

NICHOLAS MAW

Sophie's Choice

AN OPERA IN FOUR ACTS

(1997–2002)

LIBRETTO BY THE COMPOSER
BASED ON THE NOVEL
BY WILLIAM STYRON

FABER *ff* MUSIC

© 2005 by Faber Music Ltd
Based on the novel *Sophie's Choice* by William Styron
© copyright 1976, 1978, 1979 by William Styron
This score first published in 2005 by Faber Music Ltd
3 Queen Square London WC1N 3AU
Piano reduction devised by Daniel Luzko and Paul Rigby
Music processed by Paul Rigby
Printed in England by Caligraving Ltd
All rights reserved

ISBN 0 571-52125-8

All rights of theatrical, radio and television performance, mechanical reproduction in any form whatsoever (including film), translation of the libretto of the complete opera or part thereof, are strictly reserved.

The purchase, loan or hire of this vocal score does not convey the right to perform, permission for which must be obtained from the publishers or their authorised agents.

The full score and orchestral parts are available on hire from the publishers.

Published separately: Libretto ISBN 0-571-52126-6

To buy Faber Music publications or to find out about the full range of titles available
please contact your local music retailer or Faber Music sales enquiries:

Faber Music Limited, Burnt Mill, Elizabeth Way, Harlow, CM20 2HX England
Tel: +44 (0)1279 82 89 82 Fax: +44 (0)1279 82 89 83
sales@fabermusic.com fabermusic.com

Sophie's Choice

ACT I

NICHOLAS MAW

Prologue

Calm and sustained (♩ = c.76/80)

The Narrator appears...

Piano

Str.

pp

NARRATOR *p*

It was the ear-ly sum-mer of nine-teen for-ty seven. I vi-vid-ly— re-mem-ber that

pp

Narr.

year,— sun - ny and mild, flower frag - rant...—

1

pp

Narr.

I was twen-ty - two, and had come up to New York— from the South, hop - ing—

pp *poco sf* *pp* *poco sf* *pp*

f with sudden warmth *dim.*

Narr. — to be-come a wri - ter. — I yearned pas-sionate-ly — to pro-duce the no - vel —

p *f* *dim.* *mf*

2 *p*

Narr. — so long cap-tive in my mind. — One —

(dim.) *mp* *p* *pp*

Narr. — fine day in June I walked down a Brook-lyn street lined —

mp *pp* *mf*

Narr. — with green-ing sy-ca-mores, — and took a room in the board-ing house of Mis-sis Yet-ta —

mf

We see Yetta Zimmerman's boarding house in Brooklyn; summer 1947. To one side, occupying the lesser part of the stage, Stingo's room with door out to the hallway. The furnishings are rather sparse; visible items include a worktable-desk with typewriter, an armchair, and some well-stocked bookshelves. In the hallway outside, stairs lead up to the floor above where Nathan's room is located. A door on the other side of the hallway leads to Sophie's room, which occupies the larger part of the stage. At the back of the hallway is the street door. It is late afternoon. Stingo is at work in his room.

p semplice *poco rit.*

Narr. Zim-mer-man. So it was I came to know So - phie — and Nat - than... —

p

