a world of famine

Mary:

My good sir, you are a godly man You must see that this woman has done only as she can Why can only a man take revenge in his hands Let us decide where her verdict stands

Priest:

I am only in service to laws of god I am a man who is most surely flawed

Mary:

Release this woman, your life will be saved

Priest:

But I can't let her free, for how she's behaved God can't forgive the sins of one so depraved

Mary:

And god won't forgive me when I cut you with my blade But I'll sleep soundly knowing that justice was paid

Priest:

As a servant to God, hear my plea

Mary:

When you serve another, you'll never be free

(Mary Read walks toward the Priest with her sword drawn. The music slows and the pirates and other local townsfolk gather around closer to see how the Priest will react)

Priest:

The life of a pirate isn't quite what you perceive What is it that you hope to achieve?

Before you come any closer, I will take my leave Just know that God has a plan for you up his sleeve

(The Priest exits)

(The townsfolk start to disperse. Anne Bonny steps forward to speak.)

Anne: (speaking to the woman)
The position your husband put you in
Was truly insurmountable
It doesn't matter the punishment,
He must be held accountable
I, too have taken justice in my hands
To my own father's dismay
So take it from one who understands
That all those who wrong us must pay

Captain Jack:

That Priest, it seems he needed to be shamed.

Because you were the only one that he blamed He calls himself a man of God But his piety is just a facade

Anne: (turning to speak to Mary)
Let me introduce myself, my name is Anne
And this is Captain Calico Jack Rackham
Tell me, what is your name, man?
That was a daring display,
I'd like to see some more of that feisty swordplay.

Mary:

My name is Mark and I'm flattered ma'am But I've got demons you could not understand

Anne:

Come set sail with us, we leave on the morrow The ocean breeze at your back will dispel your sorrow

Mary:

You sail with the men? A woman as you are?

Captain Jack:

You should see her fight. The men just aren't up to par I'm captain of course, but Anne runs our ship

Anne:

Ignore him, he's on an ego trip So what do you say? We could use a hand

Mary:

If I'm free to fight, I'm at your command

Captain Jack:

Of course, as Captain you'll listen to me

Anne:

Don't take what he says so seriously
This is a democracy that we'll protect endlessly
The life of a pirate is a life that's free
This life allows you to be who you want to be
So, don't second guess, just come with me
We don't follow the same rules as society
And a woman is equal to a man out at sea
Yes a woman is equal to a man out at sea

8 - The Reveal (~4:30)

Characters:

Anne Bonny Mary Read Calico Jack

Outline:

The tension that has been brewing between the three pirates comes to a head. Anne and Mary both have strong feelings for each other that they can't contain any longer. Mary decides to reveal her true gender to Anne. They both profess their love for each other. Calico Jack has also noticed the chemistry between Mary and Anne. His jealousy is reaching a boiling point. In an effort to abate his jealousy, Anne decides to tell Jack that Mary is a woman, thinking that he would then view their potential relationship as an impossibility. After hearing that there is now a second woman aboard his ship, Calico Jack strongly insists that Mary be his second lover. Mary must now decide if being with Anne is worth the cost of also being Calico Jack's lover.

Anne: (Solo recitative)

Who is this man that goes by the name of Read? This man that has been making eyes at me, catching glances

(Singing to Mary "Mark")
What if I were to tell you
That I've seen intrigue in your look
Can you see the gaze of love in my eyes,
Is my heart an open book?

Mary:

I know what you conceive
How could I be so naive?
You should know that I'm a woman (pause)
Can it be believed?
What you say is true
That your love has got me on the hook
But now what I have shared with you
Maybe I've mistook?

Anne:

No...

You see your secret I've suspected It is one that I've respected It is one that I've protected It's what makes us both connected

Mary:

Mark is not my name (Anne: By what name do you go?)

We are partners in this con game (Anne: You know that I now know...)

I'm a woman just like you (Anne: You're a woman just like me)

Anne and Mary: Can it be believed??

Both:

I see myself in you (Calico Jack: Who is this Mark Read?)

But if my dear you only knew (Calico Jack: He sprouts just like a weed)

My/Your husband Jack will make you bleed (Calico Jack: He should watch, I'll make him

bleed)

He suspects our love is true (Calico Jack: Stay away from Anne!)

Calico Jack: (speaking to Anne)
The two of you are not so discreet
A final warning, only once I'll repeat
The men on this ship don't suspect what you hide
But that can change if you slight my pride

Anne: (To Calico Jack)

My gallant knight, there's something I must share For it will ease your mind and calm your despair Mark Read has been putting on the same front as I Her name is Mary, she only pretends she's a guy

(Calico Jack now sees that he can have the second and only other woman aboard this ship, he tries to convince Mary to sleep with him)

Calico Jack:

Two women on standby What have I come upon? Can I afford to deny A secondary liaison

Calico Jack: (To Mary)
I'm Captain of this ship
I won't force you by the whip
Mary Read please take your time
You're looking at a man in his prime

Anne and Mary:

Welcome to mankind
We enter this world essentially blind
Before we're born,
our lives defined

A girl must learn to be strong and brave A boy takes emotion to his grave Into this box I am confined Of these feelings I am a slave

Mary:

Will I fall in line?
Will I be his concubine?
If it means that Anne will be mine
Do I have a choice?

Anne:

Give my life to her And the wrath I will incur When he learns that no one else can Give my life a voice

Anne and Mary:

Take my life away (Calico Jack: Can Mary be believed?)
Let me stay with you today (Calico Jack: Am I to be deceived?)
Only you can lift the veil of (Calico Jack: Let's lift the veil of)

Treachery and lies (Calico Jack: Treachery and lies)

9 - Capture of "The William" (Unwritten)

10 - The Trial (Unwritten)

11 - "Welcome to Mankind" - Reprise (Unwritten)

Historical Research and Timeline:

Timeline of events: (Anne) (Ireland)

Timeline of events: (Mary) (England)

- Her mother married a sailor and had a son
 - Her husband disappeared at sea and she became pregnant from an extramarital affair
 - She attempted to hide the pregnancy by going to live with friends in the country
 - o 1685: Her son died and shortly after, she gave birth to Mary
 - In order to receive monetary support from her late husband's mother, she dressed Mary as a boy and passed her off as her dead son
 - Her mother dressed her as a boy at a young age and called her Mark Read in order to receive inheritance money
- 1697: Anne Bonny is born in Ireland; the illegitimate child of William Cormac (a lawyer) and his servant
- Cormac does not like his wife and moves to London to get away from them.
- Anne is Cormac's pride and joy. He
 dresses her up as a boy and calls her
 Andy so that he can train her to be a
 lawyer's clerk and she will have more
 opportunities. His wife becomes irate
 and cuts him off financially when she
 discovers this
- Cormac moves to the Province of Carolina with Anne and her mother

- As a teenager, Read found work as a foot-boy and then employment on a ship
 - She later joined the British military and fought against the French in either the Nine Years War or during the War of Spanish Succession
 - Read continued to pass as male and proved herself in battle
 - Fell in love with a Flemish soldier

- Cormac builds a substantial fortune as a merchant
- o 1710: Anne stabs a serving girl with a knife
- Anne marries poor sailor and small time pirate James Bonny
 - James hoped to win Anne's father's estate
 - Anne's father does not approve of James Bonny as a husband and kicks them out of his house
 - Bonny sets fire to her father's plantation in retaliation
- 1714-1718: Anne and James move to Nassau
 - 1718: James becomes an informant, reporting to
 Governor Woodes Rogers about the pirates in the area, resulting in many pirates being arrested
 - Anne dislikes the work her husband is doing
- Anne begins mingling with pirates in tayerns
 - Anne meets John "Calico Jack" Rackham and she becomes his lover
 - Calico Jack offers John Bonny money to divorce Anne, he refuses
 - Anne escapes the island with Calico Jack and joins his crew

- They married, then purchased an inn named "The Three Horseshoes" near Breda Castle in The Netherlands
- Her husband passed away early
 - Read resumes dressing as a male and joins the military in service to The Netherlands
 - No room for advancement, so she quit and boarded a ship for the West Indies
 - Read's ship was taken by pirates
 - She willingly joined them
- 1718-19: took the King's pardon
 - Took a commission to privateer, but joined the crew in mutiny

- Disguised herself as a man on the ship and only Rackham was aware that she was a woman
- She became pregnant and they landed her at Cuba to give birth to their son
 - Divorced her husband and married Rackham while at sea
- Bonny, Read, and Rackham stole the ship William, then at anchor in Nassau harbor
 - They recruited an entirely new crew and spent most of their time around Jamaica
 - Bonny took part in the fighting and Governor Rogers named her in a "Wanted Pirates" circular published in The Boston News-Letter

- October 1720 Rackham and his crew were attacked by a sloop captained by Jonathan Barnet, under commission from Nicholas Lawes, Governor of Jamaica
 - The pirates were mostly too drunk to fight and put up little resistance

- 1720: Joined pirate John "Calico Jack" Rackham and his companion Anne Bonny
 - Both of them believed she was a man
- 1720; August 22nd: stole an armed sloop named William
- Mary Read and Anne Bonny start having separate relations with Captain Rackham
- Bonny tells Read that she is a woman because she is attracted to her
 - To abate jealousy of her lover Rackham, she lets him know that Read is a woman
- 1720; November 15th: pirate hunter, Captain Jonathan Barnet took Rackham's crew by surprise while they hosted a rum party with another crew of Englishmen at Negril Point off the west coast of Jamaica
 - A volley of fire disabled the pirate vessel and Rackham's crew and their guests fled to the hold
 - The crew either fled or were too drunk to fight, leaving only Mary, Anne, Rackham, and one other to fight Barnet's

- They were taken to Jamaica where they were convicted and sentenced by Governor Lawes to be hanged
 - According to Johnson,
 Bonny's last words to
 Rackham were: "Had you fought like a man, you need not have been hang'd like a dog."
 - Read and Bonny both "pleaded their bellies" because they were pregnant
 - The court granted them a stay of execution until they gave birth
- Read died in prison, most likely from a fever from childbirth
- Anne gave birth in prison and it is unknown what happened to her after; though there is no record of her being executed

- boarding party
- Supposedly, Read angrily shot into the hold, killing one and wounding others, after the men would not come up and fight with them
- Rackham surrendered, requesting "quarter"
- They were arrested and brought to what is now Spanish Town Jamaica
 - Sentenced to hang for acts of piracy
 - Anne and Mary revealed they were pregnant, granting them a stay of execution

- Mary Read died of a violent fever while in prison
- Buried April 28th, 1721

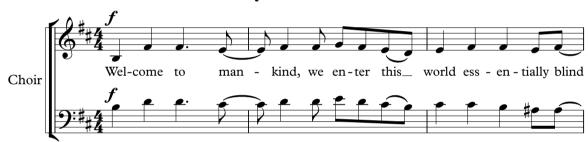
1 - Welcome to Mankind

Music and Lyrics by Jared Scheetz

Anne Bonny's father struggles with the fact that girls seem to be set on a path towards marriage and family from birth while boys are afforded more opportunity. He himself was afforded a great deal of opportunity which allowed him to become a successful middle-class lawyer. If only there was some way to afford his daughter, whom he loves so dearly, the same opportunity that he himself had.

Mary Read's mother is left to possible destitution. She gets pregnant with an unknown lover's child while her husband is lost at sea and likely dead. After hearing of the likely death of her son, her wealthy mother-in-law starts sending her money to support her and her 2 year old son. The 2 year old son dies of a fever shortly before she gives birth to Mary. She decides to dress Mary as a boy and call her Mark in order to pass her off as her dead son and continue to receive financial support from her mother-in-law.















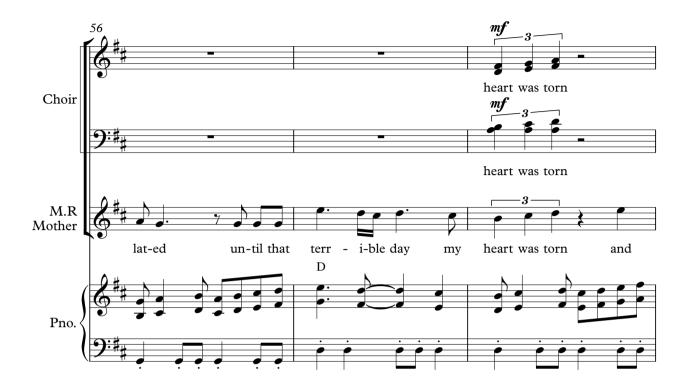






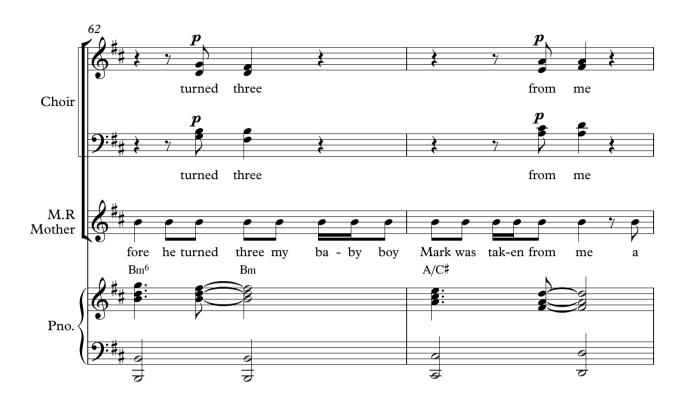








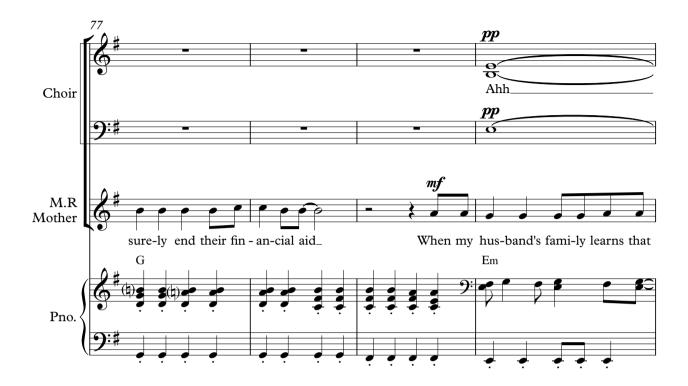












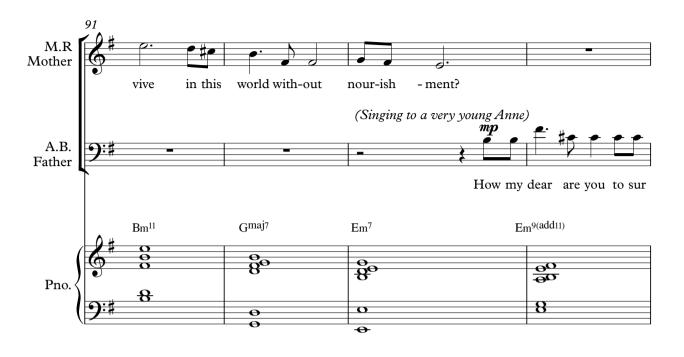


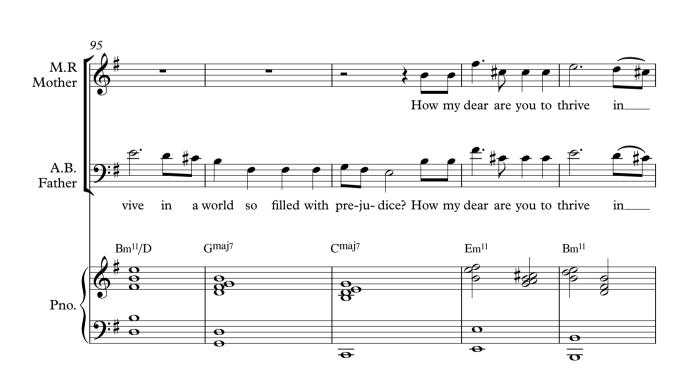


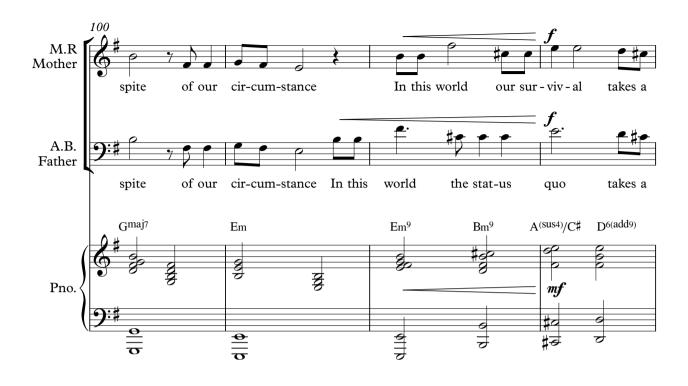


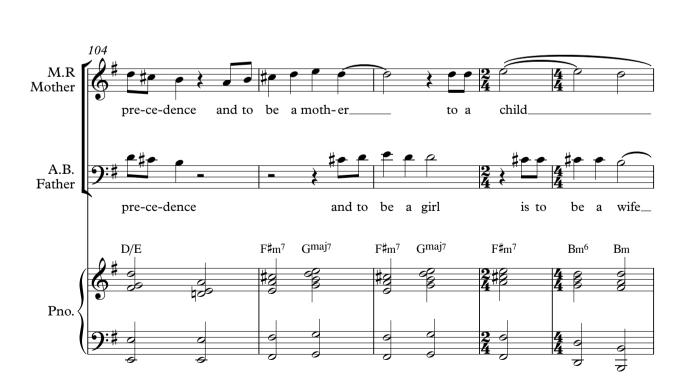


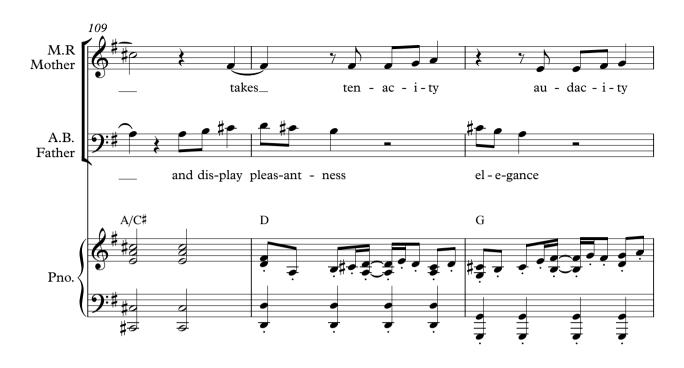












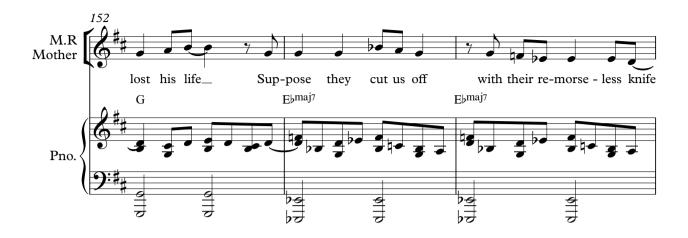














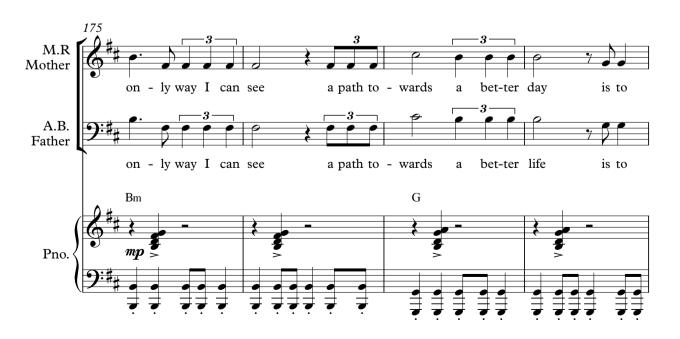








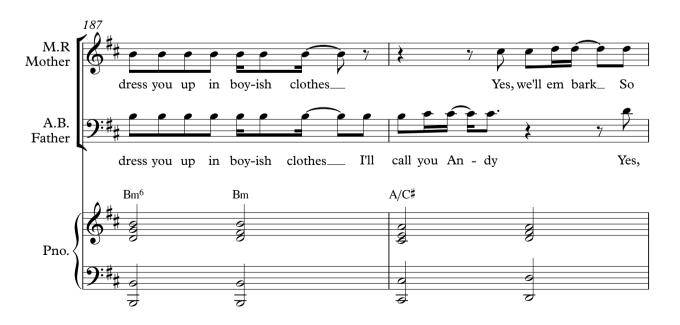














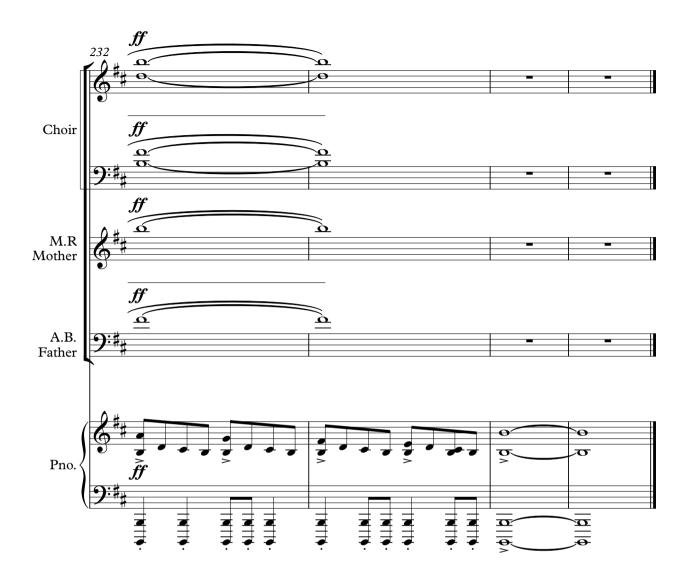












2 - Fractured Stone

Fast forward in time and Anne is about 20 years old and living in the Bahamas with her husband John Bonny. Anne is down by the docks watching a crew of pirates board their ship and getting ready to head out to sea. Anne looks upon this lifestyle with reverence and jealousy. John Bonny walks towards the docks and sees Anne staring longingly at the pirates as they board their ship. He has been having doubts about his pirating lifestyle. He's been offered a chance to wipe his crimes clean if he helps to arrest and betray some of his fellow pirates. John tells Anne of the offer the state has made him and his plans to lead them towards a more moral life. She is disgusted by his weakness and is swept up by the glory of the pirate life.



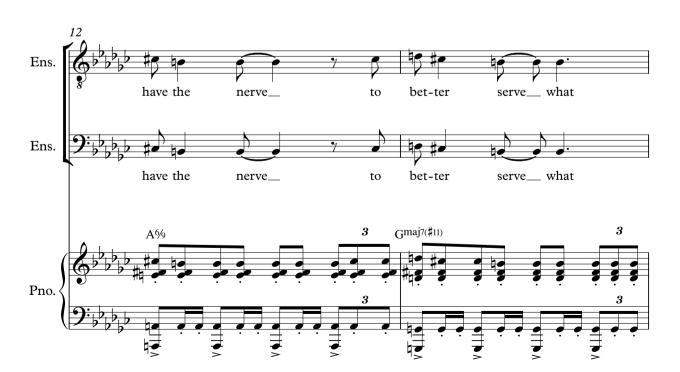






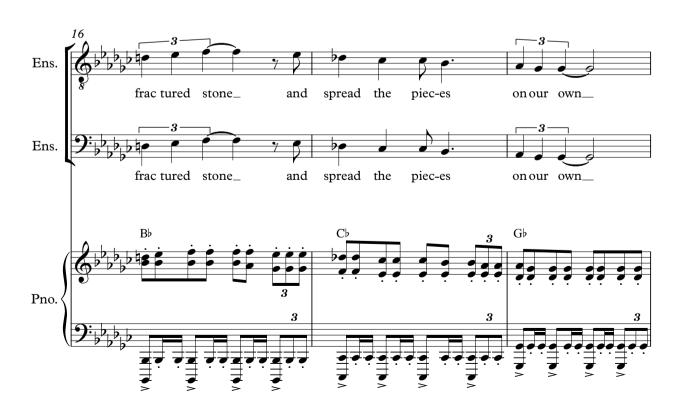






















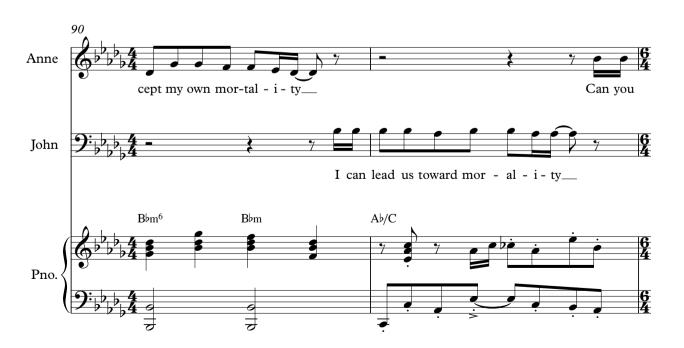


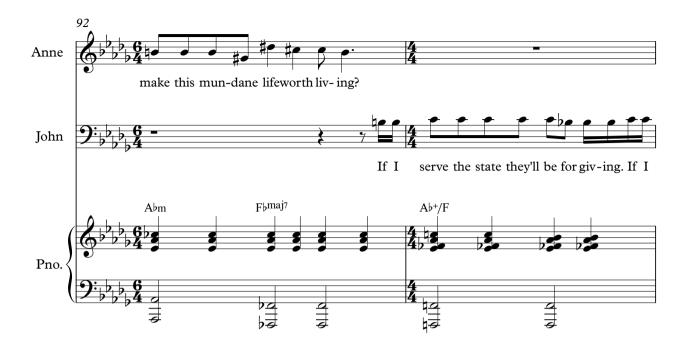










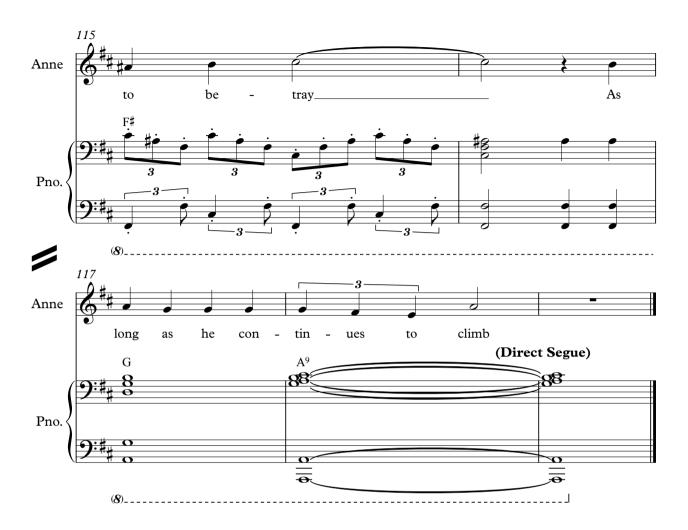








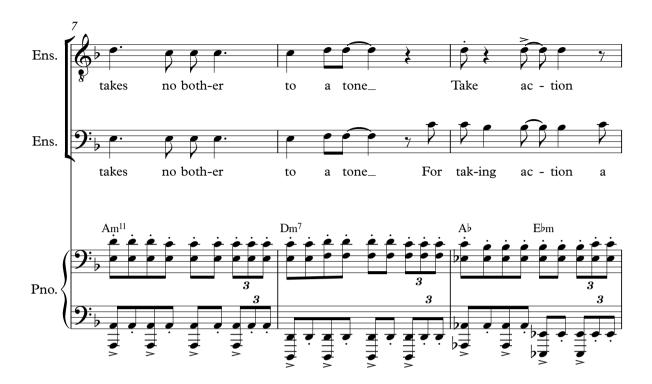




3 - Captain Calico Jack

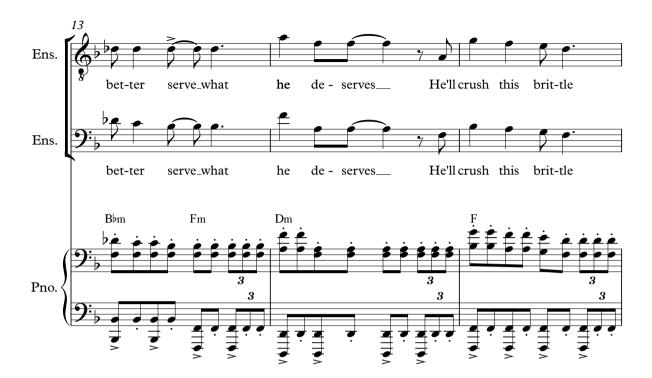
As the pirates are finishing up preparing their vessel, their Captain approaches. As Captain "Calico Jack" Rackham passes Anne on the docks, he makes note of her, recognizing her as someone he's seen around. When Anne meets the Captain, she immediately falls for him, or possibly the way his lifestyle makes her feel and the freedom it represents. Calico Jack offers John Bonny money to divorce Anne. When John Bonny refuses, Anne and Calico Jack run off together anyway.



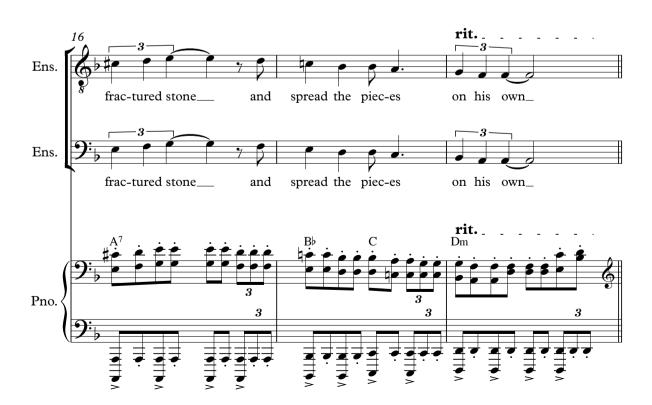






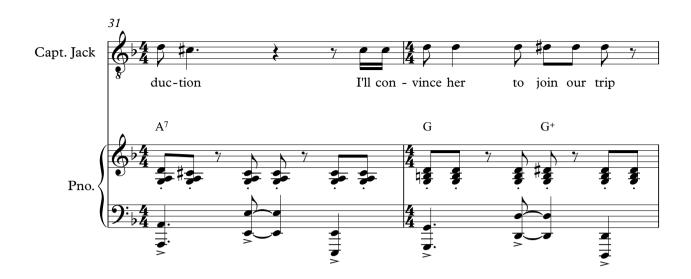












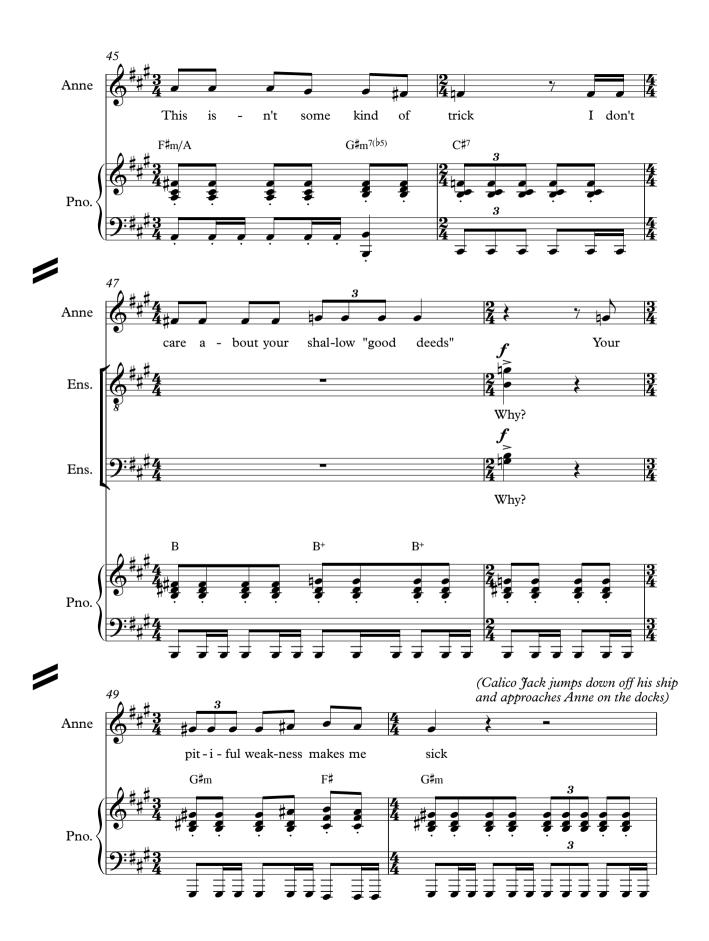
















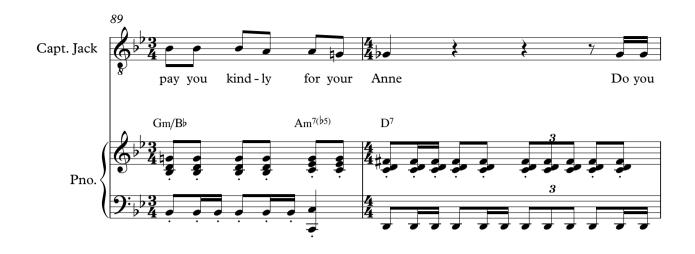






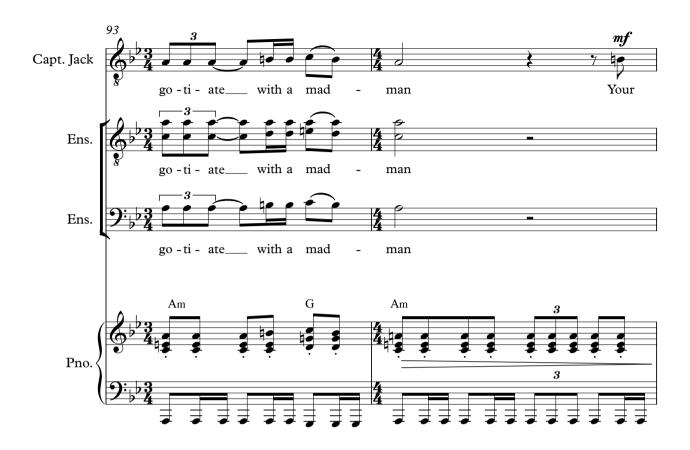




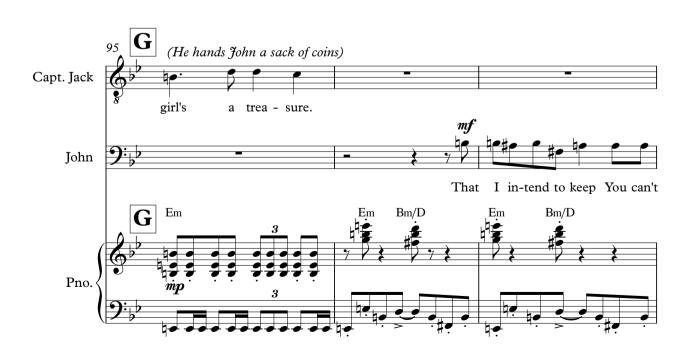




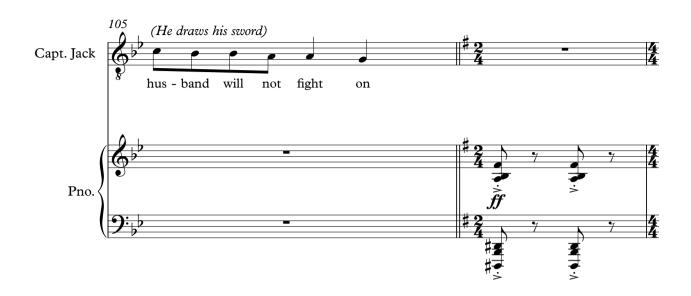




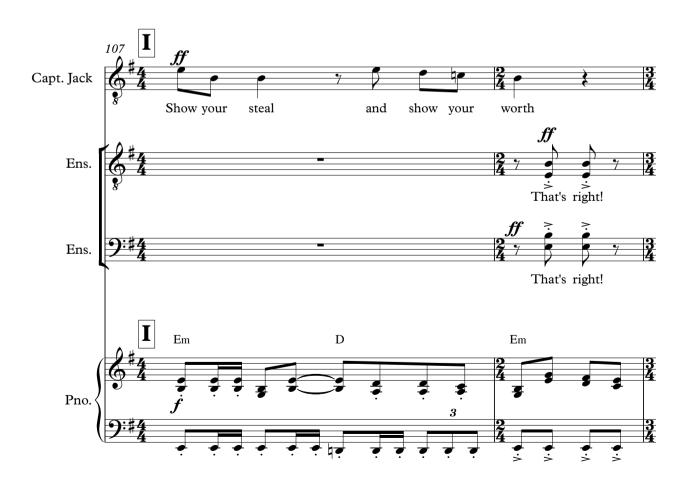






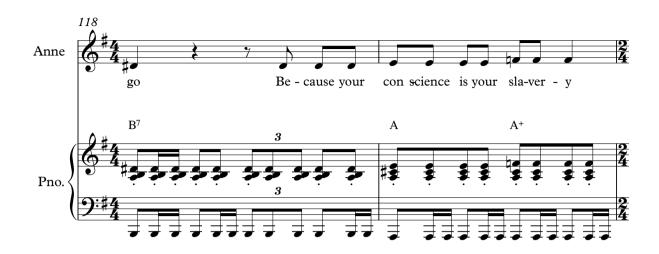


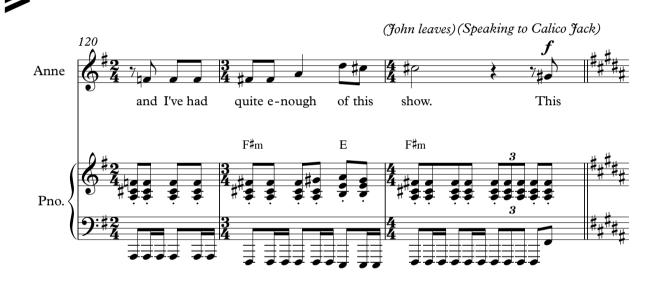










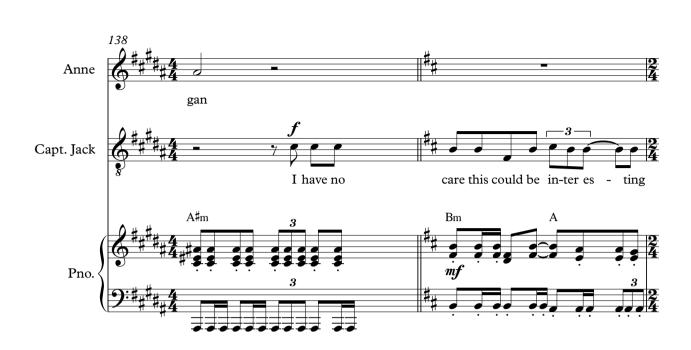




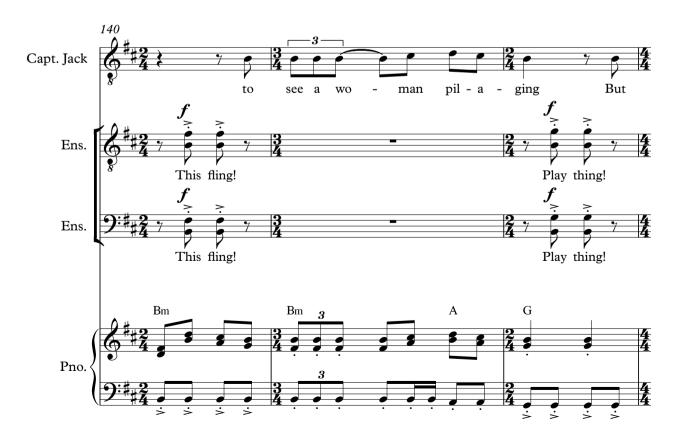












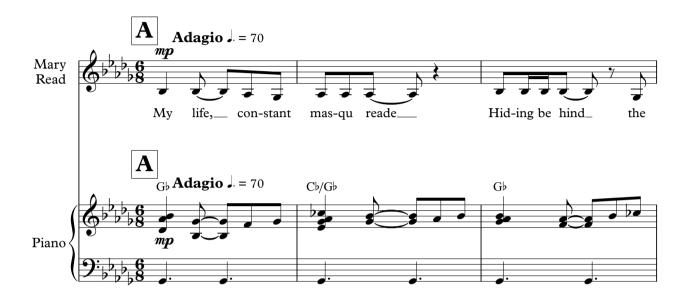




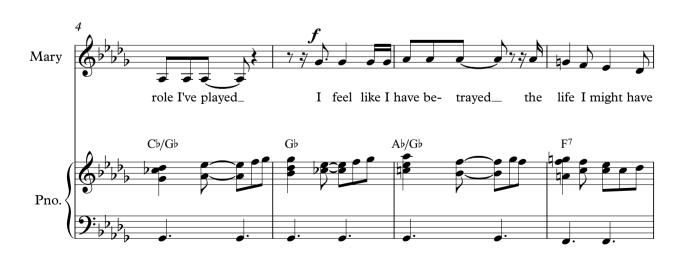


5 - I Want a Place to Call My Own

The story now turns to Mary Read. She is living in the Carribean on her own and dressed as a man. She has been bouncing around from place to place for years now. She is tired of running away and starting a new life each time the people around her inevitably discover that she is actually a woman.



















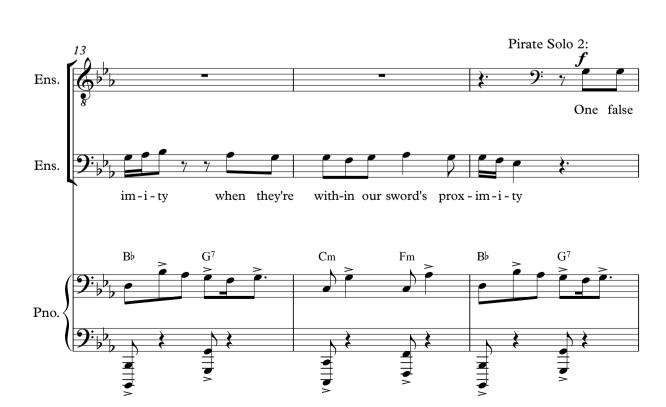


6 - Tavern Confrontation

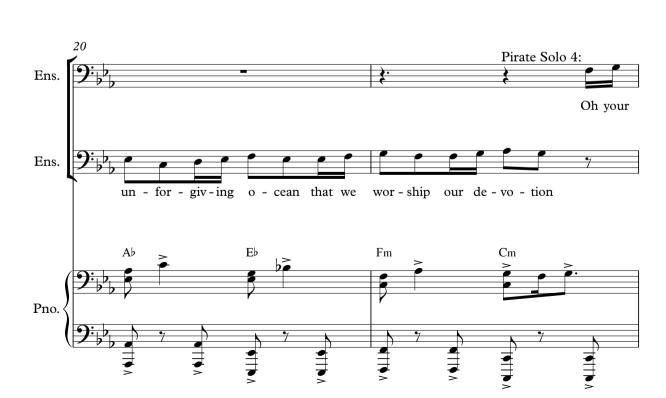
In a small tavern, Anne Bonny, Calico Jack, and their pirating crew are drinking and celebrating after returning from a profitable pillaging. They overhear an argument outside and Anne, Calico Jack, and some of the other pirates come outside to see what all the commotion is about. A Priest is trying to persuade a local authority that a woman is guilty and should be arrested for burning down her husband's home. The woman tries to explain that her husband abandoned her and left her destitute and without any other choice. An unknown pirate (Mary Read, going by Mark Read) intervenes and publicly shames the Priest into backing down. Anne is so impressed by this interaction that she invites Mark to join their crew. Calico Jack agrees. Mark is initially reluctant, but intrigued at the thought of Anne pirating as a woman. Mark ultimately agrees to join them as long as he is free to fight.

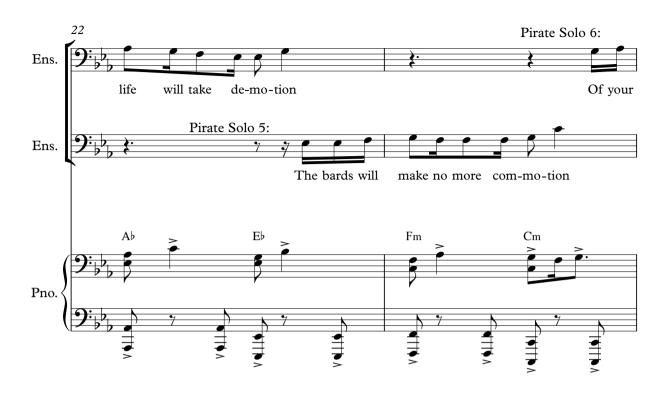




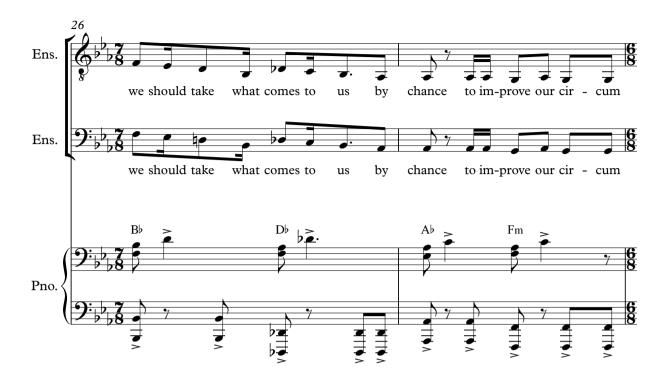




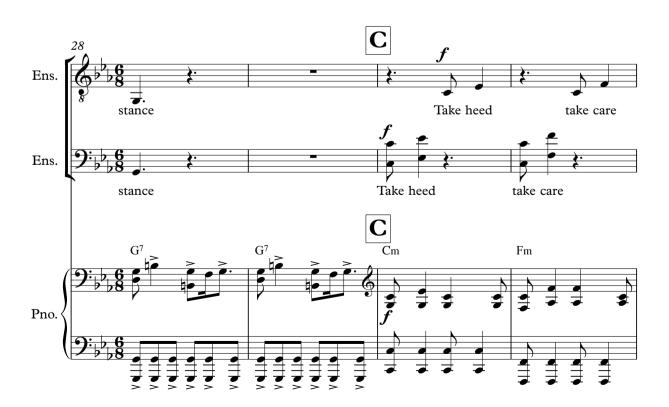








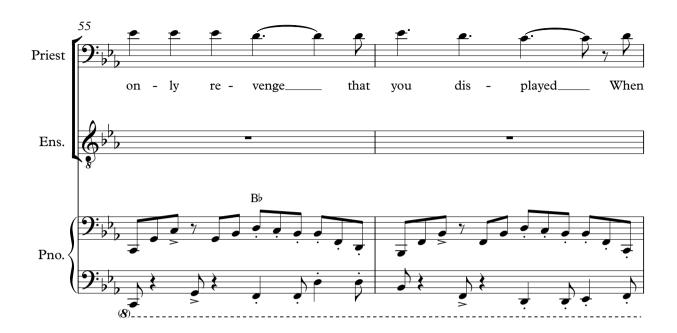




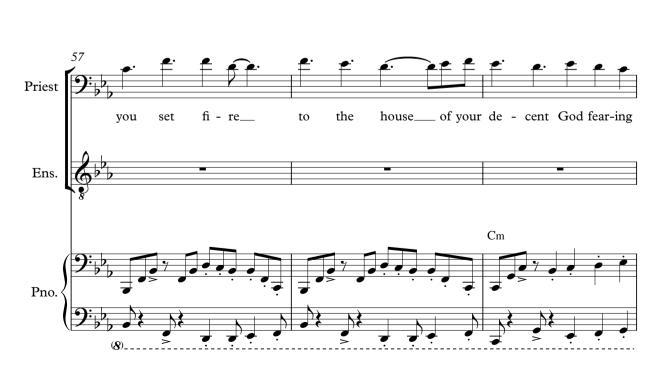




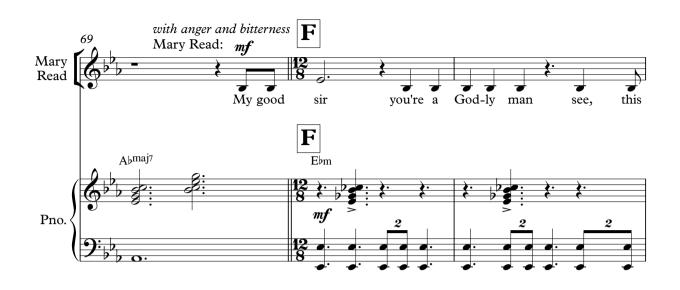


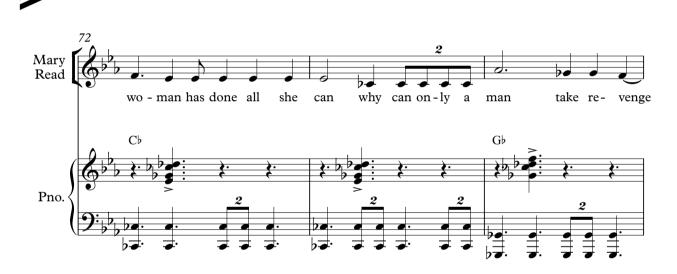


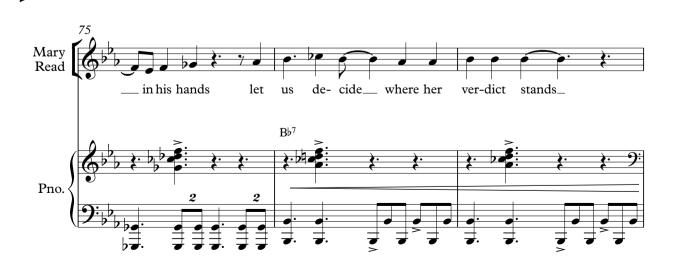




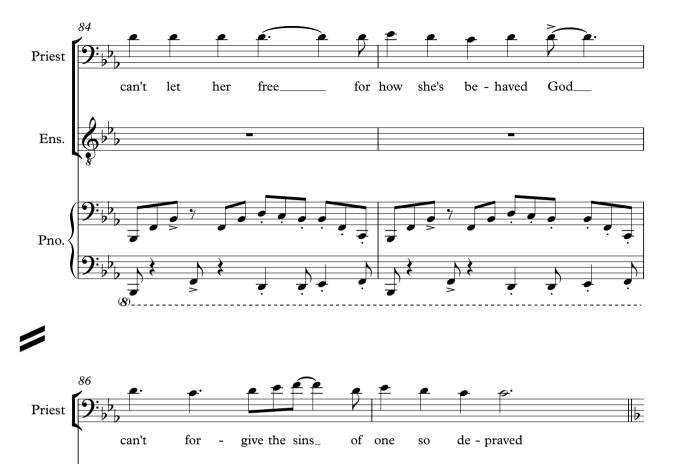


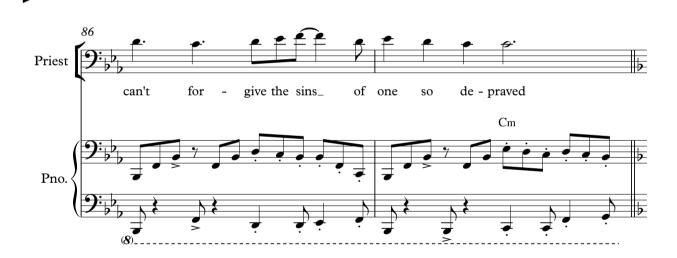


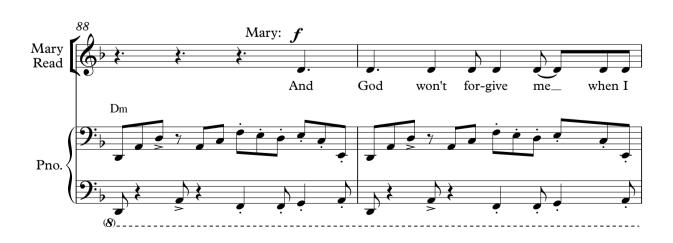




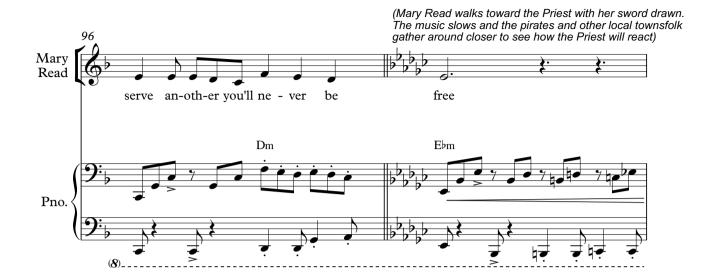


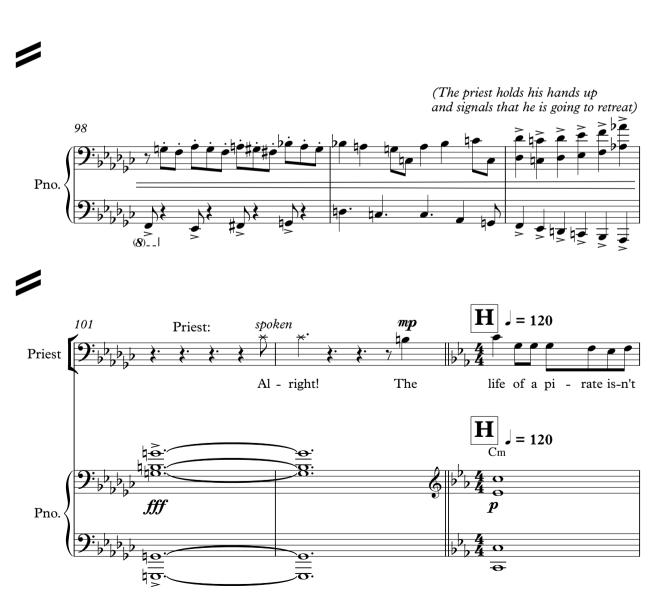






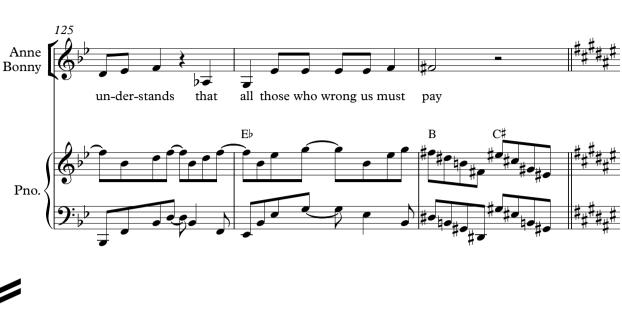


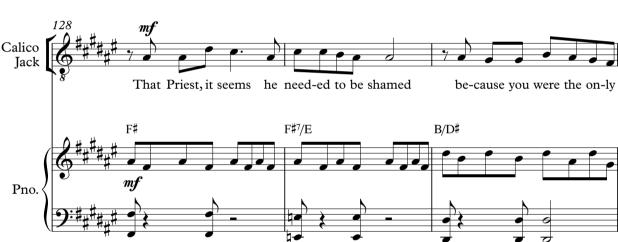


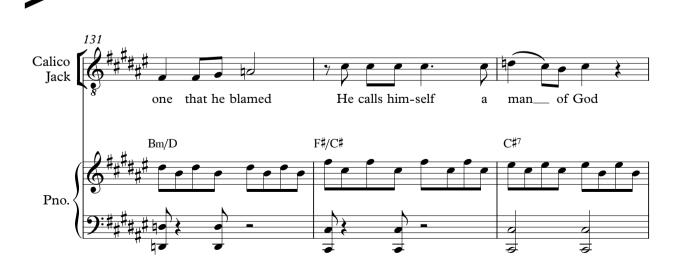














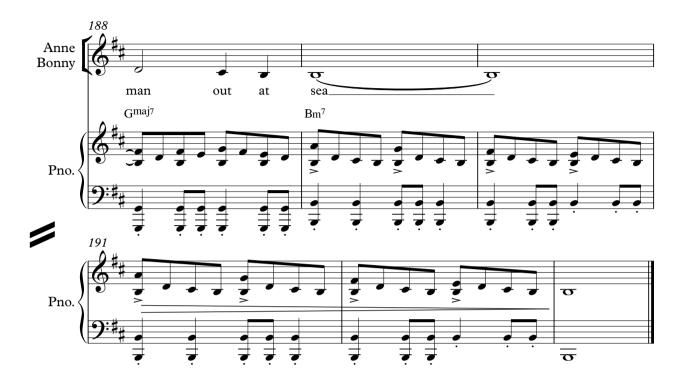












8 - The Reveal

The tension that has been brewing between the three pirates comes to a head. Anne and Mary both have strong feelings for each other that they can't contain any longer. Mary decides to reveal her true gender to Anne. They both profess their love for each other. Calico Jack has also noticed the chemistry between Mary and Anne. His jealousy is reaching a boiling point. In an effort to abate his jealousy, Anne decides to tell Jack that Mary is a woman, thinking that he would then view their potential relationship as an impossibility. After hearing that there is now a second woman aboard his ship, Calico Jack strongly insists that Mary be his second lover. Mary must now decide if being with Anne is worth the cost of also being Calico Jack's lover.

