

1. Epicene Women

Claire Nash 2007

Automaton-like

Soprano I: all stand in silence | spin bottle | all aggressively whisper 'Epicene' text ad lib. whilst spinning bottles:

Soprano II: spin bottle | **Notice to Epicene Women - Electioneering women are requested not to call here. They are recommended to go home, look after their children, cook their husbands' dinners, empty the slops, and generally attend to the domestic affairs for which nature intended them.**

Tenor: spin bottle | **By taking this advice they will gain the respect of all right-minded people - an end not to be attained by unsexing themselves and meddling in masculine concerns of which they are profoundly ignorant.**

Baritone: spin bottle | **Henry Wright, 103 Mein Street, Wellington. (repeat if necessary)**

Bass: spin bottle

S I. ⁴ Continue whispering text. Commence jerky 'channelling' head. Include 'prrrr' ad lib. | Channelling head becomes more violent... Speak text sotto voce. Include occasional high note 'blips' | (cease spinning bottle) TV static: [i] + [u] within [ç], unvoiced sound

S II. | (cease spinning bottle) TV static: [i] + [u] within [ç], unvoiced sound

T. | (cease spinning bottle) TV static: [i] + [u] within [ç], unvoiced sound

Bar. | (cease spinning bottle) TV static: [i] + [u] within [ç], unvoiced sound

B. | (cease spinning bottle) Bass: gabbles text as quickly as possible

7 **A**

S I. Ad lib. blips

S II. TV static...
 Soprano II whispers 'Kate Sheppard' text:
The crudity and unfairness of the present method of election still goes on sending men to parliament for whom only a minority of their constituents have voted, leaving the majority quite unrepresented. As a representative system it is a SHAM, a DELUSION, and a SNARE to the UNTHINKING.
(repeat if necessary)

T. TV static...

Bar. Baritone: whispers **Mr Speaker!** at (approx.) 5 second intervals
 continues, now whispering text with channelling head...

B. Suddenly upright, speaks entire text clearly, pompously and indignantly.
 Ad lib. occasional 'blips'.
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Henry Wright,
103 Mein Street,
Wellington.
 continues 'Epicene' text until finished...

9

S I. Ad lib. blips

S II. Continues whispering text, channelling head...
 Channelling and whispering becomes more violent. Include occasional 'blips'.
 gabbles text as quickly as possible...

T. TV static...

Bar. Channelling and whispering becomes more violent. Include occasional 'blips'.
 gabbles text as quickly as possible...
 shouts angrily **Mr. Speaker!** at (approx.) 5 second intervals

B. *snap still*

12

S I. Ad lib. 'blips'

S II. Suddenly upright, proclaims entire text angrily but clearly. Ad lib. occasional 'blips'.

T. TV static...
 Tenor: gabbles 'Epicene' text as quickly as possible with violently channelling head...
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 Henry Wright,
 103 Mein Street,
 Wellington.

Suddenly upright, proclaims entire text casually but firmly.

Bar. (continuing Mr. Speaker!...)

B.

15

Sop I & II: gabble 'farmgirl' text as quickly as possible:
I grew up in the outdoors and rode horses a lot. Neither I nor any of my friends back then would have found it odd to see a girl wearing a rugby jersey or swannie.
 (repeat if necessary)

Wistfully, breathily
B ♩ = c.65
 mp Ahhh... Ahhh... Ahhh... Ahhh...

T. continuing 'Epicene' text...

Bar. continuing Mr. Speaker! with increasing agitation

B.

18

S I. Ahhh... Ahhh... Ahhh... Ahhh... *mf*

S II. Ahhh... Ahhh... Ahhh... Ahhh... *mf*

T. continuing 'Epicene' text...
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Bar. (continuing Mr. Speaker!...)

B.

23

S I. Ahhh... *mf* snap still

S II. Ahhh... *mf* snap still

T. Whispering text... Tenor, Baritone, Bass:
 Create wind sound blowing air into cupped hand (Pitch can be altered by adjusting hands or mouth shape).

Bar. Whispering text...

B.

C Without expression, as if daydreaming

27 *like singing statues...* *mp*

S I. I grew up in the out doors and rode hors-es a

S II. I grew up in the out doors and rode hors-es a

T.

Bar.

B.

31

S I. *lot.* Neith-er I nor an - y of my friends back then

S II. *lot.* Neith-er I nor an - y of my friends back then

T. continue wind...

Bar. Baritone and Bass:
Yell section from 'Epicene' text repeatedly
in fast urgent angry shouts:
**They are recommended to go home,
to look after their children, to cook their
husbands' dinners, empty the slops.**

B. continue wind...

36

S I. would have found it odd to see a girl wear-ing a

S II. would have found it odd to see a girl wear-ing a

T. continue wind... continue wind...

Bar. continue wind... Bass and Baritone yell text (as before): continue wind...

B. continue wind... they are PROFOUNDLY IGNORANT continue wind...

an end not to be attained by UNSEXING themselves and meddling in masculine concerns of which they are PROFOUNDLY IGNORANT

40

S I. rug-by jers-ey or swan-nie. *p* All lower heads slowly

S II. rug-by jers-ey or swan-nie. *p*

T. *p*

Bar. *p*

B. *p*

Suddenly active
Heads snap up, men shuffle together

D Nasally, with BBC accent
Cheerful a la TV commercial
♩ = c.136, swung

S I. TV static... *mf* If you've got a

S II. TV static... *Sop II remains as statue whilst inactive*

T. TV static... *f* Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo... *mp* If you've got a

Bar. TV static... *f* doo... *mp* If you've got a

B. TV static... *f* doo... *mp* If you've got a

49

S I. nast - y stain or if you want to make your cloth - ing fresh and clean, get Har low's, quick, to

S II.

T. nast - y stain or want your cloth - ing fresh and clean. Doo doo doo doo

Bar. nast - y stain or want your cloth - ing fresh and clean. Doo doo doo doo

B. nast - y stain or want your cloth - ing fresh and clean. Doo doo doo doo

53

S. I. do the_ trick, and nev-er ev - er ev - er ev - er suff-er stains a - gain, oh Har - low's soap_ will

S. II.

T. doo doo doo doo ev - er ev - er ev - er suff-er stains a - gain oh be doo be be doo be

Bar. doo doo doo doo ev - er ev - er ev - er suff-er stains a - gain oh be doo be be doo be

B. doo doo doo doo ev - er ev - er ev - er suff-er stains oh doo be doo be

57

S. I. rock your boat, you can see the lath-er rath er bet-ter now than ev - er with fresh-er clean-er

S. II.

T. be doo be be doo be you can see it bet - ter ev - er with fresh-er clean-er

Bar. be doo be be doo be you can see it bet - ter ev - er with fresh-er clean-er

B. doo be doo you can see it bet - ter ev - er with fresh-er clean-er