



## CALLBACKS

For **NOSTRADAMUS**

#1

### NOSTRADAMUS

Did I hear a need for future seeing?

*The window closes. We hear footsteps on stairs, then falling, pots and pans, a cat SCREECH, then a door opens and Nostradamus steps out.*

If seeing is what you need, then I can help you. If help is what you need, then I can see you. If neither is what you need, then I can foresee you leaving very shortly. So—am I hired? Actually, I know I will be, I'm just being polite.

NICK

Who are you?

NOSTRADAMUS

I—am Nostradamus.

NICK

THE Nostradamus?

NOSTRADAMUS

No. I'm his nephew. Thomas.

NICK

Thomas Nostradamus?

NOSTRADAMUS

*(raising his hand as if giving oath)*

I promise. But I share the same gifts as my esteemed uncle. And for half a crown, I'll share those gifts with you. And I predict for you a new life... with no teeth! That was a freebie.

NICK

Uhhh... I'll keep looking if you don't mind.

NOSTRADAMUS

Suit yourself.

NICK

Half a crown you said?

*NOSTRADAMUS returns as NICK pays him.*

NOSTRADAMUS

Excellent! Now—what is it you would like the future to tell?

NICK

Well, I'm a writer—

NOSTRADAMUS

I knew that.

NICK

...and I want you to look into the future and tell me...

*(checks to make sure no one's listening)*

What will the next big thing in theater be?—what audiences will be lining up to see.



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### NOSTRADAMUS

Right. Stand back. Give me some space.

*HE shakes out and warms up like an athlete before an event, then more hacking and clearing his sinuses, then squints hard and puts his fingers to his temples. He squints – then gets the shivers.*

Oh. Oh my. Wow. Ooooh, in the future, the theaters are very *niiiiice*. Cushy red seats. AND A ROOF! And wait!... whoa, what is this?? It's UNBELIEVABLE!

### NICK

What? What?!

### NOSTRADAMUS

That much?? For a glass of *wine*?!?!

### NICK

How about what's on the stage?

### NOSTRADAMUS

Right. Getting to that...

*HE squints, then gets a vision that causes him to stumble backwards. NICK has to catch him.*

Whoa! What spectacle! I have seen the future!

### NICK

What, what is it??!

### NOSTRADAMUS

The biggest, most fantastic thing in theater will be...

*(painting it in the air)*

MUSICALS.

### NICK

What?

### NOSTRADAMUS

*(painting it again)*

Musicals.

### NICK

What the hell are "musicals?"

### NOSTRADAMUS

*(squinting into the distance)*

It appears to be a play where the dialogue stops and the plot is conveyed through song.



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For NOSTRADAMUS

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NOSTRADAMUS:

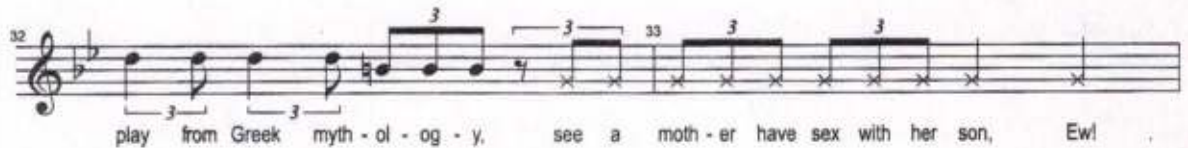
VAMP



Let's just say it's a Sat-ur-day night, and you wan-na' go out on the town. Got a lad-y to flat-ter who might give it



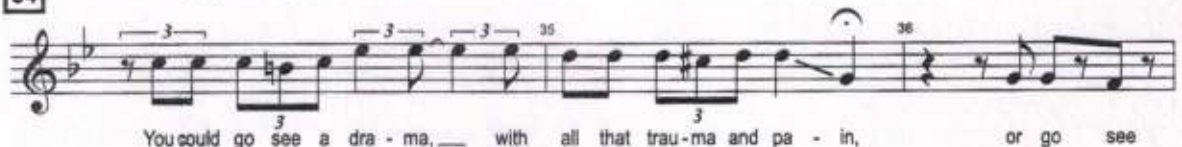
up if you don't let her down. You could go see a tra-ge-dy, but that would-n't be ver-y fun. Or a



play from Greek myth - ol - og - y, see a moth - er have sex with her son, Ew!

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Grandy (♩ = 82)



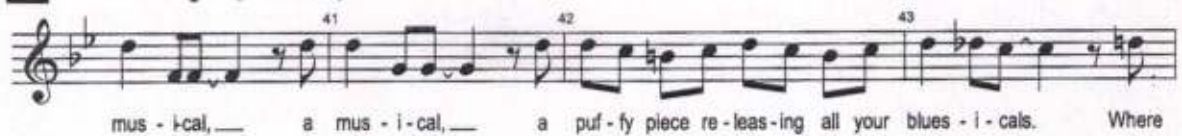
You could go see a dra - ma, with all that tra-u-ma and pa - in, or go see



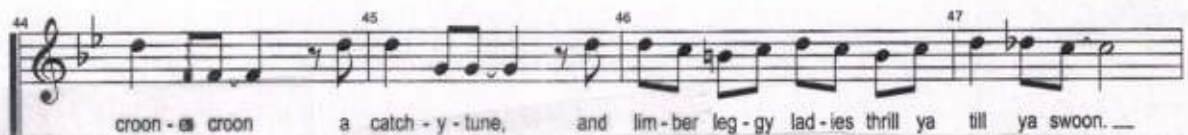
some-thing more re - lax - ing and less tax - ing on the brain Go see a

40

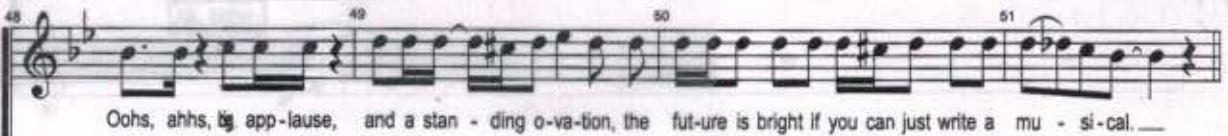
A Tempo (♩ = 132)



mus - i-cal, a mus - i-cal, a puff-y piece re-leas-ing all your blues - i - cals. Where



croon - a croon a catch - y - tune, and lim-ber leg-gy lad-ies thrill ya till ya swoon.



Oohs, ahhs, big app-lause, and a stan - ding o-va-tion, the fut-ure is bright if you can just write a mu - si-cal.