

Mandela Was Late

Nicole Murphy

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Mandela was Late is based on a short story of the same title, with kind permission from Peter Mehlman.

Vocalists

Parole Officer	Tenor
Nelson Mandela	Baritone

Instrumentalists

Flute
Percussion (Woodblock, Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum)
Piano
Violoncello

Duration: Approx. 15 minutes

Mandela Was Late was commissioned by Experiments in Opera for a program of Flash Operas at Symphony Space in New York City, to be premiered on May 5 & 6, 2017.

For further information please visit -

www.nicolemurphy.com.au

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Revised March 2017

Libretto based on
"Mandela was Late"
by Peter Mehlman

Nicole Murphy

$\text{♩} = 90$

Parole Officer (Tenor)

Mandela (Baritone)

Flute

Woodblock

Suspended Cymbal

Snare drum

mf

Near the bell

mf

senza ped.

$\text{♩} = 90$

mf

Violoncello

mf

Detailed description: This is a musical score page for the opera 'Mandela was Late'. It features seven staves. The vocal staves for Parole Officer (Tenor) and Mandela (Baritone) are currently empty. The instrumental staves include Flute (empty), Woodblock (empty), Suspended Cymbal and Snare drum (playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks, marked *mf*), Piano (playing a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, marked *mf* and *senza ped.*), and Violoncello (playing a melodic line in the right hand, marked *mf*). The score is in 5/4 time and has a tempo of quarter note = 90. The key signature has one flat.

4

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

mf

WB.

Cym.

S.D.

Pno.

Vc.



7

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym.

S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

10 *♩=♩ (sempre)* **A**

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym.

S.D.

Pno.

Vc.



14

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym.

S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

17

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

mf

sub. p

mf



21

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

B

mf

24

P.O. He's late. Late. He's late.

N.M.

Fl. *mp*

WB. *sub. p*

Cym. S.D. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

B

(spoken)

28

P.O. Late.

N.M.

Fl. *mf*

WB. *sub. p*

Cym. S.D. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

32

P.O. *mf*
Nel - son - Man - de - la Man - de - la

N.M.

Fl. *mp*

WB.

Cym. S.D. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

35

P.O.
Num-ber two ze-ro se-ven four two dou-ble ze-ro one nine.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D. *sub. p*

Pno.

Vc.

38 *mf* *f*

P.O. Nel - son Man - de - la Man - de - la Late (t)

N.M.

Fl. *mp*

WB. $\text{H } \frac{5}{4}$

Cym. S.D. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

41 *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

P.O. Frank-ly as a pa-rolé

N.M.

Fl. *f* *mp*

WB. $\frac{5}{4}$

Cym. S.D. *f* *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mp*

C

44

P.O. *of - fi - cer you root for your thugs to come late*

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.



46

P.O. *Come late or bet - ter yet not show at all come*

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

49 *f* *mp*

P.O. *f* *mp*

late or not show and they get kicked back in the can _____ where they be

N.M.

Fl. *f*

WB.

Cym. *mf* *f* *mf*

S.D. *mf* *f* *mf*

Pno. *f*

Vc. *f*



52 *mp*

P.O. *mp*

long And you have time for a sand-wich.

N.M.

Fl. *mp*

WB. *p*

Cym. *mp*

S.D. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D

55 *mf*

P.O. Nel - son - Man - de - la Man-de-la Late (t)

N.M.

Fl. *mp*

WB. $\text{H } \frac{5}{4}$

Cym. S.D. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

E

58

P.O.

N.M.

Fl. *p*

WB. $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$

Cym. S.D. *p* *mp* *p* *gna*

Pno. *p* *legato* *r.h.* *l.h.* *con ped.*

Vc. *p* *pizz.*

62

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym.
S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

65

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym.
S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

F *p*
Why?

8va

r.h.
l.h.

F

69

mp *mp*

P.O. Why do I feel so

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. (r.h.)

Vc.



72

P.O. dif-fer-ent a - bout Man - de - la

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

76 **G**

P.O. *May - be I'm lo - sing my edge but some - how he*

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *8va* *r.h.* *l.h.* *(r.h.)*

Vc. **G**



78 *mp* *mp*

P.O. *seems more re-spec-ta-ble than most of the ex - cons who pol-*

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *(8)*

Vc.

82

P.O. lute my sche-dule Twelve years and he's on - ly missed one mee - ting

N.M.

Fl.

WB. *p*

Cym. *p*

S.D.

Pno. *8va* *r.h.* *l.h.*

Vc.

86

P.O. when he got a Me - dal of Free-dom or some shit like that

N.M.

Fl. *mf*

WB. *mf*

Cym. *mf*

S.D. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Vc. *arco* *mf*

90

P.O. *mp* **H** Per-son-ly I don't think get-ting sprung from

N.M.

Fl. *p*

WB. *p*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *p* *8va* *l.h.*

Vc. *pizz.* *p* **H**

92

P.O. *mp* the joint should get you a - ny me - dals but Man-de - la gave

N.M.

Fl. *mp*

WB. *mp*

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

95

P.O. *mf*
 eight month's no-tice and po - lite - ly asked if we could re - sche - dule

N.M.

Fl. *p* *mp*

WB. *mf*

Cym. S.D. *mp*

Pno. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

99 **I** *mf*
 I thought the bo - gus a - ward might give him some

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *mp* *l.h.*

Vc. *mp* **I**

101

P.O. *f*
po-si-tive re - en-force-ment Clear-ly I set a bad pre - ce-dent

N.M.

Fl. *mf*

WB.

Cym. S.D. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Vc. *mf*



104 (2+2+2+3) *mf* (3+3+3) *f*

P.O. it's now e le-ven 'oh' three and he's A-WOL for his last

N.M.

Fl.

WB. *mp*

Cym. S.D. *mp*

Pno. *mp*
(2+2+2+3) (3+3+3)

Vc. *mp*

109

P.O. mee-ting Man-de-la!

N.M.

Fl. solo

WB. *mf*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *mf* *mp*

Vc. *mp* arco

115 J

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Vc. J

118 **K** *mf* 3

P.O. Man-de - la! One of the most ef - fec - tive re-hab jobs I've done

N.M.

Fl. end solo

WB.

Cym. *mp*

S.D. *mp*

Pno.

Vc. **K**



121

P.O. In the top fif - teen for sure but let's face it you can't ar - gue with sta-tis-tics

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym.

S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

124

P.O.  the re-ci-di-vi-sm rate for a guy who does twen-ty-se-ven years in the clink

N.M. 

Fl. 

WB. 

Cym. S.D. 

Pno. 

Vc. 



126

P.O.  is up there with the chan-ces of your Bee-mer get-ting jacked in Jo-han-nes-burg

N.M. 

Fl. 

WB. 

Cym. S.D. 

Pno. 

Vc. 

129 *f*

P.O. Jack-ing Bee-mers! If that's what Man-de-la is up to I swear I'll run that self-destructive son of a -

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc. **Vamp** Spoken:

134 **L** ♩=60 (♩.=♩) (3+2+2)

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB. *p*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *p* 8^{va} 8^{vb}

Vc. *p* solo *mf* end solo

M

138 *mp*

P.O. Blue bla- zer. White shirt. Plum tie. Graysweat- pants.

N.M.

Fl. *p* *mf*

WB. *p*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. (8) *8^{vb}*

Vc. *p* *mf*



142

P.O. Plum tie? Too flash-y May-be his ex wife is back in the pic- ture. What's her name?

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *8^{va}*

Vc. *p*

146 *mf* *accel.* *A tempo* (♩=60)

P.O. Win-nie? Win-nie. Ma - te-ri-al breach. Con-sor-ting with known cri-mi-nals.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *accel.* *A tempo* (♩=60)

150 *f* *mp* *p* *p*

P.O. Sketch-y Han-kie. De-bit card. Two - way pa - ger.

N.M.

Fl. *p*

WB. *p*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *p*

Vc. *p*

153

P.O. *f*
Signed pho-to of Gwen Ste-fa-ni The keys to ev-ry ci - ty Clean

N.M.

Fl. *mf*

WB. *mf*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. (8)

Vc. *mf*

157

P.O. *p* *mp*
Have a seat Nel-lie. Rough night? You seem a lit-tle stiff

N.M.

Fl. *p* *mp* *p*

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc. *p*

161

P.O. *mf* Of course Ev-'ry hood walk-ing through my door thinks he's the

N.M. *mp* I am eight-y-four years old. Of course?

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

165

Più mosso

P.O. *mp* vic-tim. *mf* What have you been up to? To-day, yes-ter-day, Tues-day, what

N.M. *mf* To-day?

Fl. *mp* *mf*

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc. **Più mosso** *mp* *mf*

A tempo (♩=60)

168

P.O. *f*
e-ver. Let's start with to-day

N.M. *mp*
I had

Fl. *p*

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *P legato* *8va*

Vc. A tempo (♩=60)

P

171

P.O. *mp*
Ko - fi An-nan

N.M. *3*
scram-bled egg whites with Ko fi An-nan A con-fer-ence call with Co-lin Powell

Fl. *mp* *p*

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *(8)*

Vc. *P* *p*

174

P.O. Co - lin Powell

N.M. *mf* 3

Fl. *mp*

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

178

P.O. **Q** *mf* Co - lin Powell

N.M. *mf* I had scram-bled eggs with Ko-fi - An-nan

Fl. *mp* *mp*

WB. $\frac{4}{4}$

Cym. S.D. $\frac{4}{4}$

Pno. *mp* *8va*

Vc. **Q**

181

P.O. To-day? with Co - lin Powell? Scram-bled egg whites? egg whites. andacon-frence call?

N.M. Yes-ter-day Ko-fi An-nan Egg whites

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. (8)

Vc.



184

P.O. Rich-ard Av-e- don? Co - lin Powell. A con - fer - ence call_____

N.M. A con - fer-ence call No, Co - lin Powell A con - fer - ence call_____

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. (8)

Vc.

187 *mf* *mp*

P.O. with Co-lin Powell A

N.M. with Co-lin Powell

Fl. *p*

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *p* *mp*

Vc. *p* pizz *mp* arco

R

191

P.O. con-fer-ence call_ with Posed for pho-tos with Andyou had eggs with

N.M. *mp* Co - lin Powell Rich-ard Av-e-don Ko fi An-nan

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

R

Vc.

194

P.O. *f*
Ko-fi An-nan Rich-ard Av-e-don Co-lin Powell Run these names

N.M.

Fl. *f* *p*

WB. *mf* *p*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *p*
8^{va}
l.h. 8^{va}
8^{va}

Vc. *f* *p*
pizz



199

P.O. *mp*
But

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *mp*

Vc. arco *mp*

S
203

P.O. *mf*
are you keep-ing bu-sy? Yes?

N.M. *mf mp mf*
(exhales) Well, the press picked up on a talk I gave a

Fl. *mf*

WB. *mp mf mf*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *mf*

Vc. **S** *pizz. arco pizz. arco mf*

207

P.O. Yes?

N.M. *mf*
talk I gave in which I re-ferred to George Dou-ble-'U' Bush as a pres-i-dent who has no fore-sight

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc. *pizz. arco*

210

P.O. *a pres - i - dent who has no fore - sight?*

N.M. *a pres - i - dent who has no fore - sight who can not think prop - er - ly*

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc. *pizz.*

212

P.O. ***f** George Doub - le 'U' Bush **mf** no fore - sight? **f** I*

N.M. ***mf** No fore - sight*

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *8va* *l.h.*

Vc. *arco* ***f*** ***mf***

215 **T** ♩=90 (♩=♩.)

P.O. knew it! I knew it! The

N.M.

Fl. *f*

WB. *f*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *f*

Vc. *f*

217

P.O. same crap that got you in-to trou-ble last time I
2nd time only *mp*
Yes, but

N.M. *mp*

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D. *f* *p*

Pno.

Vc. *p*

220 **U**

P.O. *f*
knew it! I knew it! The same crap that crap! last

N.M. *f*
Yes, but but we live but we live in a

Fl. *f*

WB. *sub. f*

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *f*

Vc. *sub. f*

U

223 *mf*

P.O. *mf*
time In a free coun - try? *mf* *f*

N.M. *mf* *f*
free coun - try Yes, we live in a free coun try

Fl. *mf*

WB.

Cym. S.D. *f* *p*

Pno.

Vc. *p*

227

P.O. *A free coun-try A free coun - try A free coun*

N.M. *A free coun-try A free coun - try A free coun*

Fl.

WB.

Cym. *p*

S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

236

P.O. *try A free coun-try? Not for re-peat of-fen-ders It's not!*

N.M. *try*

Fl.

WB.

Cym. *mf*

S.D. *mf*

Pno. *f*

Vc.

244 V

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

p

legato

l.h.

r.h.

V



248

P.O.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

p

legato

l.h.

r.h.

(8)

252 **W** *mp*

P.O. *mp*
May be Man - de-la will go straight af-ter twen-ty - se - ven

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *8va* *r.h.* *l.h.* *(r.h.)*

Vc. **W** *pizz.* *p*

255 *mf*

P.O. *mf*
years in the clink I know his chan - ces_ aren't great

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *(8)*

Vc.

259

P.O. *mp* I know the sta-tis-tics *mf* May - be Man-de - la will go straight.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D. *mf* *gva.*

Pno. *mf* *r.h.* *l.h.*

Vc. *mf*

262

P.O. Or may-be he'll back - slide in-to the sludge of hu-man rights. Who_knows? *f*

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. *f*

Vc.

265

mf

Who _____ knows?

p

271

mp

Look Nel-son We're done to-ge-ther I'm

p

X

p

277

P.O. *mf*
end - ing your pa-rol— End - ing your pa-role You're free

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym.
S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

282

P.O. *f*
You're free you're free free

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym.
S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

287 Y $\text{♩} = 60 (\text{♩} = \text{♩})$
mp

P.O. Nel - son Man - de - la Man - de-la

N.M.

Fl. *p*

WB.

Cym. S.D. *p*

Pno. *p*

Vc. *p* arco

290

P.O. Num-ber two ze-ro se-ven four two dou-ble ze-ro one nine.

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno. ⁽⁸⁾

Vc.

293 *mf*

P.O. I ne-ver saw him a - gain ne-ver saw him a-gain

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.

297 *mp*

P.O. but then it's on - ly been three weeks

N.M.

Fl.

WB.

Cym. S.D.

Pno.

Vc.