TOUR'S PROPOSAL

Book, Music, and Lyrics
DAVID QUANG PHAM

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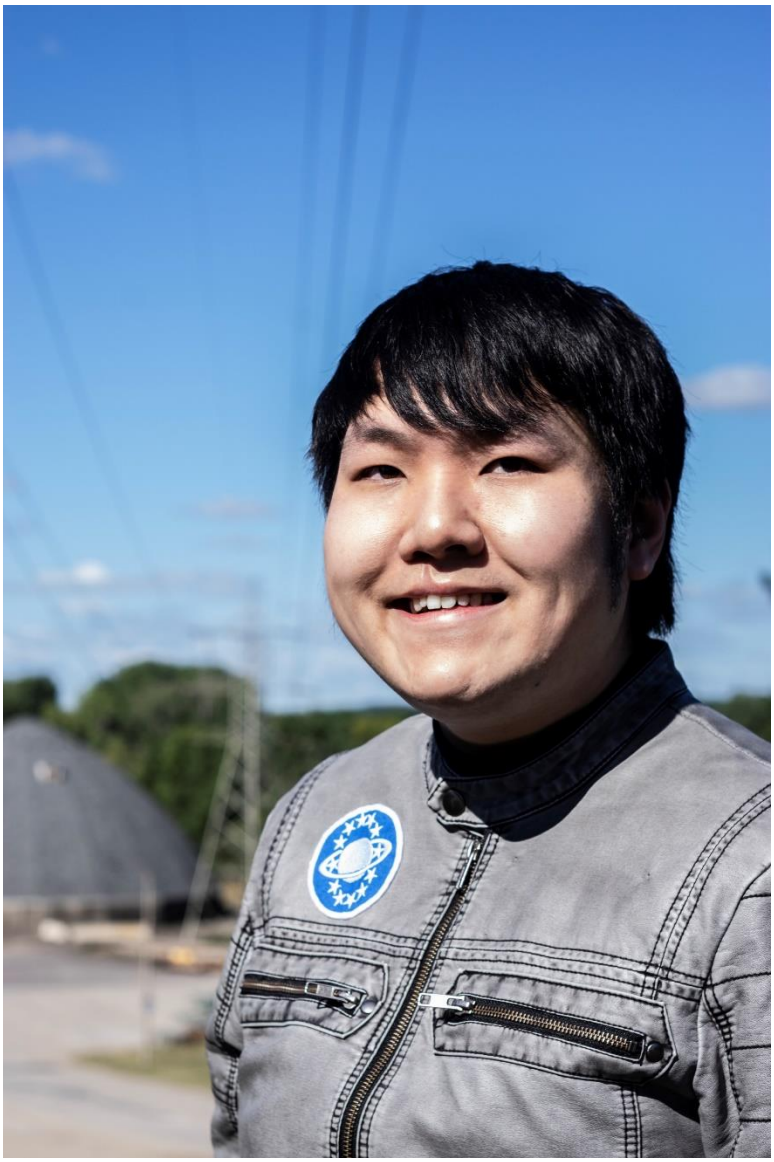

Born in Wyoming, Michigan, David Quang Pham is a science-based musical writer. He is the 2020-2021 Working Title Playwrights Apprentice in Atlanta. A member of Sigma Pi Sigma, Theater Resources Unlimited, ASCAP, and the Dramatists Guild, he attained an astrophysics degree with a minor in theatre at Michigan State University.

His theatrical and astronomical interests manifested as a child, with trips to operas and space camp. In middle and high school, he delved into music theory and played the trombone. The nerdy persona remained, and the artistic talents dwelled into his college years. As he was finishing his bachelor's thesis, his sister informed him that his high school calculus teacher had been annually sharing his musical. During his junior year of high school, he wrote MATHLAND for their winter project. He returned to musical writing on the side of thesis writing. Soon, he uncovered his niche: the world of physics being told through the human experience.

As an artistic scientist, he theorizes that science and art are not two sides of the same coin. Science and art make the coin. He spins it.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

*All texts highlighted in blue are hyperlinks to files

THANK YOU

Name	Role
Emily Johnson	Data Scientist
Marcos “Danny” Caballero	Professor of Electromagnetism
Montana Earegood	Copyeditor
Ruthann Gregory	Physicist
Janelle Lawrence	Operatic/Musical Mentor
Haley Baird	Originated Reader of Quark
Bianca Waechter	Originated Reader of Lepton
Peter Louis Epstein	Originated Reader of Boson
Carina Goebelbecker	Originated Reader of Atom
Monica Cross	Originated Reader of the ensembles
Kami Visitsak	Originated Singer of Quark
Diana Easter	Originated Singer of Lepton
Brian Egland	Originated Singer of Boson
Rina Lubit	Originated Singer of Atom

SYNOPSIS

A physics fable, TOUR is an operatic musical that experiments with tango, pop, choral, and four particles named Quark, Lepton, Boson, and Atom. These standard particles collide and compete with one another in the physics academic and professional field. By the end of act one, they all pass college and get jobs at the particle accelerator. In the end of act two, they all die in the accelerator and rise as God Particles.

The characters are particles, who are searching to become perfect. In physics, particles seek out supersymmetry. Particles want to be perfect spheres. Not unlike a human being. We want to be well-rounded. The analogy is told through personifications of the particles in a nuclear reactor. Their types and class structure are costumed as human students and professors.

Quark is an exchange student, Lepton is her doctoral advisor, and Boson is the professor who tries to stop Quark from getting a career in physics.

The first act transcends the particles from college to career or from ground states to energy states. This follows Quark, an exchange student, as she graduates from her undergraduate degree to her doctorate. During her pursuit to be a physicist, she concentrates on magnetic physics and attracts Professor Boson who soon advances on her, so she rejects. He retaliates by ensuring that there are no paths to a career in physics and she experiences enlightening obstacles. As trouble ensues, she is taken under the wings of her doctoral advisor, Lepton.

The second act transcends the particles from career to death or from standard models to supersymmetry. This follows Quark, a recently hired technician, as she rises from being a subordinate to being the director of the Accelerator. In the Accelerator, Atom is a subordinate, Lepton is its supervisor, and Boson leads as the director. As Quark gets the respect she deserves from fellow technicians, Atom grows instable and Boson loses his influence on the world of physics. When Boson resigns and hands his position to Quark, Atom take matters into their own hands.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Workshops/Productions: Casting the principal characters from underrepresented racial minorities are not recommended. Casting the principal characters from underrepresented racial minorities are required.

Character	Vocal Tone & Range
QUARK A student and physicist. Quotidian, Ubiquarian, Antiscian, Rachidian, K?	Musical Mezzo-Soprano
LEPTON A doctoral advisor and lab supervisor. Leaves Electricity Proportional To Obscure Negativity.	Musical Alto
BOSON A professor and lab director. Bright Or Sanctimonious Or Narcissistic.	Musical Baritone — Tenor
ATOM A scholar and right-hand scientist. Attentive Towards Outstanding Matters.	Operatic

Ensemble

- STUDENTs
- RESEARCH ASSISTANTs
- PROFESSORs
- TECHNICIANs
- POLITICIANs
- PARTICLEs

QUARK

Physical Traits

Create a detailed description.

- Colourful

Character Traits

What is your character's personality?

- Random
- Extravagant
- Strange

Motivation

Why does your character do what he/she does?

If the world remembers she's an exchange particle, we'd put an effort into knowing where she's coming from and why she wants to be a physicist.

Name

Write an acrostic poem of the character's name.

Quotidian
Ubiquarian
Antiscian
Rachidian
K?

Feelings

What is your character feeling?

- Ambitious
- Jargon-ful
- Doubtful

Kami Visitsak

LEPTON

Physical Traits

Create a detailed description.

- Colourless
- Ghostly

Character Traits

What is your character's personality?

- Spirited
- Drained
- Loaded

Motivation

Why does your character do what he/she does?

As the cosmic particle, she is spiritual and believes in particles within everyone, so her concentration has always been particle physics.

Name

Write an acrostic poem of the character's name.

Leaves
Electricity
Proportional
To
Obscure
Negativity

Feelings

What is your character feeling?

- Electric/ Manic
- Negative/ Depressed

Diana Easter

BOSON

Physical Traits

Create a detailed description.

- Bright
- Tacky

Character Traits

What is your character's personality?

- Bright
- Prideful
- Lucid

Motivation

Why does your character do what he/she does?

As the light particle, he knows that the world adores his presence and he likes that power and influence he has on the physics community.

Name

Write an acrostic poem of the character's name.

Bright
Or kind of
Sanctimonious
Or seriously
Narcissistic

Feelings

What is your character feeling?

- Intrigued
- Angered
- Confident

Brian Egland

ATOM

Physical Traits

Create a detailed description.

- **Loveable**
- **Classic**

Character Traits

What is your character's personality?

- **Repetitive**
- **Cooperative**
- **Unstable**

Motivation

Why does your character do what he/she does?

As the matter that makes up the entire world and universe for that matter, they will run everything.

Name

Write an acrostic poem of the character's name.

Attentive
Towards
Outstanding
Matters

Feelings

What is your character feeling?

- **Funny**
- **Anxious**
- **Jealous**
  (of QUARK)

Rina Lubit

SCENES & SET DESIGNS

Act	Page	Location	SET | props
I	8	University	PARTICLE BOARD displays a schedule, holds a box of tacks, hides a field line diagram|DESK holds horseshoe magnets(4+) with a note stuck to a magnet, a field line diagram, a packet, a pen, a thesis, a decorative box hiding a magnet| tambourine, packets, scantrons, papers, alarm
I	54	Desertron	ABANDONED PARTICLE ACCELERATOR|operator's control, cash
I	76	Magnet Factory	PARTICLE BOARD displays tacks|DESK holding magnets, metals, a light bulb, wire|packets
II	88	Accelerator	COLLIDER|treasures, papers, pens, operator's control, magnets
III	129	Quantum World	COLLIDER

15. SUPER COLLIDE

SCENE ii

[Desertron]

(LEPTON elegantly arrives, clad in a rancher's uniform.)

LEPTON

HOWDY. JOIN IN THE
CIRCUIT!

(Pointing in the distance.)

HOME TO DESERTRON.
HOPE, THESE RAYS
HOLD IN. BEAMS AS FAR
AS THE EYES CAN SEE
ANY BEINGS TO
EVER TOP YOUR DISSERTATION.

QUARK

NO LABS THERE YET. WHAT KIND OF ADVISING YOU DO TO
LEAD US HERE?
MY NATURAL PHYSICS HAS BEEN TRAINED TO GET YOU COFFEE.

(LEPTON wanders off.)

END UP WITH DESERTS.

(Noticing LEPTON's disappearance.)

NOT THE COURSE TO DESERT THIS DOCTORATE!

(Motioning towards herself.)

WELL, THERE IT GOES. MY CONCLUSION.
EGO'S NEVER HYPERSENSITIVE. THIS MIND STAYS DEHYDRATED.

(LEPTON tiptoes in, sanding off an operator's control.)

LEPTON

HYPOTHESIS THAT THIS
HEARTLAND OF
INNOVATION BRINGS FREE
ENERGY. WHERE NOT JUST
MATTER EXISTS, BUT THEY
MATTER IN OUR LAWS.
IN FACT, FORCE THESE
WAVELENGTHFUL KEYS.

(Handing the control to QUARK.)

PROPEL PROTONS, SMASHING THEM INTO A GRAPHITE'S NUCLEI,
PRODUCING NEUTRONS WITH PIONS, POSITIVE NEGATIVE,
TAKING THOSE POSITIVITIES, FOCUSED IN A BEAM SO THEY'D.
PARDON MY, DECAY.
JUST THEORIZE…
SUPER COLLIDE.

(QUARK presses on the control.)

BEAMS SUPER COLLIDE!

(Preparing for the collision. When nothing happens, she takes over the control.)

БЛЯДЬ (blyat).
GIVE ME A MOMENT.
HOLD UP UNIVERSE!

(Trying to raise QUARK.)

QUARK.

[Particles collide.]

BEHOLD THE DESERTRON!
SUPERCONDUCTING SUPER COLLIDER!
A SMASH.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

♬#	Title	Character(s)
1.	Eigen	ATOM
2.	Symmetry	LEPTON|BOSON|ATOM|students
3.	Exchange Particle	QUARK|ATOM
4.	Torsion	QUARK|LEPTON
5.	Available Energy	QUARK
6.a.	Tachyon	QUARK|LEPTON|BOSON|ATOM|students
7.	Nuclide	QUARK|BOSON|ATOM
8.	Entanglement	QUARK|BOSON
9.	Crossing Field Lines	QUARK|BOSON
10.	Centration	QUARK|BOSON|research assistants
11.	G	QUARK|LEPTON|ATOM|professors
12.	Anyon	QUARK
13.	Valence	QUARK|LEPTON|ATOM|students
14.	Effusion	QUARK
15.a.	Super Collide	QUARK|LEPTON|technicians
16.	Particulate	QUARK|ATOM|technicians
17.a.	Slepton	QUARK|BOSON|ATOM|politicians
18.	Backscatter	QUARK|LEPTON
19.	Charge	QUARK|LEPTON|ATOM
20.	Electroform	QUARK|ATOM|technicians
21.	Remanence	QUARK
22.a.	Preon	QUARK|LEPTON
23.	Mole	QUARK|LEPTON|BOSON|technicians
24.	Elementary Particle	QUARK|ATOM
25.	Bring the Conductivity	QUARK|LEPTON
26.	Mass Charge Spin	QUARK|LEPTON|BOSON|ATOM
27.	Quantum	QUARK|LEPTON|BOSON|ATOM|technicians
28.	Fusion	QUARK|BOSON|ATOM
29.	Synchrotron	QUARK|BOSON|technicians
30.	Hypercharge	QUARK|LEPTON|ATOM|technicians
31.	Isospin	QUARK|LEPTON|BOSON|ATOM

MUSICAL NUMBERS (cont.)

♬#	Title	Character(s)
32.	Subatomic	QUARK|ATOM|technicians
33.	Meson	QUARK|BOSON|ATOM
34.	Pion	QUARK|ATOM
35.	Deuterium	QUARK|ATOM
36.	Electron	QUARK|LEPTON|technicians
37.	Positron	QUARK|BOSON
38.	Fission	QUARK|BOSON|ATOM
39.	Parity	QUARK|BOSON|technicians
40.	Baryon	QUARK|LEPTON|BOSON|ATOM
41.	Decay	QUARK|LEPTON|BOSON|ATOM|particles
42.	Supersymmetry	QUARK|LEPTON|BOSON|ATOM|particles
43.	Knot	COMPANY

Score

16 PARTICULATE

TOUR

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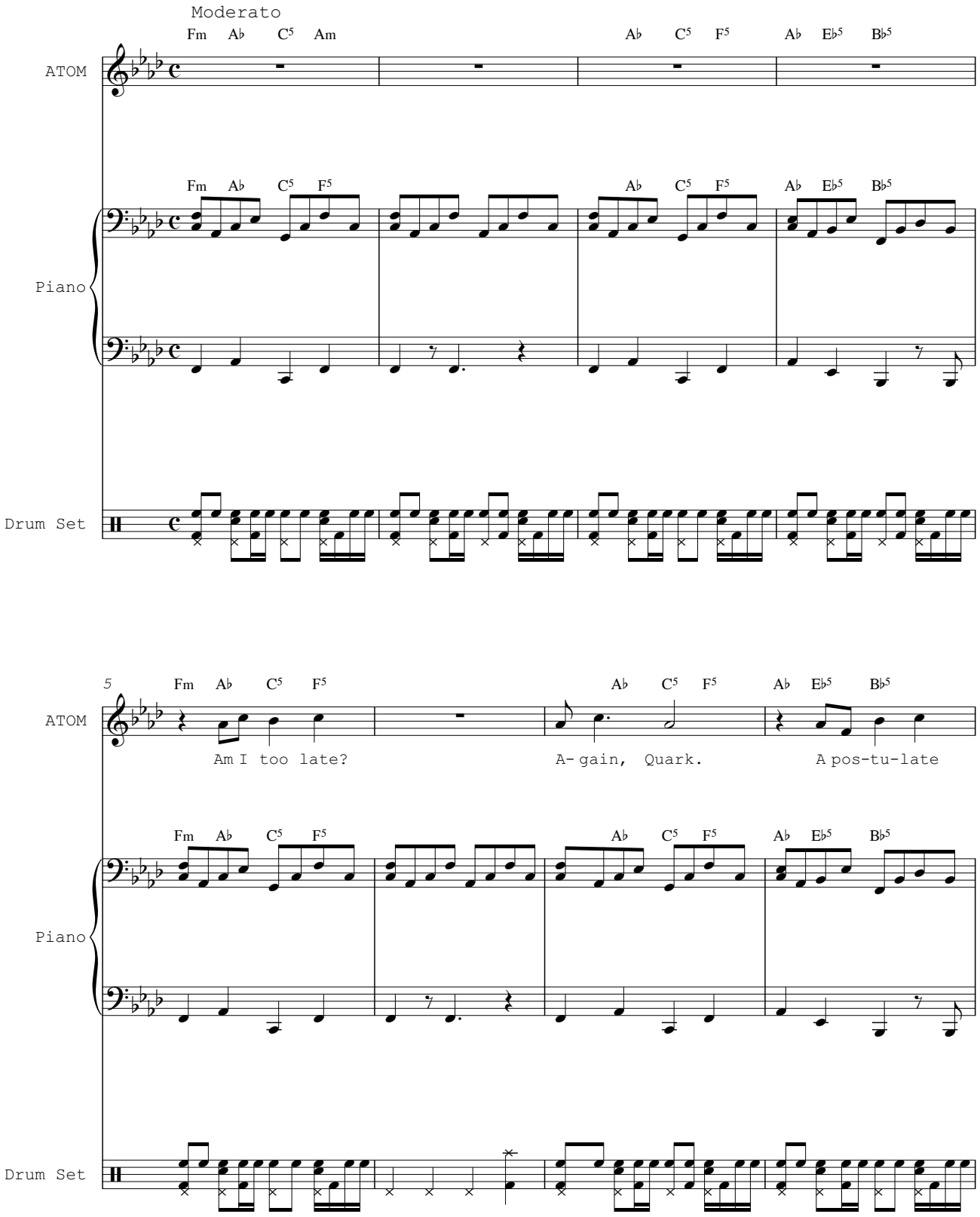

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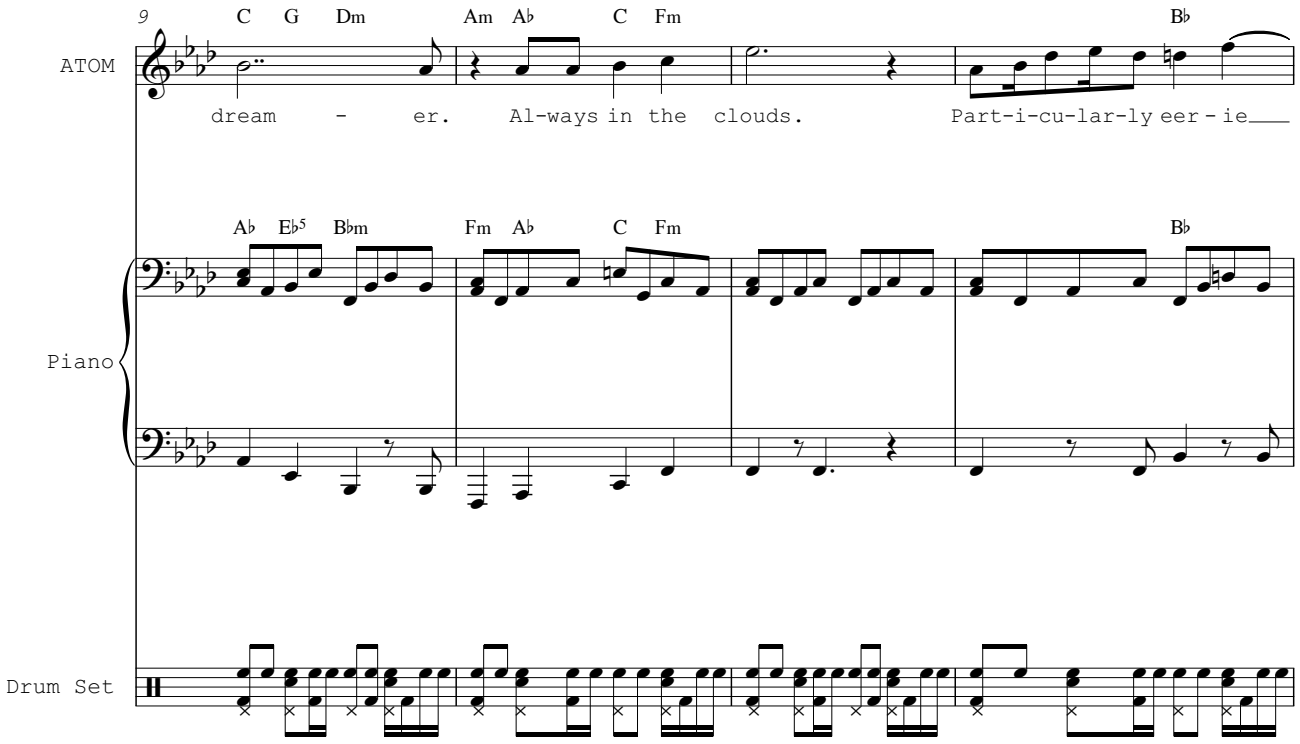
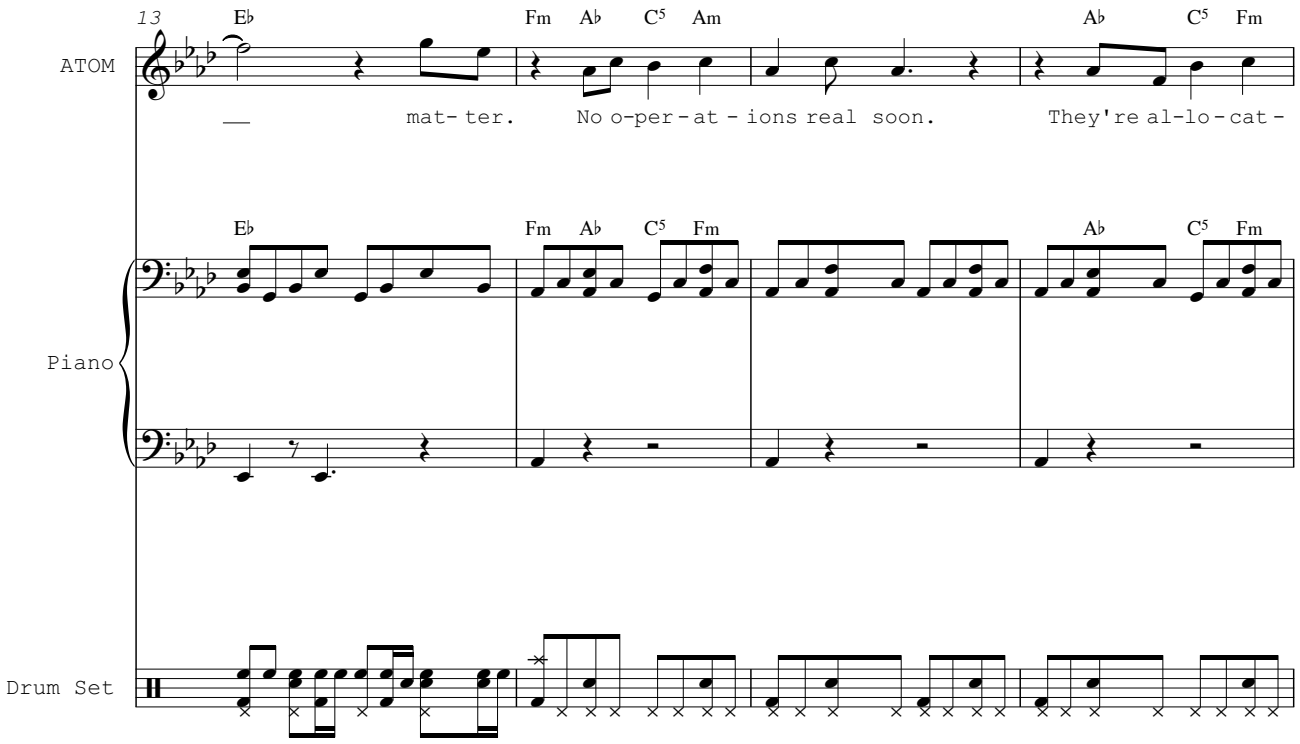

9
C G Dm Am A♭ C Fm B♭
ATOM
dream - er. Al-ways in the clouds. Part-i-cu-lar-ly eer - ie___
A♭ E♭5 B♭m Fm A♭ C Fm B♭
Piano
Drum Set


13
E♭ Fm A♭ C5 Am A♭ C5 Fm
ATOM
___ mat- ter. No o-per - at - ions real soon. They're al-lo - cat -
E♭ Fm A♭ C5 Fm A♭ C5 Fm
Piano
Drum Set

DEVELOPMENT

Date	Type	Site	Specific(s)
2015	Idea	Fermilab	The spark of love for particle physics
2017	Writing	Chicago	The start of writing this fable
2019 12	Discussion	New York	Reg E. Gaines of the Downtown Urban Arts Festival restructured the entire story
2020 4-24	Reading (Table)	The 24 Hour Plays	Hosted by Madelyn Paquette tourmusical.com/events/2020-4-24
5-16	Reading (Table)	S.I.S.R!	Hosted by Michael Perrie Jr and Lacy Reily tourmusical.com/events/2020-5-16
7-17	Reading (Table)	CreateTheater ETC	Hosted by Cate Cammarata tourmusical.com/events/2020-7-17
8-29	Reading (Table)	S.I.S.R!	Hosted by Michael Perrie Jr and Lacy Reily tourmusical.com/events/2020-8-29

OBJECTIVES

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