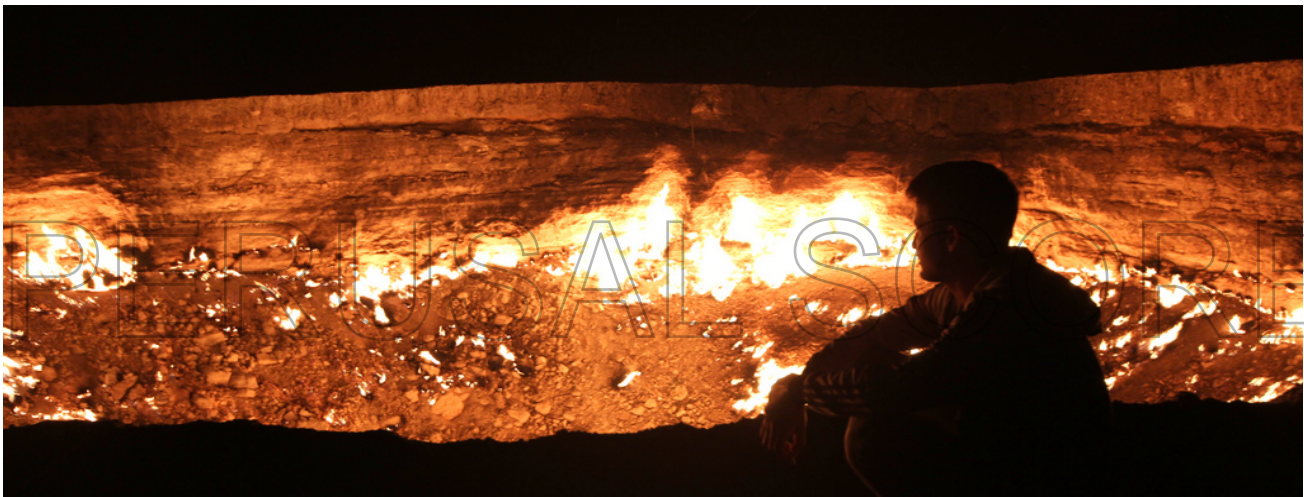


A Taste of Damnation

An Opera in 3 acts

Based on the story: "A Souvenir from Hell" by Etgar Keret



Music: Avner Finberg

Libretto: Edward Einhorn

A TASTE OF DAMNATION

AN OPERA IN THREE ACTS

Libretto: Edward Einhorn Music: Avner Finberg

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Anna (Soprano)

A young woman in her 20's, seeming ingénue, beaten down with exhaustion by her unending hours of work at a convenience store, longing for an escape. As the opera progresses, it becomes clear she is more than an innocent, with desires that bring out her own darker side.

Phinneas (Tenor)

20's - 30's. A petty thief who was condemned to Hell one thousand years ago. Handsome, with a certain rough charm, and casually immoral, he comes to have real feelings for Anna.

Father (Bass-Baritone)

50's. An abusive drunk who had no real feelings for anyone during his life, his punishment in Hell is to feel the impact of his crimes. As the pain of this guilt assaults him, he resolves to do his best for his daughter, Anna, by making a sacrifice for her sake.

DURATION

Fifty minutes to one hour.

Piano Score

A Taste of Damnation

Act I

Scene I

Libretto: Edward Einhorn

Music: Avner Finberg

Cantabile ♩ = 66

p *espress.*

Phinneas

8 One hun-dred years. I ha-ven't seen the light in one hun-dred years.

Piano

Phinneas

5 One hun-dred trips a-round the sun. Is there a sun?

Pno.

Phinneas

8 I hope there's still a sun. I hope there's still a sun.

Pno.

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 1

A

Phinneas

mf

Fif-ty years of f-ire Fif-ty years of ice One hun- dred

f

Pno.

p *mf* *p* *f*

Phinneas puts his hand on the old man, picks his pocket when he's not looking

Phinneas

mf *p casual*

8 years of pain of pain. — Want a drink?

The Father

p

This is my

Pno.

p

B

Phinneas

f

One thou- sand years. I've been in

The Father

last one. The last one for a - while.

Pno.

f

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 1

Phinneas

21
8
Hell ___ for one thou - sand years. And ev'-ry time_ I count the days. Ev'-ry time I

Pno.

Phinneas

24
8
wait ___ my turn When ___ will they next let me ___ go.

Pno.

Phinneas

26
8
One thou - sand

Pno.

p

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 1

Phinneas

28 *mf*

8 years One mil - lion dreams of de - s - ire Ev - ry year, all I

Pno.

Phinneas

31 *p*

8 smell is sul - fur All I feel is pain. But for one day. — Ev - ry hun - dred years, but just for one

Pno.

Phinneas

35 *cresc.* *f* *ff*

8 day One day, one night. I can — cuts out on shout

The Father

shout
Si - lence!

Pno.

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 1

39 **D** *p*

The Father

Spoken:
I don't want to hear it!
(softly) I don't want to know about the world outside

Some of us can't leave here. Not for

Pno. *p*

8^{va}

43 **E** *rall.* *rit.* **Allegro** ♩=102 *mf*

Phinneas

Were you just there? Just yes-ter-day?

The Father

one hun-dred years more.

Pno.

48

Phinneas

What did you see? What is the world like? It's al - ways so dif - fe-rent

Pno.

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 1

Phinneas

52 *mf* *f*

Beau - ti - ful and new Al - ways al - ways so—

Pno.

F tempo primo ♩=66

The Father

f *p* *f* *p*

What did I do? No-thing. What did I feel? No-thing.

Pno.

56

The Father

60 *f*

Which was bet - ter than here Here I feel eve - ry-thing.

Pno.

60 *pp* *f* *p*

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 1

The Father

62 *p* Here I feel eve-ry life I des-troyed *mf* E-ven my own But out there.

Pno. *f* *p*

The Father

66 *p* No-thing. All I feel is no-thing.

Pno. *p* *mf*

Phinneas

70 *accel.* **G** *Allegro, risoluto* ♩=70 *mf* One hun-dred years. Be - yond the gates of hell

The Father

mf One hun-dred years. Be - yond the gates of hell

Pno. *ff* *mf*

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 1

Phinneas

p *mf*

There is a world Ev'-ry one hun-dred years We walk in that world And what do we

The Father

p *mf*

There is a world Ev'-ry one hun-dred years We walk in that world And what do we

Pno.

fp *mf*

Phinneas

f *ff* **H**

feel? E-ve-ry - thing

The Father

p

feel? No-thing. All my life

Pno.

ff *pp*

The Father

pp *sotto voce* *meno mosso* *accel.*

I just felt no-thing Oh to feel no-thing a-gain.

Pno.

I *a tempo* *f* *p* *f*

Phinneas
8 One hun-dred years. Be-yond the gates of hell There is a world _____

The Father
One hun-dred years. Be-yond the gates of hell There is a world _____

Pno.
84 *f* *sfz* *p* *f*

PERUSAL SCORE

Phinneas
87 *pp* *p*
Ev'-ry one hun-dred years We walk in that world And

The Father
Ev'-ry one hun-dred years We walk in that world And

Pno.
87 *f* *pp* *pp* *pp*
Reo. * Reo. 3

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 1

Phinneas *f* what do we feel? And what do we feel? *p* Ev' - ry - thing

The Father *f* what do we feel? And what do we feel?

Pno. *f* *p*

Phinneas *rit.* *Adagio* ♩ = 40 Ev'-ry one hund-red years

The Father *p* No - thing Ev'-ry one hund-red years

Pno. *mf* *p*

Scene II

J *Agitato* ♩ = 100

Anna

Pno. *f* *p* *f*

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

K *serioso* $\text{♩} = 76$
mf *p*

Anna
One hun-dred days One hun-dred days I have been sit-ting at this coun-ter for

Pno.
mp

Anna
one hund-red days *f* *p a tempo*
And they say can you get me that Will you give me

Pno.
p *f* *p*

Anna
that *f* *p*
Here's a lit-tle for your trou-ble Ve-ry lit-tle for your trou-ble. Just e-nough to eat But

Pno.
f *p*

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

Anna

not *f* to eat well. *p* One hun-dred days *mf* One hun-dred days since I had a day off.

Pno.

f *p* *f*

Anna

I dream a-bout work while wor-king I dream Un - til I don't know Which

Pno.

p

Anna

one is real *pp* Un - til I don't know Which *f* one is real

Pno.

pp *ff*

118

Anna

Pno.

But

118

3

3

p

M lighthearted, carefree ♩=88

Anna

some - times In - to the shop Some - times A

Pno.

mf

121

3

121

3

124

Anna

man or a wo-man walks in And some - times Some - times so hand-some

Pno.

124

3

124

3

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

128 **N** *rit.* **f** *serioso* ♩=76

Anna Smel-ling like sul - fur Smel-ling like

Pno. **f**

131 **p**

Anna Hell Al-ways can tell They're the ones who talk po-

Pno. **f** **p**

134 *rit.* **Dreamy** ♩=60 **mf** **pp**

Anna lite - ly They're the ones who ne-ver cheat. They're the ones who seem so in-ter-es-ting So

Pno. **sfz**

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

137 **O** *tempo primo* ♩=72 *p* *Spirito* ♩=66

Anna
ve - ry in - ter - est - ing. — And in they walk Won - der what they're like?

Pno. *pp* *p* *mp*

142 *p dolce, espressivo*

Phinneas
8 Beau - ti - ful wo - man in beau - ti - ful clothes

Pno. *p*

144

Phinneas
8 Beau - ti - ful won - ders fill beau - ti - ful shelves Beau - ti - ful

Pno. *p*

Phinneas

147

8 food, beau-ti-ful drink Beau-ti-ful air that I

Pno.

147

8eo * 8eo * 8eo

Phinneas

150

8 breathe Let me breathe And breathe - And breathe Beau-ti-ful

P

Pno.

150

8eo * 8eo * 8eo

mp *p*

Phinneas

154

8 wo-man how are you to-day? So good to meet you, let me say he-llo. How can I

Pno.

154

8eo * 8eo * 8eo

mf

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

Phinneas

158

8 pay for these beau-ti-ful goods? I have gold I have sil-ver Have pa-per and

Pno.

158

mf *p* *mf* *p*

Phinneas

161

8 coins They weigh in my po-ckets They make my legs drag my

Pno.

161

mf *p* *mf* *f*

Phinneas

164

8 legs drag In Hell... oh for-get a-bout Hell In

Pno.

164

p *ff* *f*

suddenly

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

Phinneas

167 *p* **Q** *mp*

Hell I was a thief But to - day I am an ho - nest man Tell me what it

Pno.

167 *f* *sfz* *mp*

Anna

170 *p* *rit.* *p dolce*

This one is differ-rent He makes me feel differ-rent. So ve - ry differ-rent. So - ve - ry

Phinneas

8 costs I'll give you it all I'll give you it all Just tell me

Pno.

170 *p dolce*

Anna

173 *meno mosso* *a tempo* **R** *mf*

hand-some... Sir, I do not un - der - stand you What lang-uage are you

Phinneas

8 how much

Pno.

173 *sfz* *mf*

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

177

Anna

spea - king? What an - cient lan - guage is this?

Phinneas

Ma'am I do not un - der - stand you.

Pno.

mf

mf *p*

p

180

Anna

So ma - ny men, so ma - ny lan - gua - ges Eve - ryday brings a

Pno.

f *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

184

Anna

(sigh) new lan - guage They al - ways for - get

Phinneas

In Hell I could speak the lan - guage of the damned

Pno.

mf *mp*

mf

mf

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

Phinneas *f* *mf* *5*
 We all can speak the lan-guage of the damned But,

Pno. *mp* *p* *5* *3*

Anna *3*
 How I wish I could un-der -

Phinneas *3* *3* *3*
 here I do not un-der - stand you How I wish I could un-der - stand you.

Pno. *3*

Anna *rit.* *p* *meno mosso* *3* *3* *3*
 stand you. But I like how you sound The sound of your voice the sound of your

Phinneas *p* *3* *3* *3*
 But I like how you sound The sound of your voice the sound of your

Pno. *p* *3*

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

T

accel.

a tempo

196

Anna voice

Phinneas voice

8

f

3

The lan- guage of mo- ney, —

Pno.

f

3

199

Phinneas voice

8

3

that_ you must know

3

That is the lan- guage that eve-ry-one

3

u- ses On Earth and in

Pno.

p

3

sfz

202

Phinneas voice

8

Hell

p

This coin I stole once from a

Pno.

p

f

p

205

Phinneas voice

8

Prince

f

Cut the purse off from a Prince I give it to you

p

This

Pno.

f

p

Phinneas

208

bill, I stole off of an old mer-chant Back in Hell, from an old mer-chant

Pno.

Phinneas

211

He had a store, a store much like this I give it to

Pno.

10:8

pp

Anna

214

What

Phinneas

8

you. to you. to you.

Pno.

f

3

Anna

216

is this? This was my fa - ther's He al - ways marked his

Pno.

216

p

218 *mf*

Anna
bills Marked them just like this You see? Where did you

Pno.

221 *p* **V** *f* angry

Anna
see it? Where did you find him? Was he in Hell? Well, of

Pno.

224

Anna
course he's in Hell!

Phinneas

8 *p*

How I wish I could un - der - stand you.

Pno.

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

227 *mf*

Anna You — must be hun - gry, you look so hun - gry

Pno. *f*

230 *mp*

Anna Stay a lit - tle while, ——— you can eat Wishthat we had ——— some-thing

Pno. *mp*

W coquettishly evade his grasp

Anna bet-ter Looks like you want some-thing more I wish ——— that I had a

Pno. *mf* *p* *f*

236 *mp* *f*

Anna
new dress I wish that my hair had been combed I wish you would stay I

Pno.
mp *f*

240

Anna
wish I could un - der - stand you How I wish I un - der - stood you.

Pno.
p

X *piu mosso* *mf*

Anna
But I like how you sound The sound of your

Phinneas
But I like how you sound

Pno.
mf *p* *mf*

A Taste of Damnation | Act 1, Scene 2

247

Anna voice _____ The long-ing in you voice I feel that long - ing as

Phinneas 8 The sound of your voice The long-ing in you voice I feel that long - ing as

Pno. *p* *mf*

250

Anna well I know _____ a - bout lon - ging so -

Phinneas 8 well I know _____ a - bout lon - ging so -

Pno. *ff* *mf*

252

Anna well _____ Do you un - der - stand what I'm say-ing?

Phinneas 8 well _____ Do you un - der - stand what I'm say-ing?

Pno. *ff* *p*

Y

Anna
Phinneas
Pno.

kiss
kiss

For this we don't need
For this we don't need

254

f

Anna
Phinneas
Pno.

words Just lis-ten to the sound of my voice
words Just lis-ten to the sound of my voice

You can hear it in the sound of my
You can hear it in the sound of my

257

pp
pp

Anna
Phinneas
Pno.

voice
voice

exit
exit

260

f
mp
pp

ppp
ppp

long
long

Act II

Scene I

$\text{♩} = 60$ (Phinneas and Anna are lying in bed in a room at the back of the store)

Phinneas

4 *f* *p*

8 Damn! I'm sor - ry this doe - sn't us - ually hap - pen

Anna

6 *p*

I don't mind don't

8

Anna
wor - ry

Phinneas
Damn!

I'm sor-ry It's been a while

pp *mf* *p*

10

Anna
don't wor - ry don't

Phinneas
I di-dn't think that could hap - pen It's been a while I di-dn't think that could hap - pen

mp *f* *p*

13

Anna
wor-ry a-bout it I don't mind don't wor-ry a-bout it calm³ your fears don't

mf *p*

16 *(softly)*

Anna
wor-ry just lie with me

Phinneas
I'm sor - ry I'm sor-ry

p

short

B *(angry)*

Phinneas
damn! I di - dn't think that that could hap - pen damn! I used to

f

22

Phinneas
be quite the man frus-tra-ted frus-tra-ted frus-tra-ted frus-tra - tend

f

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

31

24 *(in a soothing voice)*
p

Anna
it hap-pens a lot don't wor-ry

Phinneas
frus-tra-ted damn! I'll do

27

Anna
It hap-pens to eve-ry-one I've seen it be-

Phinneas
bet-ter I'll do bet-ter

30 **C** (♩=♩.)

Anna
fore don't wor-ry

Phinneas
I'll do bet-ter (♩=♩.)

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

33 *mf*

Anna it must have been a while *p* it

Phinneas I'll do bet-ter

36 *p*

Anna must have been a while we'll just

Phinneas if we try a-gain if we try a-gain I'll do

(♩ = ♩) *molto rit.* **D** *a tempo*

39 Anna cud-dle

Phinneas bet-ter damn me!

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

33

Phineas

43

p

I am dam-ned is this part of my pu-nish-ment?

Phineas

46

rit. f *a tempo* *p* (desperate)

damned, damned, damned, damned, damned

Phineas

49

mf *f*

to be so close to you and yet not to be a - ble not to be a - ble to...

52 *p*

Anna

Hush now, be qui - et *mf*

Phinneas

I am damned I am

56 *mf*

Anna

hush now, don't wor - ry

Phinneas

damed

59 *rubato*

Phinneas

I am damed

rit.

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

35 **F** *a tempo*

Anna
just lie _____ with me *in tempo*

Phinneas
I am damned

RH

Anna
just lie _____ with me just

Phinneas
I am damned I am

RH

RHb

Anna
lie _____ with me *molto rit.*

Phinneas
damned _____ damned

LH

1) ANNA (points to herself)
Anna

3) ANNA
Anna

5) PHINNEAS
Phinneas

2) PHINNEAS
Anna

4) PHINNEAS (points to ANNA)
Anna

6) ANNA
Phinneas

(ANNA nods)
G

(He points to himself)

70

Anna

p dolce

3

An-an Phin-ni - as

75

Anna

Phin - ni - as An - na An-na

3

78

Anna

Phinneas

Phin - ni - as Phin-ni - as An - na

p

3

An - na I must

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

37

81

Anna

Phinneas

leave

An - na

I on - ly had the day

mf

83

Anna

Phinneas

Phin - ni - as Phin - ni - as An - na

I on - ly had the night I must step

85

Phinneas

back in - to Hell

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

I

p

Anna

Your name is like fi - re

Anna

it makes me feel warm is that the fi - re of

PERUSAL SCORE

Anna

Hell your name makes me

Anna

want you Phin - ni - as I want you

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

39
Anna

95 *p*

e - ven more than be-fore Phin-hi-as

Anna

97 *rubato*
f (with passion) *a tempo*

I want you so much Your

J

Anna

name is like fi - re it makes me feel warm

(holds Anna's hand)

Phineas

can you feel An - na the heat of me hand?

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

101

Anna

is that the fi - re of hell of Hell

Phinneas

that is the fi-re of Hell

103

Anna

of Hell

Phinneas

can you feel it? that is the fi - re

105

Anna

of Hell

Phinneas

the fi - re of Hell

A Taste of Damnation | Act 2, Scene 1

41 **K**

Anna *f* that is a fire I am

Phinneas *f* that is not a fi-re I want you to know

108 *f* *sfz* *sfz*

loco 3

L

Anna long - ing to know

Phinneas *p* one hun-dred years in

111 *p* *ppp*

Phinneas 115 Hell and then this day how I wish this were my life

118
Phinneas

not just one day _____ that we could mar-ry _____

121
Phinneas

and that you could be my wife _____ not just for one

pp

123
Phinneas

day I am a thief I am a li-er I am a

mf

pp

p

125
Phinneas

man _____ who has ta-ken from o - thers and now I must go back to my

mf

p

127

Anna

p dolce

An-na

Phinneas

pu - nish-ment

back down

to

Hell

mf

8^{va}

p

130

Anna

Phi - ne - as

Phin - ni - as

An - na

Phinneas

pp

An - na

Phin-ne - as

An - na

Phime - as

8^{va}

132

Anna

don't our names sound

love-ly

to - ge - ther?

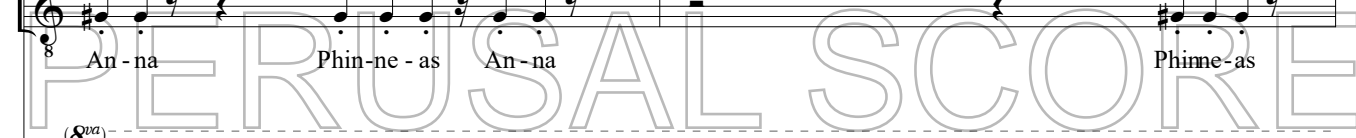
Phinneas

An-na

An - na

loco

132



ANNA
Phinneas? Phinneas!

134

Anna

stay _____ with me Phin - ne - as

3 3

BLACKOUT

Phinneas

8

An - na _____ good bye.

134

ppp

Detailed description: This is a musical score for two vocal parts, Anna and Phinneas, and a piano accompaniment. The score covers measures 134 and 135. Anna's part (top staff) begins at measure 134 with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Her lyrics are "stay _____ with me Phin - ne - as". There are two triplet markings (3) over the notes "with me" and "Phin - ne - as". The staff ends with a double bar line and the word "BLACKOUT". Phinneas's part (middle staff) begins at measure 134 with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. His lyrics are "An - na _____ good bye.". The piano accompaniment (bottom staves) starts at measure 134 with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a key signature of one sharp. It features a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and a simpler bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *ppp* (pianissimo) is placed above the piano part in measure 135.

PERUSAL SCORE

Scene II

Part II

♩ = 60

Percussion* *mf*

129 *p*
Father I think

Perc. *p*

132 *mf* *p*
Father I think that I can hear her u - pon the

Perc. *mf*

*It is not necessary to have the percussion part played when the scene is accompanied by piano alone.

A

134 *pp*

Father

breeze No, not

p *pp*

5

Perc.

pp

137 *mf accel. f rit.*

Father

her and there's no bree-zes here in Hell!

f *p*

3

PERUSAL SCORE

139 *a tempo pp mp mf*

Father

but still I think that I can hear her my girl my

mp

139

Perc.

pp

142 *p dolce*

Father

ba-by my love - ly child — oh, I was so cruel so cruel

pp

8^{va}-----

B

Father

these feel-ings they tor - ture me tor -

mp *mf* *f*

147 *f* *p*

Father

- ture me my dar - ling child

f *pp* *p*

149 *dolce* *mf*

Father

my love - ly child I hear what you call me:

fp *p*

C

Anna

Father

nas - ty piece of work drunk and un-plea - sant

nas - ty piece of work drunk and un-plea - sant

f *f* *sfz* *f* *p*

153

Anna

Father

ne - ver cared for a - ny - one, ne - ver had a fee - ling in his life

ne - ver cared for a - ny - one, ne - ver had a fee - ling in his life

155 *piu mosso* $\text{♩} = 66$ *f*

Anna

is this your mo-ney fa-ther? to what kind of tor-ture have you been ³damned?

D

Anna

it can't be worse than what you did to me all those

159

Anna

years when you tor-tured me all those days when you

161

$\text{♩} = 60$
meno mosso p sotto voce

Anna

got drunk and beat me eve-ry day af-ter my mo-ther died _

Taste of Damnation | act 2, scene 2

163 *piu mosso* $\text{♩} = 72$

Anna

has it on-ly been one hund - dred days since you died? one hund-red and

f *p*

166 *a tempo* $\text{♩} = 66$

Anna

one, good rid-dence.

Father

It is true, I was

p

169 *sotto voce* *mf*

Father

cruel to you be-cause I coul-dn't feel but now, all I have is

ppp

172

Father

feel - ing and it hurts, oh god! oh

f *mf*

F

Father

god! I can har-dly breathe be-cause it hurts if

p *sotto voce* *mp*

178

Father

on - ly I could stop it if on - ly I could stop it I could do a - ny - thing I would do

cresc. *pp* *mf* *p*

180 G *p*

Anna *f* Dear God this is An-na all my life I've ne-ver

Father *f* a - ny-thing I would do a - ny-thing now

183

Anna sinned not when my fa-ther beat me not when my mo-ther died but now I ask a

185 H

Anna fa - vor: Please God, I want him back more than a - ny - thing please

188 *mf* *p*

Anna God, can you bring him back to me? his name is Phin-ne - as His name is

191 *subito f*

Anna
Phin - ne - as

p

subito f

I

Anna
mf
Phin - ne - as

Father
p god - does - n't hear you but I do *p* God would - n't give you what you need

mf *p*

196 *p*

Anna
Phin - ne - as

Father
p dolce
but I can I will

pp

J

199

Father

give up my jour-ney from Hell Give up my one day of

202

Father

free - dom give it to Phin - ne - as, Give it to your

204

Father

love if that's what you want, if that's what you need. I will

K

Father

just stay down here in Hell rot in the bo-wels of Hell for one hund - red

Taste of Damnation | act 2, scene 2

210 L *sotto voce*

Father

years more for one hund - red years two hun-dred years till I

213 *mp* *sotto voce*

Father

see the bright light two hund-red years of dark-ness if on - ly those

215 M *mf*

Father

feel-ings could end from Hell, here's my gift to you

218 N *mf*

Father

please take it, my An - na from

221

Father

Hell here's my gift now take a - way my pain take a-way my

p

f

p

224

Father

pain take a-way my pain.

mf

p

ppp