



TWO HEARTS

a minimalist one-act Broad'pera for modern chamber orchestra

Music and Libretto
by

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TWO HEARTS

Instrumentation

Orchestra:

Oboe
Soprano Saxophone
Bassoon
French Horn
Tuba
Drum Set
Electric Bass
Cello I
Cello II
Contrabass

Voice:

SACTBB

Notes:

- Throughout the score, the tenuto marking is used to imply a slightly louder, slightly more firm sound than if the note were not accented at all.
- Legato markings for the orchestral instruments are signified by slurs.

The Characters

Kaileigh (pronounced Kay-lee) — Soprano (Lyric-Spinto); bisexual who is set to marry Greg; pretty and stylish, she is no naïve ingénue; former lover to Roma

Roma — Mezzo-Soprano; lipstick lesbian, dark with long hair and perfect make-up and style; Ellen's girlfriend, and Kaileigh's college lover

Ellen — Contralto; short hair, little make-up, prefers pant-suits (but is NOT "butch"); Greg's Best Man and Roma's girlfriend

Thom — Tenor (Comedic); energetic, effeminate boyfriend of Bruce, as well as being the Wedding Director and Kaileigh's Maid of Honor

Greg — Baritone (Bari-Tenor); tall, handsome groom thoroughly in love with Kaileigh and understanding of human nature

Bruce — Bass (Lyric); elegant, cultured host of the dinner and Officiator of the wedding ceremony

The Story

Set in current day, Greg and Kaileigh are celebrating their upcoming marriage at their wedding rehearsal dinner at a fine hotel. Old emotions come to the surface when Kaileigh sees Roma. Everything falls apart in a show-down between Ellen, Roma, and Kaileigh. Roma and Kaileigh come to terms with the past and the present, and the wedding takes place as planned with no further interruptions.

Composer Notes

- This is a modern story and requires a current, modern setting to tell the story.
- Costumes should be forward-thinking and designer-oriented. Corsets are BANNED from this production.
- Sets can and should be minimal, with no walls preferred. The story will suffer if "over-produced".
- Keep it simple and elegant, and use lighting to set the mood and define the spaces.
- The colors for the production are pale gray, deep charcoal, and lavender, a cool, sophisticated palette.

Prop List

boombox (Bruce)

2 vases with professionally designed flower arrangements (Thom)

extra flower and greenery stems to add to arrangement during 2a.-2c.

small bag for carrying set-up supplies (Thom)

feather duster (Thom)

Boxes to hold following supplies (Bruce)

- 6 dinner settings*
- 6 sets of silverware
- 6 water glasses
- 6 wine glasses
- 6 place cards
- 6 champagne glasses
- 6 folded napkins
- 3 small table flower arrangements
- 3 bottles of champagne
- chafing dish for meatballs
- rolls of lavender and gray ribbon
- extra small plates (for meatballs in 2c.)
- extra forks (for meatballs in 2c.)
- battery-operated candles

music box (Kaileigh)

(may add as necessary)

**recommend that the 6 place settings be glued together so they can be easily set out without dropping pieces of silverware or bowls, etc. Hot glue salad bowl to dessert plate, then glue that to the linen placemat, glue the place setting forks, knives, and spoons down as well. So that during the Opening Scene (in silhouette), "Bruce" can then pick up the place setting out of the box and place it easily on the table, adding the napkins to the bowls. Thom can then pretend to adjust silverware and napkins.*

Personal Prop List

tiara (Thom)

small, wrapped gift (Bruce)

sequined, electric blue boxer shorts (Thom)

pitch pipe (Bruce)

small bouquet of flowers (Kaileigh)

handkerchief (Bruce)

purses (Roma, Ellen)

wedding bouquet (Kaileigh)

Costumes

The colors for the production are pale gray, deep charcoal, and lavender, a cool, sophisticated palette perfect for modern style. Though mauve, deep, muted lavender, and maroon may be added as long as it does not overpower the subtlety of the modern color palette.



Rehearsal Dinner

Cocktail dress for Kaileigh and Roma, a nice evening pant-suit for Ellen, with Bruce and Greg wearing formal evening suits — Thom wears a brighter colored jacket (maroon or deep muted mauve/purple). Kaileigh adds on a raincoat when she steps outside and sees Roma, who is also wearing a raincoat.



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The Next Day

Before the wedding, Greg, Kaileigh, and Roma all wear nice jeans and regular shirts. Roma could wear a short, fitted jacket due to the weather outside the hotel. Thom is already in his wedding tuxedo.

Wedding

The wedding is formal. Bruce, Thom, and Greg all wear exquisitely made tuxes, with Greg’s vest and tie similar to Kaileigh’s dress color. Ellen wears a tailored, women’s tuxedo, and Roma has changed into her dress. Kaileigh’s dress has a modern, mermaid (not A-line or bell-shape) in the skirt with a fitted, non-corseted bodice. NO LACE, NO RUFFLES, NO POOFY ANYTHING. Modern. Sleek. Design.

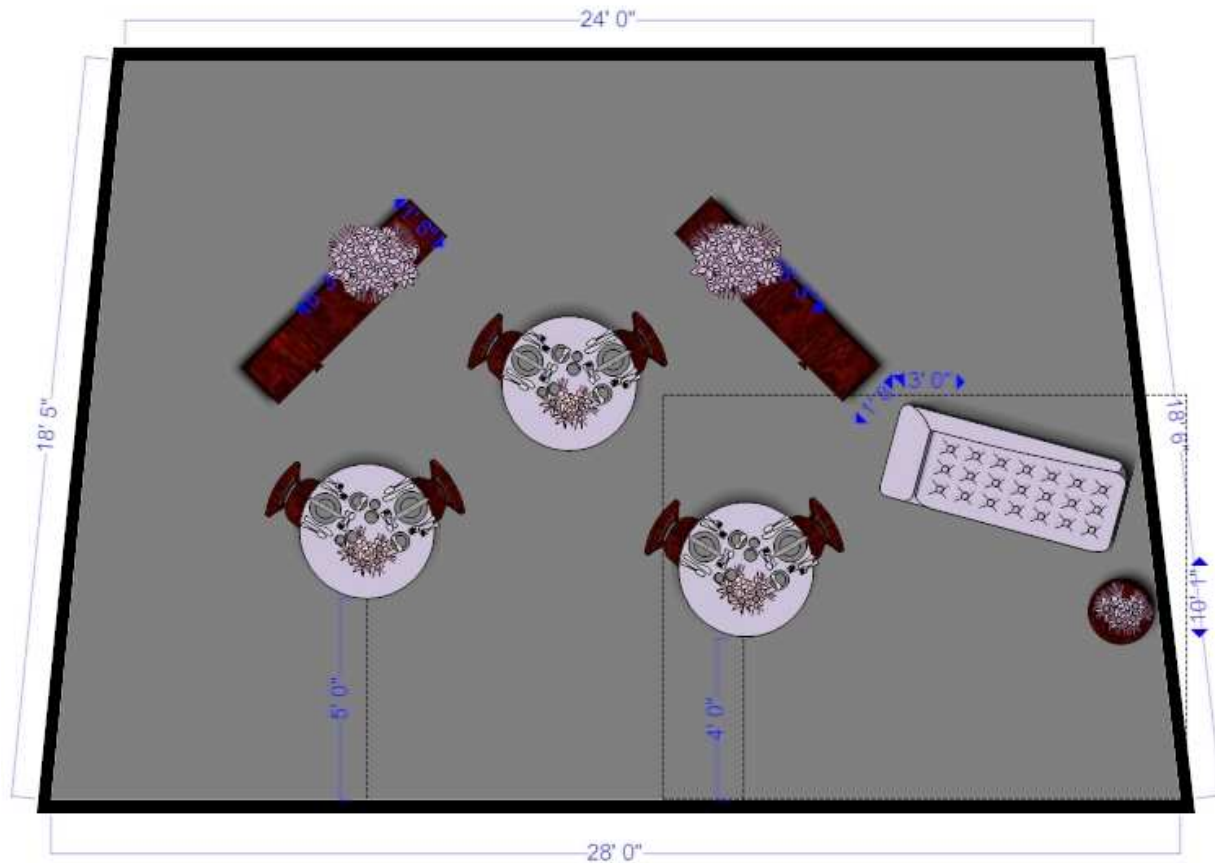


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For the Finale, the cast is grouped into couples, so having Kaileigh and Greg CS in their wedding attire, with Roma in her evening dress with Ellen in her tux, and both Bruce and Thom in tuxes, gives a nice tableaux of all three couples enjoying a “wedding” day (figuratively even if not legally).

TWO HEARTS Set Floorplan

Designed by Patricia Causey



•Set floorplan is designed for ease of movement and open quality, as well as to avoid extra cost and visual clutter of building walls. Lighting should be used to achieve mood and designated spaces:

DINING ROOM, SIDEWALK, BRIDAL ROOM, and WEDDING HALL.

- Stage Dimensions are 24' wide x 18' deep (widening to the apron to 28')
- With approximate table placement, there is 4'-5' of room across the DS area for 3a.-3d.
- During 7a. - 7d., Bruce has removed all flower and place settings.
- During 9a. Scene Change, move on pre-set vanity table and chair; move off K&G's table
- Dashed line box indicates space for BRIDAL ROOM, 9b.-10b. --- 10' x 13'
- Chaise is already in place for BRIDAL ROOM, 9b.-10b.
- DS Floor-length mirror may be alluded to in 9b. (Thom) and not actually there.
- During 11a. Scene Change, the other two dining tables are removed with the vanity and chaise to create the open floorplan of the WEDDING HALL.

TWO HEARTS

Libretto Musical Selections

Characters' whose names appear in (parentheses) are on stage but do not sing in that musical selection.

1.	Opening Scene — <i>(All)</i>	1
2a.	Music Difficulties — <i>Bruce, Thom</i>	11
2b.	More Music Difficulties — <i>Bruce, Thom</i>	16
2c.	Setting Up — <i>Bruce, Thom, Greg, Kaileigh, Ellen</i>	19
3a.	Hello — <i>Kaileigh, Roma</i>	25
3b.	Bruce Finds Kaileigh — <i>Bruce (Kaileigh, Roma)</i>	30
3c.	Kaileigh Explains — <i>Kaileigh, Roma</i>	32
3d.	Uneasy Triangle — <i>Kaileigh, Roma, Ellen, Bruce</i>	40
4.	Scene Change.....	44
5a.	The Rehearsal Dinner — <i>Bruce, Thom, Kaileigh, Greg, (Roma, Ellen)</i>	45
5b.	The Marriage Song — <i>Bruce, Thom, Kaileigh*, Greg* (Roma, Ellen)</i>	48
5c.	Bruce Suggests a Toast — <i>Kaileigh, Thom, Bruce, Greg (Roma, Ellen)</i>	60
6a.	A New World of Love — <i>Greg (Kaileigh, Roma, Ellen, Thom, Bruce)</i>	62
6b.	Greg's "Abduction" — <i>Thom, Greg, Kaileigh (Roma, Ellen, Bruce)</i>	71
7a.	The Truth Comes Out — <i>Ellen, Roma, Kaileigh (Bruce)</i>	75
7b.	Lies — <i>Roma (Kaileigh, Ellen, Bruce)</i>	81
7c.	Ellen Confronts Kaileigh — <i>Ellen, Kaileigh Roma</i>	95
7d.	Roma confronts Ellen — <i>Roma, Ellen</i>	103
7e.	This Is My Truth — <i>Ellen (Roma)</i>	105
7f.	Ellen Leaves — <i>(Ellen, Bruce)</i>	114
8a.	Poor Meatballs — <i>Bruce, Thom (Roma)</i>	115
8b.	Bruce Comforts Roma — <i>Bruce, Roma</i>	117
8c.	Time Moves On — <i>Bruce (Roma)</i>	123
8d.	End of a Long Day — <i>Bruce, Roma</i>	132
9a.	Scene Change	133
9b.	Thom's Wishful Thinking — <i>Thom (Kaileigh)</i>	134
9c.	Music Box Memories — <i>(Kaileigh)</i>	135
9d.	The Revelation — <i>Kaileigh, Greg</i>	136
9e.	I Loved Her — <i>Kaileigh (Greg)</i>	141
9f.	Greg Comforts Kaileigh — <i>Greg, Kaileigh</i>	147
9g.	Thom Freaks Out — <i>Thom (Kaileigh, Greg)</i>	153
10a.	Roma Talks With Kaileigh — <i>Roma, Kaileigh</i>	155
10b.	Two Hearts — <i>Roma, Kaileigh</i>	160
11a.	Scene Change — <i>(Bruce, Thom, Greg, Ellen)</i>	179
11b.	Ellen and Roma Reconcile — <i>Ellen, Roma (Thom, Greg, Bruce)</i>	183
11c.	The Ceremony Begins — <i>Bruce, Thom (Kaileigh, Greg, Roma, Ellen)</i>	187
11d.	Kaileigh's Processional — <i>(All)</i>	190
11e.	Bruce Begins the Vows — <i>Bruce (Kaileigh, Greg, Roma, Ellen, Thom)</i>	192
11f.	The Vows — <i>Greg, Kaileigh (Roma, Ellen, Thom, Bruce)</i>	193
11g.	Finale — <i>All</i>	197

** one word toward the end*

7a. THE REVELATION

(Kaileigh X to Bruce and thanks him again for the gift & hosting the dinner. Upset, Roma X DS and Ellen X to her.)

ELLEN

Roma, tell me what's going on.

ROMA

I...I...

ELLEN

What is it?

ROMA

Kaileigh...

ELLEN

The bride?

ROMA

Kaileigh and I were lovers.

ELLEN

When?

ROMA

In college.

(Bruce begins to tidy up at the side table.)

ELLEN

That was a long time ago.

Unless...

(Kaileigh X to DS of her table. Ellen looks to Kaileigh.)

ELLEN

Roma, are you still in love with her?

ROMA

Ellen, I...

ELLEN

Is she in love with you?

ROMA

I don't know.

(Kaileigh picks up her rehearsal bouquet and inhales the sweet fragrance.)

ELLEN

No, she's straight, and you love me!

ROMA

Ellen, wait!

(Ellen charges to Kaileigh, grabs her arm, whirls Kaileigh around.)

ELLEN

How dare you?!

KAILEIGH

What?

ELLEN

So typical!

Keeping the truth in the closet
while you parade down the aisle
kissing society's intolerant ass!

(Bruce hears the exchange and begins to straighten up closer to the women.)

KAILEIGH

Excuse

me?

ELLEN

No, I won't excuse you or this farce of a wedding!

(motions to Kaileigh's dress and bouquet)

(Sensing an impending escalation, Bruce takes the dish of meatballs off the table & begins to X to the door.)

ELLEN

You're making a joke of a right you haven't earned!

(Ellen grabs Kaileigh's bouquet & they struggle. The bouquet goes flying and lands in Bruce's dish of meatballs. Bruce stands, mouth agape, then dramatically lifts his head and turns for the door, exiting.)

ROMA

(to Ellen)

How could you?!

ELLEN

Me?!

KAILEIGH

I've done nothing to you.

ROMA

This is between Kaileigh and me.

KAILEIGH

Roma, what are you saying?

7b. LIES

ROMA

You were my heart and my first true love,
How could you leave me?
You were the one person who understood,
And allowed me to be me!

Only you loved me as I was,
And showed me
How to be
Honest to myself, and true to my heart, and who I am!

When I found you, my whole sense of myself
became so clear.
Loving you gave me the strength to live life
Without fear.

Kaileigh, I owe you more than you could know.
How could you
Turn your back on yourself,
who you are,
who we were back then?

You were my first true love.
You were special to me!
You were just using me as a joke
That was a convenient pastime
While your true feelings for men were hidden
from plain view
so you could
have what you
wanted at all times!

Did you ever really love me?
What did I do to you that made you
Want to change ev'rything you said you loved
About me,
About us,
Ev'rything we discussed
LIES!
And more lies!

You broke my heart in two.
You were so nonchalant.
You got all that you wanted,
Leaving me hanging on to promises that were LIES!
How could you do this, Kaileigh?!

You were my first true love.
You were special to me!
You broke my heart in two.
Now, here you are getting ready for your wedding day
to a man, a day
that should be
yours
and
mine!

7c. THE CONFRONTATION

KAILEIGH

Roma, I never meant to hurt you.
But I'm set to be wed now to Greg.

ELLEN

Who are you?
Who are you really?
Where does your heart lie?
Were you pretending with Roma
Or lying now to Greg?

KAILEIGH

How dare you!
I don't have to define myself to anyone!
I loved Roma, but we moved on.
When I met Greg, my heart found its home.

ELLEN

Convenient!
You can show your façade to the world
And have your illicit trysts in secret.

KAILEIGH

What we had was real then.

ELLEN

Convenient!
This is exactly why we can't get anywhere
With people like you
Who refuse
to take a stand!

KAILEIGH

I loved her then.
I love him now.
This is the truth!

ELLEN

I know the truth!

ROMA

Ellen!

ELLEN

You're a liar, and a fraud!
You're a traitor to the cause!

KAILEIGH

(to Ellen)

I have no cause but to live
Ev'ryday as I see fit!

(Singing simultaneously)

KAILEIGH

Stop!
Just Stop!
You're not
getting away with this.

ROMA

(to Ellen)

Stop!
(to Kaileigh)
Just stop!
(to Ellen)
You're not
getting away with this!

ELLEN

(to Kaileigh)
Stop!
Just stop!
You're not
getting away with this!

KAILEIGH

My choice is made.

(Kaileigh starts to leave.)

ELLEN

What about those of us
Who face the world's hatred of us?!

(Kaileigh exits, leaving the tense moment to linger between Roma and Ellen.)

7d. ROMA TURNS ON ELLEN

ROMA

How could you?!

ELLEN

Me?

ROMA

She did nothing wrong!

ELLEN

(furious)

She did ev'rything wrong!
She won't admit who she is!
And you?
Are you mine
or are you hers?

ROMA

(hurt and confused)

After today,
Seeing you
Behave this way
I don't know what to do...

7e. THIS IS MY TRUTH

ELLEN

No, no,
How could you want someone who won't honor who she is
Or who we are and can't see the truth!

(Roma exits.)

ELLEN

(frustrated)

If she would look in the mirror,
She would see there's nothing to fear or be
Ashamed of whom she will see in return.
There's no reason to hide who you are inside.
God made you perfectly.

If we are to live freely,
We must be the change we want to see in the world.
This is how we'll live our lives!

I am my own judge for this life.
No one needs to approve who I love,
what I do!
My heart will see me through.

This is my truth.

7f. ELLEN LEAVES

(Ellen crosses to her seat, as Bruce enters, carrying his bowl of meatballs. Ellen gets her purse, and brushes past Bruce as she exits. Bruce barely sidesteps Ellen as she leaves, then he sits at the table, exhausted, holding his dish of meatballs.)