

# Luisa

## An operetta in three acts

### Act 1: "Desperation"

in which Luisa comes to the University of Melbourne, and discovers her heart has been stolen by the Sport of Volleyball

### Act 2: "Temptation"

in which Luisa is introduced to the mysterious ways of the flying disc, and begins to doubt her fidelity towards volleyball

### Act 3: "Satisfaction"

In which Luisa finally gives in to the truth, and discovers that Ultimate really is a more enjoyable sport to play

#### Dramatis Personae:

The Sport of Volleyball (Contralto)

The Sport of Ultimate (Soprano)

Luisa's Conscience (Tenor)

Chorus (Bass)

Luisa (non-vocal)

#### Set:

Luisa is seated centre-stage, with the four vocal roles standing in a semi-circle around her. The Chorus stands at one end of the semi-circle.

# Luisa

Martin Strauss

## Overture

Ultimate

(hum)

Volleyball

(hum)

Conscience

(hum)

Chorus

Ladies and gen - tlemen                      we proudly present for you the story of Lui - sa;

U

V

C

Ch

who was faced with the challenge upon reaching university of choosing a sport that was com - petitive,

9

U

V

C

Ch

challenging, and fun!

Allow me to introduce the players, for the characters are some - what

14

U

V

C

Ch

arbitrary; like so much modern opera, it's not written in italian, but for all the sense the audience can make of it,

16

U

V

C

Ch

it might as well be! The Sport of Volleyball;

20

U

V

C

Ch

The Sport of Ultimate Frisbee; Luisa's conscience; Your humble chorus, and LUISA!

## Act 1: "Desperation"

in which Luisa comes to the University of Melbourne, and  
discovers her heart has been stolen by the Sport of Volleyball

### Recitative

U <sup>24</sup>

V

C <sub>8</sub>

Ch

Act one, in which Luisa arrives at Melbourne univer - sity and, seeking a sport to play, her heart is

U <sup>27</sup>

V

C <sub>8</sub>

Ch

stolen by Vol - - - - - ley - - - - - ball! - - - - -

32

U

V

C

8

Ch

which sport she takes up in earnest, and despite her complaining assures us she really en - joys it.

## Aria

35

U

V

C

8

Ch

Pleading to Lu

I

Pleading to Lu

I

39

U

V

C

Ch

know i stand on court un-til you think you have a chance to make a set play with me.

42

U

V

C

Ch

And if we go some place to play I know that there's a chance you won't be

45

U

V

C

Ch

ser - ving to me                      Then      af - ter - wards we drop in - to a

48

U

V

C

Ch

qui - et lit - tle place and have a      drink or two.                      And



51

U

V

C

Ch

then I go and spoil it all by say - in' some - thin' stu - pid like "I love you".

8

3

54

U

V

C

Ch

I can see it by your spike that you des - pise the lit - tle tykes we played the

8

57

U

V

C

Ch

week - be - fore. And though it's just a game to you for

60

U

V

C

Ch

me it's true and ne - ver seemed so right be - fore. I

63

U

V

C

Ch

prac - tice ev - 'ry day to find some cle - ver moves to play to make the mea - ning come true.

8

3

66

U

V

C

Ch

But then I think I'll wait un - til the sco - ring gets high and I'm a -

8

69

U

V

C

Ch

lone with you The time is right your chee - ring fills my

72

U

V

C

Ch

head, the stars get red and oh, the night is so blue. And

75

U

V

C

Ch

then I go and spoil it all by say-in' some-thin' stu-pid like "I love you."

8

3

## Act 2: "Temptation"

in which Luisa is introduced to the mysterious ways of the flying disc, and begins to doubt her fidelity towards volleyball

### Recitative

U 79

V

C 8

Ch

Act two: in which Luisa is introduced to the mysterious ways of the fly - - ing

U 83

V

C 8

Ch

disc, and begins to doubt her fidelity towards volleyball;

86

U

V

C

Ch

for Ultimate is a sport with layouts scoobers and spirit!

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 86 through 89. The score is written for four parts: U (Upper), V (Voice), C (Cello), and Ch (Chorus). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: 'for Ultimate is a sport with layouts scoobers and spirit!'. The notation consists of whole notes for each part, with the lyrics aligned under the V part.

## Aria

90

U

V

C

Ch

I took my lit - tle

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 90 through 93, labeled as the 'Aria' section. The score is written for four parts: U (Upper), V (Voice), C (Cello), and Ch (Chorus). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: 'I took my lit - tle'. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests, with the lyrics aligned under the V part.

95

U

bright-eyed doll

V

down to the fris-bee field down to the

C

8

down to the fris-bee field down to the

Ch

down to the fris-bee field down to the

99

U

I took my lit-tle

V

fris-bee field down to the fris-bee field

C

8

fris-bee field down to the fris-bee field

Ch

fris-bee field down to the fris-bee field



103

U  
bright-eyed doll

V  
down to the fris - bee field down to the

C  
8  
down to the fris - bee field down to the

Ch  
down to the fris - bee field down to the

107

U  
I worked my cou - rage up and asked her for a lit - tle game

V  
fris - bee field

C  
8  
fris - bee field

Ch  
fris - bee field

112

U

V

C

Ch

down by the fris - bee field

down by the fris - bee field

down by the fris - bee field

down by the fris - bee field

116

U

V

C

Ch

I asked her for a lit - tle game

down by the fris - bee field

down by the fris - bee field

down by the fris - bee field

120

U

V

C

Ch

down by the fris-bee field down by the fris - bee field

down by the fris-bee field down by the fris - bee field

125

U

V

C

Ch

She said "Have pa - tience lit - tle man, I'm sure you'll un - der - stand

129

U I har - dly know the game I said if

V

C 8

Ch

134

U I can have my way may - be some sweet day

V

C 8

Ch

138

U my team and yours will be the same! I took my lit - tle

V

C 8

Ch

same the same the same the same the

143

U bright-eyed doll

V

C 8

Ch

down to the fris - bee fields

down to the

147

U

V

C

Ch

fris - bee fields down to the fris - bee fields

I took my lit - tle

fris - bee fields down to the fris - bee fields

fris - bee fields down to the fris - bee fields

151

U

V

C

Ch

bright-eyed doll

down to the fris - bee fields down to the

down to the fris - bee fields down to the

down to the fris - bee fields down to the

155

U

V

C

Ch

fris - bee fields!

fris - bee fields!

fris - bee fields!

## Recitative

158

U

V

C

Ch

Meanwhile, the Sport of Volleyball is mourning its loss:

## Aria

162

U

V

C

Ch

8

167

U

V

C

Ch

8

You have played vol - ley ball since the



173

U

V

C

Ch

sweet long a - go And each game has made hell real for you

(or so

178

U

V

C

Ch

we hear)

You have vowed to give up af - ter each Sat - ur - day and have

183

U

V

C

Ch

8

sworn to us all that you're through You have played 'neath the

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 183 through 187. The U part (Upper Voice) starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a series of eighth notes. The V part (Voice) starts on a whole note F#4, followed by a half note G4, and then a series of eighth notes. The C part (Chorus) starts on a whole note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a series of eighth notes. The Ch part (Bass) starts on a whole note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a series of eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'sworn to us all that you're through You have played 'neath the'.

188

U

V

C

Ch

8

moon while the world seemed in tune. Then you've left it to play a new

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 188 through 192. The U part (Upper Voice) starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a series of eighth notes. The V part (Voice) starts on a whole note F#4, followed by a half note G4, and then a series of eighth notes. The C part (Chorus) starts on a whole note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a series of eighth notes. The Ch part (Bass) starts on a whole note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a series of eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'moon while the world seemed in tune. Then you've left it to play a new'.

193

U

V

C

Ch

game... Does it ev - er oc - cur to you la - ter my friend that it's

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 193 through 198. The U part (Upper) starts with a rest in measure 193, followed by a half note G4 in measure 194, and then a series of quarter notes in measures 195-198. The V part (Voice) starts with a half note G4 in measure 193, followed by a half note A4 in measure 194, and then a series of quarter notes in measures 195-198. The C part (Chorus) starts with a half note G4 in measure 193, followed by a half note A4 in measure 194, and then a series of quarter notes in measures 195-198. The Ch part (Choir) starts with a half note G4 in measure 193, followed by a half note A4 in measure 194, and then a series of quarter notes in measures 195-198. The lyrics are: 'game... Does it ev - er oc - cur to you la - ter my friend that it's'.

199

U

V

C

Ch

pro - bab - ly al - most the same? I won - der who's heck - ling her

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 199 through 204. The U part (Upper) starts with a half note G4 in measure 199, followed by a half note A4 in measure 200, and then a series of quarter notes in measures 201-204. The V part (Voice) starts with a half note G4 in measure 199, followed by a half note A4 in measure 200, and then a series of quarter notes in measures 201-204. The C part (Chorus) starts with a half note G4 in measure 199, followed by a half note A4 in measure 200, and then a series of quarter notes in measures 201-204. The Ch part (Choir) starts with a half note G4 in measure 199, followed by a half note A4 in measure 200, and then a series of quarter notes in measures 201-204. The lyrics are: 'pro - bab - ly al - most the same? I won - der who's heck - ling her'.

205

U

V

C

Ch

now; Won - der who's tel - ling her how

211

U

V

C

Ch

Won - der who's shou - ting un - help - ful cries, chan - ting cheers!

217

U

V

C

8

Ch

drin - king beers! I won - der who's huck - ing it long for

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 217 through 222. The U part (Upper) has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The V part (Voice) has a similar melodic line. The C part (Chorus) has a bass line with a half note and a quarter note. The Ch part (Choir) has a bass line with a half note and a quarter note. The lyrics are: 'drin - king beers! I won - der who's huck - ing it long for'.

223

U

V

C

8

Ch

hands - that I used to need strong won - der if she ev - er

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 223 through 228. The U part (Upper) has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The V part (Voice) has a similar melodic line. The C part (Chorus) has a bass line with a half note and a quarter note. The Ch part (Choir) has a bass line with a half note and a quarter note. The lyrics are: 'hands - that I used to need strong won - der if she ev - er'.

229

U

V

C

8

Ch

tells them of me? I won - der who's heck - ling her now.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for four voices: Soprano (U), Alto (V), Tenor (C), and Bass (Ch). The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six measures. The Soprano part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half rest, and then a series of quarter notes: A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. The Alto part starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, then a half note D5, and finally a quarter note C5. The Tenor part begins with a half note G3, followed by a half rest, then quarter notes A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, and a half note F#4. The Bass part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#2, G2. Lyrics are written under the Tenor part: 'tells them of me? I won - der who's heck - ling her now.' A bracket connects the final two measures of the Tenor part.

### Act 3: "Satisfaction"

In which Luisa finally gives in to the truth, and discovers  
that Ultimate really is a more enjoyable sport to play

#### Recitative

235

U

V

C

Ch

Act three: in which Lu - isa finally gives in to the truth,

240

U

V

C

Ch

and discovers that Ultimate really is a more en - joy - able sport to

245

U

V

C

Ch

play. The scene opens with Volleyball who is mourning her loss:

## Aria

249

U

V

C

Ch

Don't know why we're not win - ning all the time, Stor - my



252

U

V

C

Ch

wea - ther, since my Lu and I ain't to - ge - ther

255

U

V

C

Ch

Keep lo - sing all the time Games are

258

U

V

C

Ch

bare, un - forced er - rors ev - 'ry - where, Stor - my wea - ther,

261

U

V

C

Ch

Just can't get my poor self to - geth - er I'm wea - ry all the

264

U

V

C

Ch

time, the time, so wea-ry all the time!

## Recitative

268

U

V

C

Ch

And although Volleyball's heart was broken, Luisa was pleased, and so they all lived

272

U

V

C

Ch

happily ever after!

## Aria

274

U

V

C

Ch

What do you get when you play in - doors? A floor so hard you'll roll your an-kle

278

U that's what you get for all your trou-ble I'll ne-ver play in-doors a -

V

C 8

Ch

282

U gain I'll ne-ver play in-doors a -

V

C 8

Ch

286

U gain.

V

C

Ch

What do you get when you spike a ball?

290

U

V

C

Ch

force e - nough to break your fin-gers Even if you don't, it's a pain that lin - gers;

294

U

V

C

Ch

I'll ne-ver spike a ball a - gain

I'll

299

U

V

C

Ch

(hum)

Don't tell me what it's

(hum)

ne-ver spike a ball a - gain!

(hum)

303

U

V

C

Ch

all a - bout 'Cause I've been there and I'm glad I'm out;

307

U

V

C

Ch

Out of those chains, those chains that bind you, that is why I'm here to re-mind you:



311

U What do you get when you fall in love? well, if it's a girl like our Lu - i sa,

V What do you get when you fall in love? well, if it's a girl like our Lu - i sa,

C 8 What do you get when you fall in love? well, if it's a girl like our Lu - i sa,

Ch

What do you get when you fall in love? well, if it's a girl like our Lu - i - sa

315

U play her just right and she'll ne - ver leave you I'll ne - ver fall in love a -

V play her just right and she'll ne - ver leave you I'll ne - ver fall in love a -

C 8 play her just right and she'll ne - ver leave you I'll ne - ver fall in love a -

Ch

play her just right and she'll ne - ver leave you I'll ne - ver fall in love a -

319

U

gain;

I'll

ne - ver fall in love a - gain.

V

gain;

I'll

ne - ver fall in love a - gain.

C

8

gain;

I'll

ne - ver fall in love a - gain.

Ch

gain;

I'll

ne - ver fall in love a - gain.

**Fine**