

SUNG

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EXT. THE WHITE VOID - DAY

Silence. Then the sound of HUMMING amidst GASPING tears.

The world is completely white. There is no visible ground or a sky but a circle of dying grass and scattered piles of ash.

ARPEGGIO, 12, sits in the center of this circle, crying. She HUMS and the grass brightens. She touches a stalk of grass.

It CRUMBLES into dust.

She sighs and the remaining blades BLOW away into the void.

She looks down at her trembling hands. She continues to weep, humming a melody. Grass grows beneath her, spreading with her music.

Arpeggio whispers the lyrics to her song.

ARPEGGIO

"Please work for me... Please stay
for me..."

Flowers explode into color, reaching up to Arpeggio's smiling face which turns to horror as the flowers wilt and die. The grass withers shortly after.

She GASPS, grasping at the dying flowers. They burst into ashes and scatter away. She lets out a silent wail.

Her skin and clothes fade into dismal grays but her eyes retain their color. Arpeggio hugs her legs and bows her head. Her shoulders quake as she WEEPS.

Her head whips up.

She pulls back her hair to reveal pointed ears as she strains to hear something. It's a faint noise of INSTRUMENTS and at the horizon, a place of colorful towers has appeared.

Arpeggio stares. She gets up and runs towards the place but gains no ground. It remains where it is while the MUSIC continues to RISE in volume.

She jumps in surprise and turns away with crossed arms. The place continues to stretch outwards, approaching Arpeggio in sync with the music.

SONG: Instrumental of Aqua's "Goodbye to the Circus"

A long road unwinds towards and past Arpeggio.

EXT. CIRCUS - CONTINUOUS

A trio of circus tents spring up in front of her. Carnival games and animal cages POP into view as she turns to watch the changes.

A night sky bleeds into existence.

It is a pristine world with no sign of life.

Footsteps make Arpeggio whirl about to face ÉTUDE, 16, who is entirely black and white, save for his sickly yellow eyes.

He moves in a swaying motion, his arms weaving about to the tune of the song. He sees Arpeggio and freezes. The music CUTS off and the world stops its changing.

Étude circles Arpeggio, looking at her up and down. His head BOBS to the sound of a BASSOON. He looks at Arpeggio's dress and pulls at a sleeve.

He completes the circle and stands before Arpeggio with a frown. He crosses his arms and squints at her. He sharply turns around, hunching over on himself.

He taps his head to the sound of a metronome. He looks at Arpeggio, raises a hand, pauses, and resumes tapping. He repeats this twice then straightens with a RING of a BELL.

Étude holds out his hands to Arpeggio, comparing their similar color. He smiles, then dances to another song.

SONG: Instrumental of Starship's "We Built This City"

Daybreaks suddenly. The circus tents twists into massive spires of steel and glass.

EXT. METROPOLIS - CONTINUOUS

The world becomes a city, just as lifeless as the circus.

Arpeggio whirls around, trying to watch it all at once. Her eyes are as wide as her smile.

Étude finishes, panting. He smiles at Arpeggio and gestures at himself then at the city. He gestures at her and pockets his hands.

Arpeggio frowns and tilts her head.

Étude sighs a FLUTE note and claps his hands with the sound of DRUMS to the musical riff of "Shave and a Haircut."

A pair of recliners SPRING up behind the spirits. Étude falls into one with a SIGH. Arpeggio glances at her chair before she sits.

Étude spins his chair around and waves his arms. Like a cleaned slate, the city is wiped away from existence.

EXT. THE WHITE VOID - CONTINUOUS

He turns and gestures at Arpeggio. He gestures at the emptiness around them. Étude sits back and waits.

Arpeggio's eyes widen. She shakes her head and speaks.

ARPEGGIO
No, no, I can't!

She GASPS, and covers her mouth. A bird FLITTERS into existence between them. Étude's eyes widen and his jaw drops. Arpeggio watches the bird hover in the air between them.

It TWITTERS once before it drops to the ground.

It's dead.

Arpeggio's face pales as Étude leaps back with a startled sound of CRASHING CYMBALS. The two watch as the bird's feathers wither away into a skeleton which blows into dust.

Arpeggio jumps from her chair and runs away. Étude, startled, gives chase with a sudden symphony of music.

SONG: Instrumental of The Cab's "Disturbia"

Étude overtakes Arpeggio and catches her by the arm. She struggles, but his grip is tight. Arpeggio GASPS.

Étude blinks and looks around at the scenery.

The city is gone, overtaken by a forboding wood.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

A bloodied moon hangs low through the storm clouds.

Lightning CRASHES overhead and Arpeggio SCREAMS in fear. Étude releases his grip and covers his ears. He stares at her.

The ground TREMBLES.

Étude looks down in confusion.

The ground TREMBLES once more and Arpeggio steps closer to Étude as he does the same. The two stand shoulder-to-shoulder as they look about.

The ground trembles again before the source reveals itself with a THUNDROUS ROAR! Trees SNAP asunder beneath catching claws and massive jaws SCREAM a horrendous sound!

It is a MONSTER that towers over them.

Arpeggio and Étude look at each other and run.

The Monster ROARS and gives chase.

Étude struggles to put a rhythm to his motions. Notes FALTER as the moon flickers between opal and red. The forest remains and continues to darken into a nightmarish wood.

The Monster grows in size, changing into something horrid with every GASP Arpeggio makes. Étude looks back and forth between the two.

The sound of a CLAPPING BELL causes the Monster to stumble.

Étude grabs Arpeggio and pulls her into an open clearing. They race for the other side but a stone wall juts upwards when they reach the center.

They turn and see that the Monster is slowly stalking towards them. It licks its lips, spittle dribbling down.

Étude PANTS for breath and the music FADES away. Silence but for the Monster's QUAKING steps. Étude closes his eyes and starts flexing his fingers on Arpeggio's shoulder.

STRINGED INSTRUMENTS hum softly, and the storm clouds vanish. The forest remains dark. The Monster continues to advance.

Étude looks at Arpeggio who stares back. Continuing to STRUM his fingers, he gestures at her with his free hand.

Her eyes widen and she turns to look back at the monster. Étude grabs her chin and forces her to look into his eyes.

They stare at one another for a long moment. They can see their reflections in each other's eyes.

SONG: Celtic Woman's "The Voice"

ARPEGGIO

"... I---I..."

The Monster halts. Its head tilts, eyes narrowing. It HUFFS.

ARPEGGIO (CONT'D)

"Hear your voice on the wind... And
I---I hear you call out my
naaaame..."

The Monster grimaces. Étude looks at it and twirls. MUSIC rises as he guides Arpeggio to dance as she sings.

ARPEGGIO (CONT'D)

"'Listen my child,' you say to me,
'I am the voice of your history. Be
not afraid, come follow me. Answer
my call and I'll set you
freeeeeeee!'"

Leaves flow along the once-dead branches. The night sky lightens into dawn, the sun shining through a cloudless sky. Throughout it all, the Monster HOWLS in pained fury.

ARPEGGIO (CONT'D)

"I am the voice in the wind and the
pouring rain. I am the voice of
your hunger and pain. I am the
voice that always is calling you. I
am the voice, I will remain..."

It STOMPS its feet and out POPS a herd of running deer. It swipes with its claws and out POPS a pack of HOWLING wolves. It BELLOWS and out comes a flock of QUACKING ducks.

ARPEGGIO (CONT'D)

"I am the voice in the fields when
the summer's gone, the dance of the
leaves when the autumn winds blow.
Ne'er do I sleep throughout all the
cold winter long, I am the force
that in springtime will grow..."

More forest animals POP free from the Monster. It starts to shrink with every POP. From rabbits to owls, the forest becomes filled with wildlife.

With one last POP, the Monster is now a grizzly bear.

ARPEGGIO (CONT'D)

"I am the voice of the past that
will always be filled with my
sorrow and blood in my fields. I am
the voice of the future, bring me
your peace! Bring me your peace,
and my wounds, they will
healllll..." Oh!

Arpeggio halts and stares at the animals. Étude falls to the ground with the laughter of TINKLING bells. He sits up and looks about, grinning. He LAUGHS and swings himself upright.

He chases after a rabbit, turns sharply to startle the herd of deer, and then leaps up after some ducks.

He stops and turns to face Arpeggio. His eyes are shining with inner light. Arpeggio changes as well, her grayish tone brightens into muted colors.

Étude waves his arms about. Arpeggio does not see him, her eyes zipping about on the animals. She sees them alive and LAUGHS. A flock of butterflies flitter about.

Étude CLAPS excitedly and runs over to her, reaching out a hand. She takes it and, together, they walk from the world.

EXT. DUSTY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

A white void lies ahead of them. Étude backs away from Arpeggio, swaying to the PINGING of a PIANO. He smiles as a dusty road unrolls beneath him.

He spins about before stopping with a hand outstretched to Arpeggio.

She stares at his hand before her eyes fall to the road. Arpeggio turns to look behind her. There is nothing but whiteness and the sound of tapping piano keys.

She sees a small bird and hears its lovely song.

SONG: Amanda Seyfried's cover of "Thank You for the Music"

ARPEGGIO

"I'm nothing special, in fact I'm a bit of a bore... If I tell a joke, you've probably heard it before..."

Grass springs up along the road and swells upwards into a field of flowers. Butterflies explode from the petals.

As she sings, Arpeggio changes once more, her colors brightening to their fullest. Étude also changes, his white skin flushing pink, and his laughter is genuinely HUMAN.

ARPEGGIO (CONT'D)

"But I have a talent, a wonderful thing 'cause everyone listens when I start to sing. I'm so grateful and proud. All I want is to sing it out loud..."

Birds flap wildly on the horizon. Trees burst from the ground and are quickly felled into houses.

EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS

PEOPLE appear, SINGING and DANCING alongside the two spirits.

ARPEGGIO

"So I say, thank you for the music,
the songs I'm singing. Thanks for
all the joy they're bringing. Who
can live without it, I ask in all
honesty, what would life be?"

Time continues forward; the wood houses peel into brick.
Bricks flakes away into steel.

EXT. CITY - CONTINUOUS

What once was a simple town is now a glorious city. The
people change with the landscape; from the nomads to the
pilgrims to the modern people of today.

ARPEGGIO

"Without a song or a dance what are
we? So I say thank you for the
music, for giving it to me..."