AUTOHOODENING:

THE RISE OF CAPTAIN SWING

Songbook

Music: Text:

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Post Workers Theatre Roxanne Korda

A Post Workers Theatre and Infinite Opera project

The workers...

Lead Picker Lead Packer

Chorus (of Pickers and Packers)
Folk Ensemble (of Pickers and Packers)

Line Manager

The machines...

Alexis the Scanner Molly Bot

The hero...

Captain Swing

AUTOHOODENING: THE RISE OF CAPTAIN SWING

Songbook

1 - Introductory Song

1 - Ensemble - *Amazon Tune* 2 - Narration (Bug)

Welcome to this seasonal shopping reflection A tale of love & loss and of worker oppression Here we see the real-deals of our corporate reality And the true struggle of employment precarity

For too long now these 2 bots have been hard wired For the lust of profit, so many are fired Through the pandemic these folk work tirelessly Cogs in the wheel of our inhuman modernity

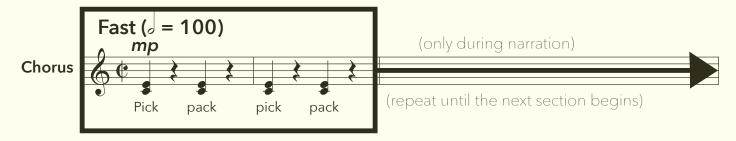
Here our pickers have no wintertime cheer But please watch this play, get enlightened and donate us some beer!

3 - Ensemble - Autohoodening Reel

4 - Introduction - **Lead Picker** and **Lead Packer** (spoken)

Chorus (sottovoce): Pick Pack Motif #1 and Folk Song

Pick Pack Motif #1



Folk Song (only during narration)



5 - Ensemble - Autohoodening Reel

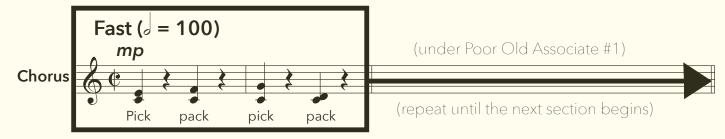
6 - Introduction - Line Manager (spoken)

Chorus (sottovoce): Pick Pack Motif #1 & Folk Song

7 - Chorus: Pick Pack Motif #2 (background)

Poor Old Associate #1

Pick Pack Motif #2



Poor Old Associate #1 (Chorus onstage)







- 8 Ensemble Autohoodening Reel
- 9 Introduction Molly Bot (spoken)

Chorus (sottovoce): Pick Pack Motif #1 & Folk Song

10 - Ensemble - Autohoodening Reel

11 - Narration - **Alexis the Scanner** (spoken)

Chorus (sottovoce): Pick Pack Motif #1 & Folk Song

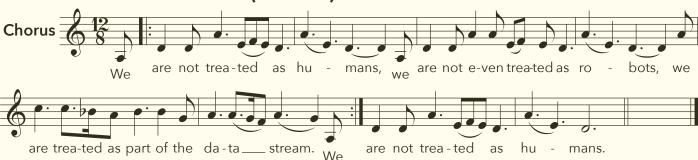
12 - Ensemble - Autohoodening Reel

13 - Chorus - Poor Old Associate #1b

Background singing: Pick Pack Motif #2

Poor Old Associate #1b





14 - Everybody: Pick Pack Motif #1 - fades out slowly

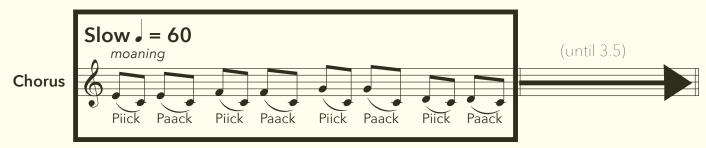
are not trea-ted as hu - mans.

(until the

2 - Corporate Duet

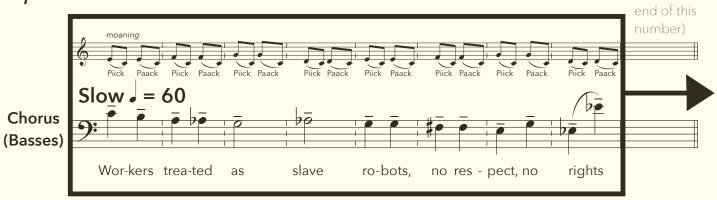
- 1 Electronic music (factory beeps)
- 2 Chorus: Depressed Pick Pack Motif

Depressed Pick Pack Motif

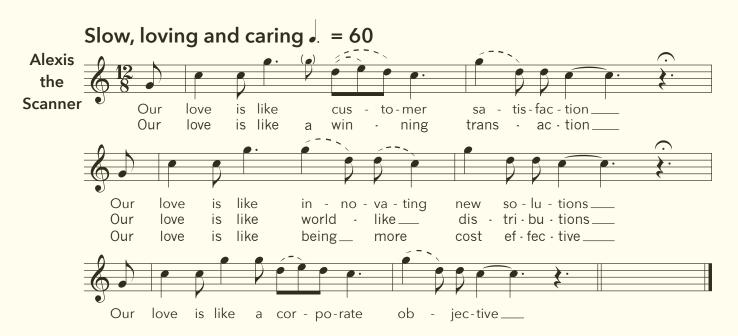


3 - Chorus (basses) Depressed "Workers treated as robots" Bass





- 4 Ensemble: Love Brass Chords + hints of Poor Old Associate #1
 - 5 Dialogue Molly Bot and Alexis the Scanner (spoken)
- 6 Love Duet : Alexis the Scanner sings, Molly Bot responds to Alexis in a robotic manner



- 7 Alexis the Scanner and Molly Bot dance. The Lead Picker gets injured
- 8 Depressed "Workers treated as robots" Bass fades out, finishing the scene

3 - Corporate Strength and 1st Punishment

1 - Depressed Pick Pack Motif continues from the previous number
 2 - Lead Picker: operatic dramatic singing



- 3 Lead Picker speaks. After that, the Depressed Pick Pack Motif increases in intensity
 - 4 Ensemble & Electronics: Amazon tune crossfades with the

Depressed Pick Pack Motif

5 - **Alexis the Scanner** speaks. After its intervention, the **Depressed Pick Pack Motif** finishes 6 - **Line Manager**, controlled by the algorithm, sings using the **Amazon Tune**:



7 - **Line Manager** speaks

8 - Line Manager sings again using the Amazon Tune:



9 - Line Manager is released from the control of the algorithm. Operatic doubtful singing

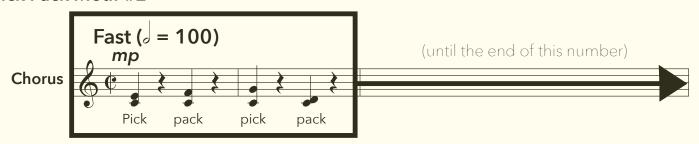


10 - **Line Manager** speaks. Ensemble off.

11 - Chorus: Pick Pack Motif #2 (background)

Poor Old Associate #2

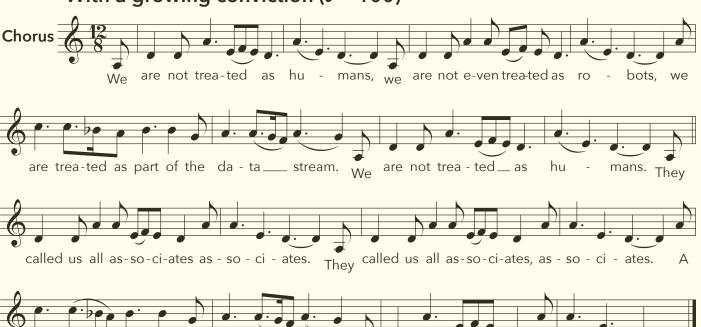
Pick Pack Motif #2



Poor Old Associate #2



name-less ___ wor-ker with-out a ____ face. Not e-ven



4 - Pain Aria

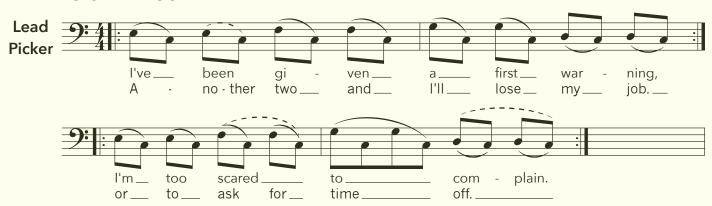
1 - Ensemble: Sad, slow Amazon tune

of - fered a

2 - Lead Picker: 1st verse of the aria

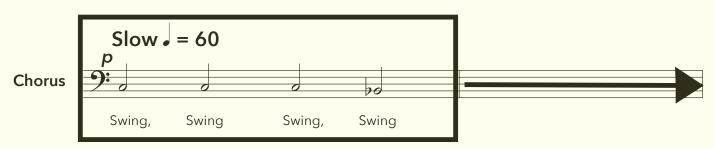
Ensemble: Slow Amazon tune and Pain Aria Bass Line

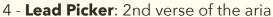




3 - Chorus (Basses): "Swing" Bass Motif #1 (softly in the background)

"Swing" Bass Motif #1

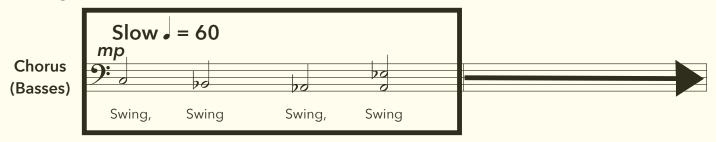




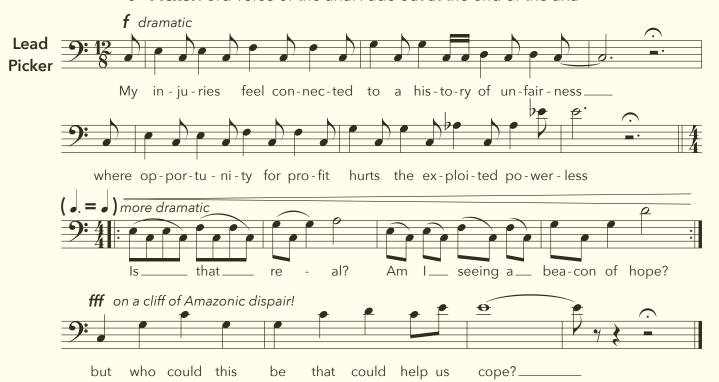


5 - Chorus (Basses): "Swing" Bass Motif #2 (in the background, with more presence)

"Swing" Bass Motif #2



6 - Picker: 3rd verse of the aria. Fade out at the end of the aria



5 - Captain Swing's Introduction

1 - Chorus: "Swing" Pick Pack Motif (first). Then, Basses: "Swing" Bass Motif #3

"Swing" Pick Pack Motif



"Swing" Bass Motif #3



2 - Captain Swing sings and speaks over the chorus' background



2.2 - Spoken: Forged through histories rebellion
Now armed and ready I rise again

2.3 - Sung:



With cir-cui-try and soft - ware, I can re-pro-grammetheir hard - ware.

2.4 - Spoken: Rip down this corporate nonsense To reinstate a conscience

2.5 - Sung:



Tell to me your e-verywoe, through your trou-bles my strenght shall grow.

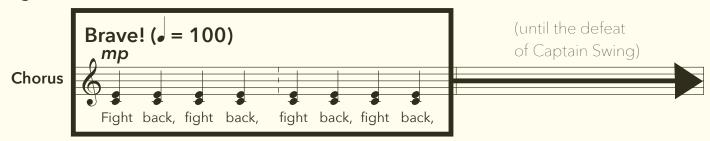
2.6 - Captain Swing speaks

After "And shall make sure these "Molly"s hear": Chorus attacca

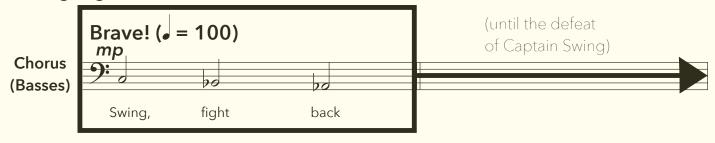
6 - Captain Swing vs Molly Bot

1 - Chorus: Fight Back Motif (first). Then, Basses: "Swing Fight Back" Bass Motif

Fight Back Motif

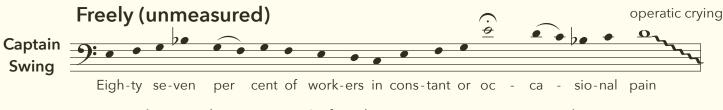


"Swing, Fight Back" Bass Motif



- 2 Ensemble *Folk Song* from "Introductory Song". Dialogue starts
 - 3 **Lead Picker:** Operatic intervention, followed by speech

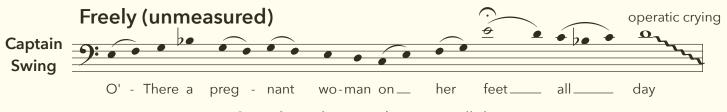
3.1 - Lead Picker sings:



3.2 - **Swing** speaks:

87% of workers in constant or occasional pain? Frankly, this is inhumane!

3.3 - **Lead Picker** sings:



3.4 - **Captain Swing** speaks: All day? 600 ambulances in three years have taken away

3.5 - Captain Swing sings:



- 4 Ensemble fades out when **Molly Bot** speaks. Chorus singing continues
- 5 Battle. As Captain Swing loses, the singing becomes sadder and slower
- 6 Chorus of Pickers and Packers (after the defeat of Captain Swing): Boooo!!

7 - Ensemble: Fast *Amazon Tune*

8 - Molly Bot and Alexis the Scanner sing a short love duet, speaking in between

8.1 - Molly Bot and Alexis the Scanner sing:



8.2 - Molly Bot and Alexis the Scanner speak:

Alexis the Scanner: a never-ending growing.

Molly Bot: I've got one of those.

8.3 - Molly Bot and Alexis the Scanner sing:

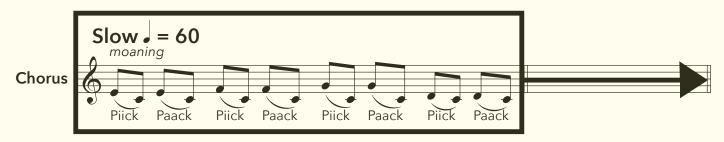


8.4 - Duet speak:

Alexis: *limitless growth.*

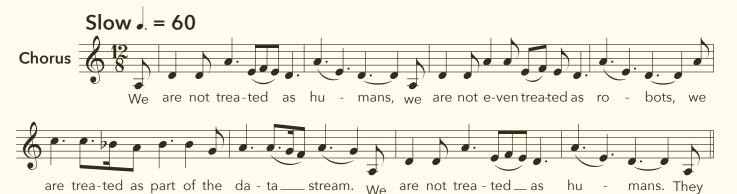
Molly: watch how your basket grows.

8.5 - Duet of physical comedy. The ensemble plays the *Amazon Tune* 8.6 - Chorus (gradually): *Depressed Pick Pack Motif*



9 - Chorus: Poor Old Associate #3

Poor Old Associate #3





7 - The Algorithm

1 - Alexis the Scanner speaks

2 - Factory sounds

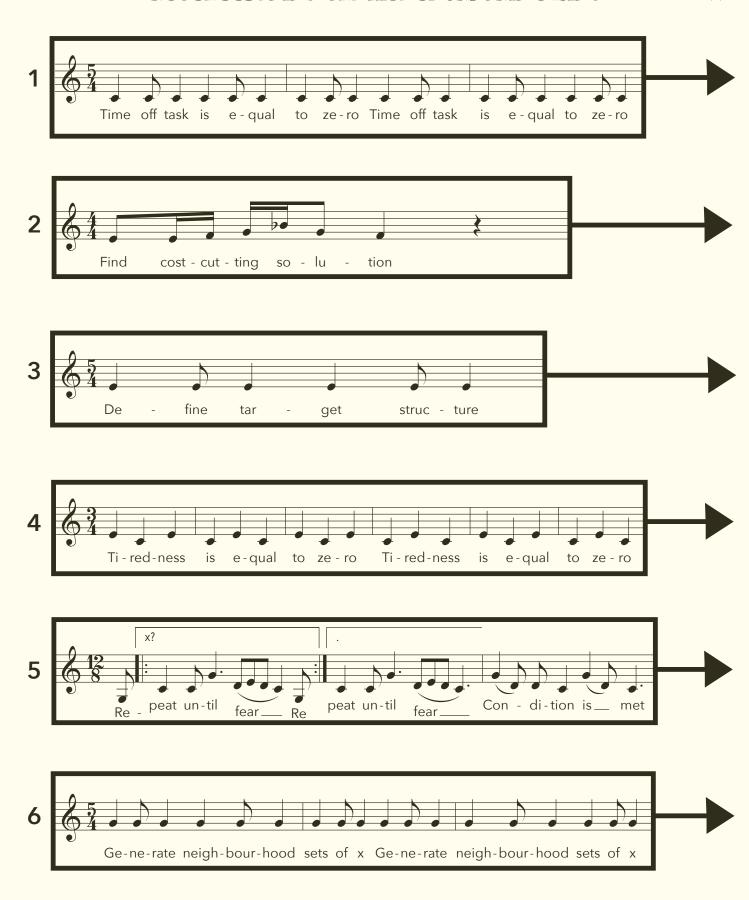
3 - **Alexis the Scanner** and **Molly Bot** sing a short duet that triggers the algorithm

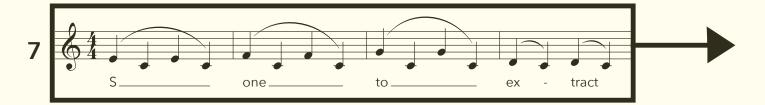


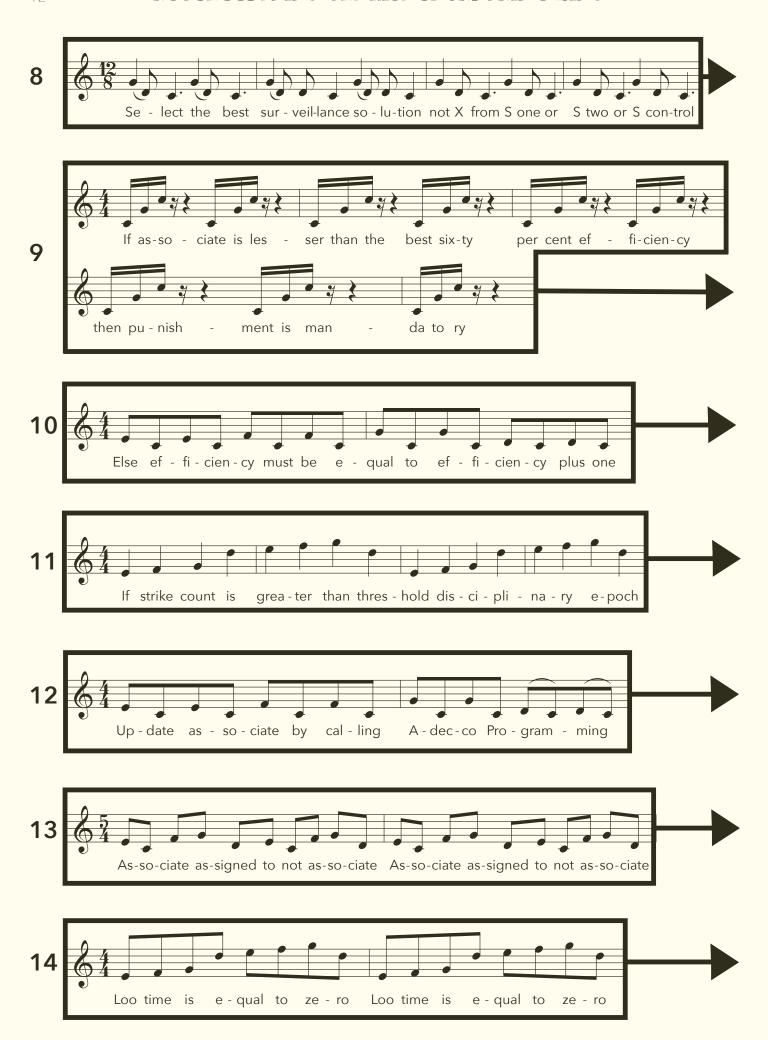




5 - Alexis the Scanner snaps to the members of the Ensemble and of the Chorus of Pickers and Packers. They start playing and singing lines from the algorithm.
 Once all the performers are controlled by the algorhithm, Alexis the Scanner and Molly Bot join them by singing the algorhithm lines







- 6 Alexis the Scanner, one by one, mutes everybody with a snap
- 7 Molly Bot and Alexis the Scanner sing a closing duet for the algorithm

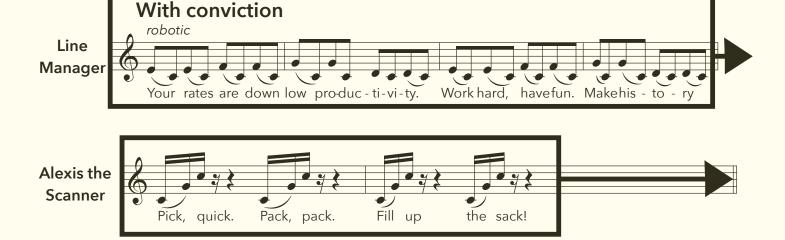


8 - The 2nd Punishment

- 1 Line Manager delivers a punishment monologue
 - 2 Ensemble: *Amazon tune* (slowly) Chorus: *Pick Pack Motif #2* (slowly)
- 3 **Alexis the Scanner** punishes pickers and packers by snapping at them Each snap will make them perform faster



5 - **Line Manager** sings using the **Amazon Tune Alexis the Scanner** sings using the **Scanner Motif**



6 - The snapping from **Alexis the Scanner** intensifies, increasing the performance speed of the whole team. This continues until everybody falls in exhaustion

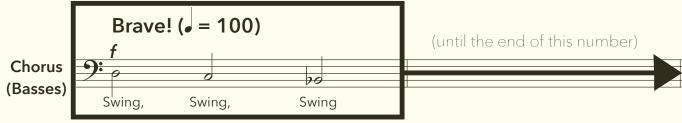
9 - Captain Swing's Coronation Ritual

1 - Harmony rises to D

Ensemble: Amazon Tune revolted and Poor Old Associate

2 - Chorus (Basses): **"Swing" Bass Motif #4** (In D)

"Swing" Bass Motif #4





- 3 Complaints reading section:
- 3.1 The four main complaints are read
- 3.2 Ritual of complaints: everybody reads different complaints building a cacophony texture
- 3.3 After a climax of noise, created by an avalanche of complaints, **Captain Swing** resurrects
 - 3.4 The singing continues while Captain Swing is coronated

10 - The 3rd Punishment

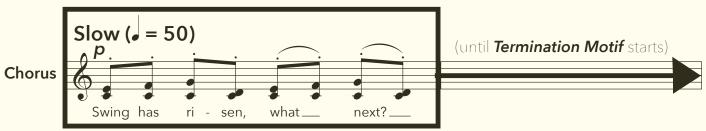
1 - Sung introduction by Alexis the Scanner (no accompaniment)





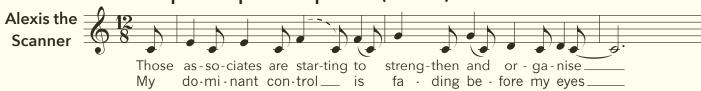
2 - Chorus: "Swing" has risen Motif

"Swing" has risen Motif

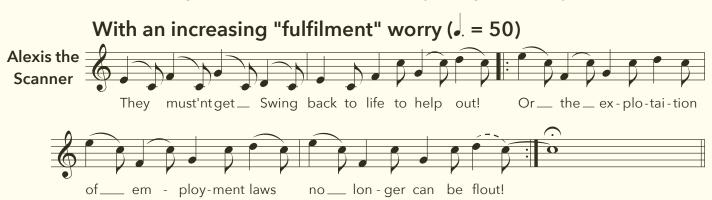


- 3 Ensemble: aria material and *Alexis Aria Backing Chords*
 - 4 **Alexis the Scanner**: first section of the aria:





- 5 Ensemble changes the chords and their lenght.
- 6 **Alexis** sings the rest of its aria. The harmony changes at the repetition.



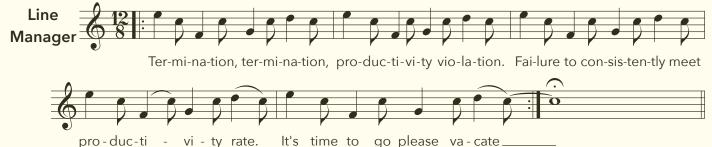
7 - Chorus: Termination Motif

Termination Motif



- 8 Over the *Termination motif*, **Alexis the Scanner** speaks
- 9 Kindly, the **Line Manager**, controlled by **Alexis the Scanner**, fires the **Lead Picker** singing:





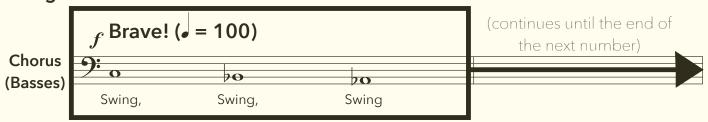
10 - Lead Picker speaks. Then, attacca to the next number

11 - Captain Swing rises

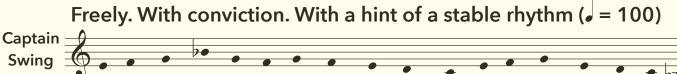
ple on ___ all oc - ca-sions ye

1 - **Captain Swing** rises. Esemble: *Amazon tune revolted* (in C) with hints of the *Folk Melody* 2 - Chorus: longer version of *Swing Bass Motif #5*

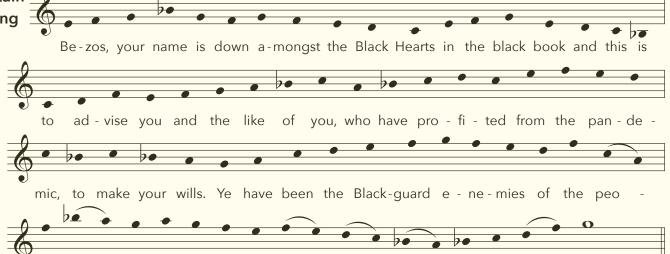
Swing Bass Motif #5



3 - **Captain Swing** sings the 1st part the workers' letter to Bezos:



have



not__

yet___ done as

ye ___ ought!

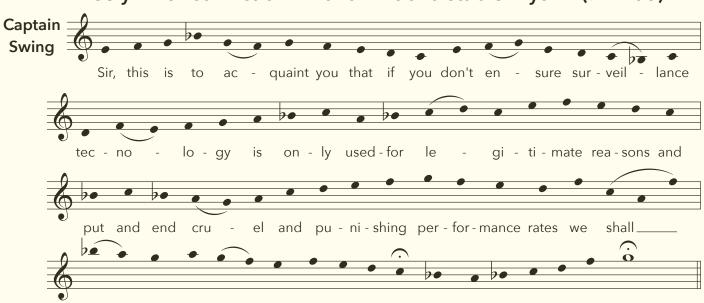
4 - After **Captain Swing** finishes singing the first half of the letter, the Chorus' singing intensifies Chorus: *Fight back Motif #2* on top of the *Swing Bass Motif #5*

Fight Back Motif #2



5 - Captain Swing sings the second part of the letter

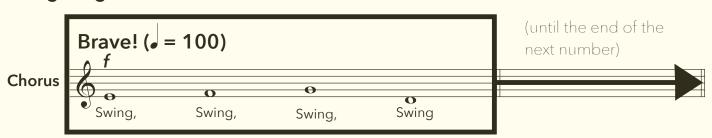
Freely. With conviction. With a hint of a stable rhythm (= 100)



com - mence ma - chine brea-king di - rec - ly. Signed on be - half of the whole!

6 - Chorus members singing Fight Back Motif #2 change to Swing Long Motif:

Swing Long Motif



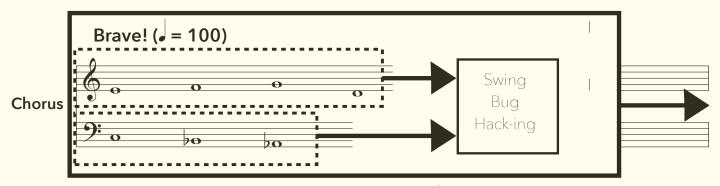
7 - **Captain Swing**, **Lead Picker**, and **Lead Packer** deliver the last lines of the number. The Chorus' singing intensifies in response to the words:

Signed on behalf of the whole.

Mark this thou Despot.

12 - The Offering of Bugs

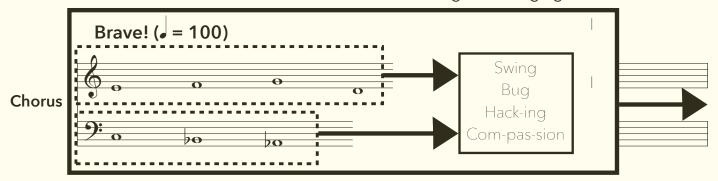
- 1 Chorus: continues the background singing from the previous number Enseble: music material from *Poor Old Associate* and *Folk Melody*
 - 2 Captain Swing speaks
 - 3 Chorus: adds more words to the background singing



4 - Captain Swing speaks:

This is the bug of compassion, corporate greed it will refashion.

5 - Chorus: adds more words to the background singing



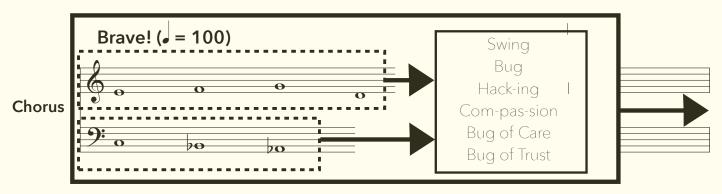
6 - Lead Picker says:

I will release this bug of care, greed and profit it will snare.

7 - Lead Packer says:

I will release this bug of trust greed and profit it will snare.

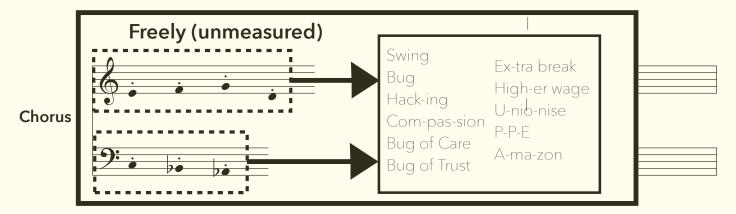
8 - Chorus: adds more words to the background singing
Attacca to the next number



13 - Molly gets Hacked

1 - Chorus and Ensemble: Sparce version of the material from the previous number

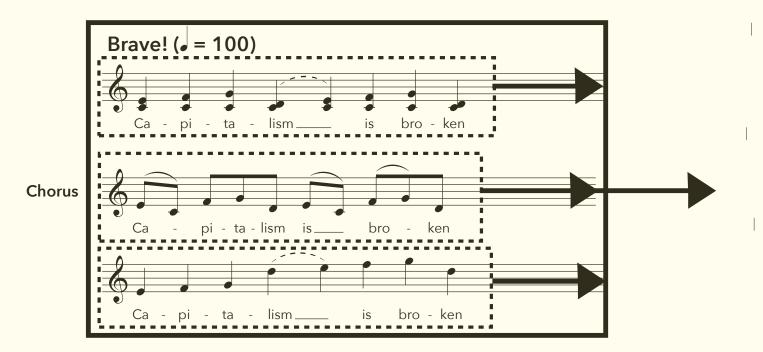
More words added to the background singing



- 2 Molly Bot and Alexis the Scanner speak
 - 3 **Alexis** says:

This is vile and finantially unsettling. Damn these bugs monstrous meddlings.

4 - Background music and singing fade to a less disruptive texture, reminiscent of the algorithm



- 5 **Molly Bot**'s speech
- 6 **Alexis the Scanner**, angrily, shouts:

SHE IS MINE! I say, there's no way I've lost! There's a price to pay and your job is the cost!

7 - Ensemble rapidly plays the Amazon tune. Attacca

14 - The Firing of the Line Manager

1 - Ensemble: fast *Amazon tune* Chorus: material from *The Algorithm*

Electronics: Scanner motif

2 - Alexis the Scanner menaces Line Manager

3 - Line Manager says:

But you have given me no warnings!

4 - Alexis the Scanner sings:



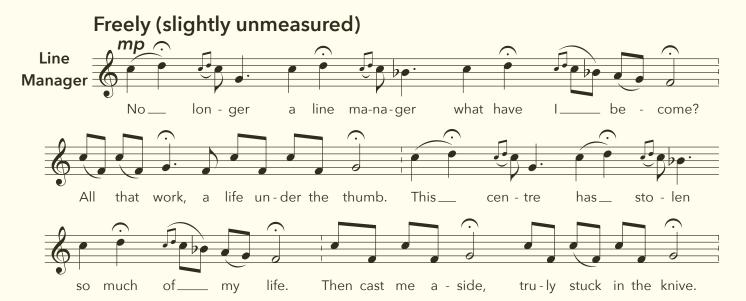
- 4 Ensemble and Chorus stop. **Scanner Motif** continues
 - 5 Alexis the Scanner fires Lines Manager
- 6 The **Line Manager** takes off the computer. All the music stops

15 - Line Manager's Doubt Aria

1 - Chorus and Ensemble: **"Swing" Bass Motif #3** (softly)

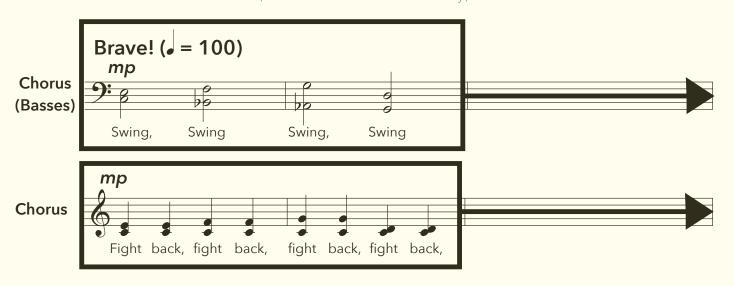


2 - Line Manager sings the aria





3 - Chorus and Ensemble: "Swing" Bass Motif and #3 Fight back Motif #2 (louder and more confidently)

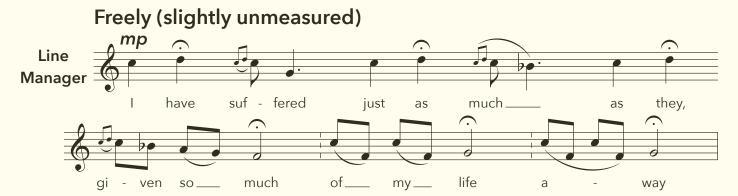


4 - Captain Swing sings:

Freely, but with a sense of a stable rhythm (= 100)



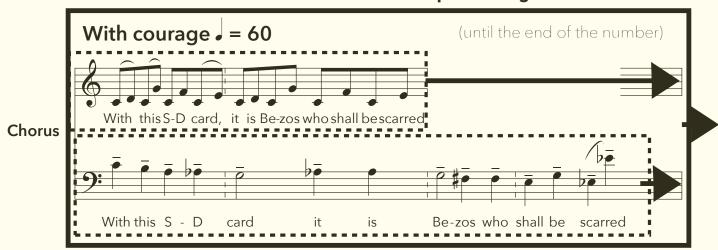
5 - The **Line Manager** sings:



6 - Captain Swing replies:



7 - Chorus: takes the words from **Captain Swing:**



8 - Duet between **Line Manager** and **Captain Swing:**

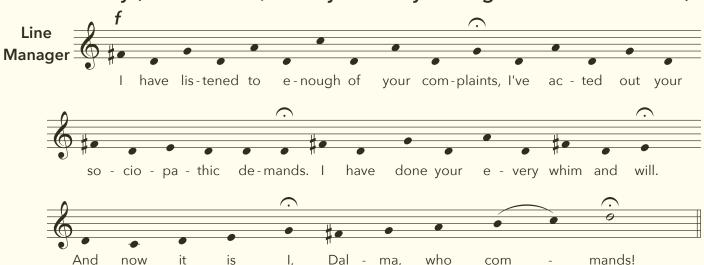




16 - The Line Manager Fights Alexis

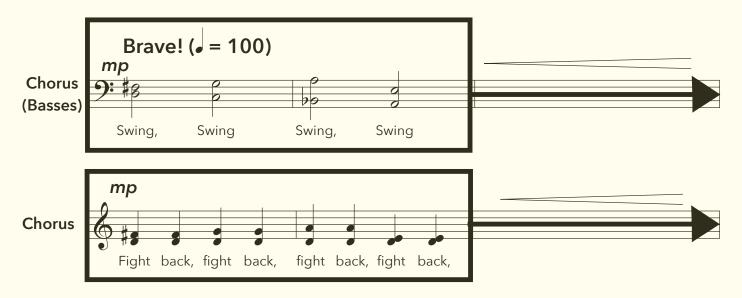
- 1 Ensemble: **Amazon Tune Revolted** (in D)
- 2 The Line Manager, empowered by Captain Swing, sings:

Freely (unmeasured, but rhythmically hinting at the Amazon tune)

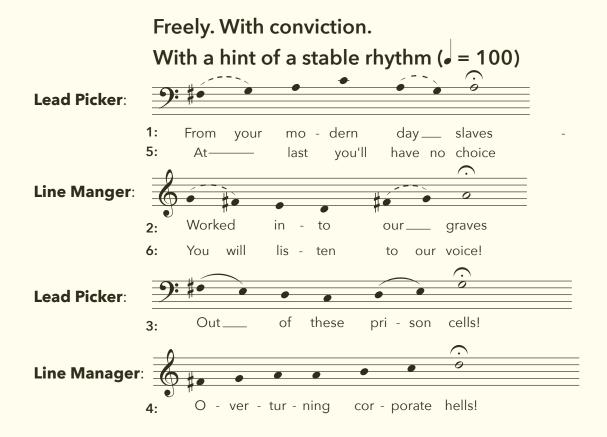


3 - The Chorus of Pickers and Packers join the fight against **Alexis the Scanner** "Swing" Bass Motif and #3 Fight back Motif #2 (in \square)

Ensemble: combination of different motifs from the piece (in D)



5 - The **Lead Picker** and the **Line Manager** sing before inserting the hacking SD card into **Alexis the Scanner**. They complete each others' lines



6 - Ensemble: During the hacking of **Alexis the Scanner**, climactic point of the music **Alexis the Scanner** sings with the **Scanner Motif**:



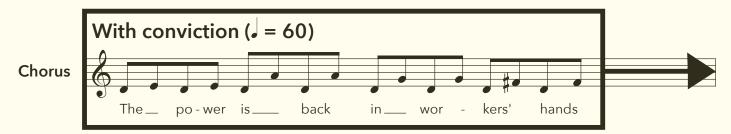
7 - Silence

- 8 Alexis monologue
- 9 General cheering

17 - Epilogue A: The New Unionised Love

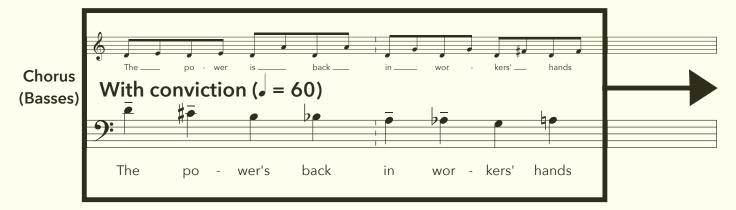
1 - Chorus: Renewed Pick Pack Motif

Renewed Pick Pack Motif



3 - Chorus (basses): Renewed Workers Bass

Renewed Workers' Bass



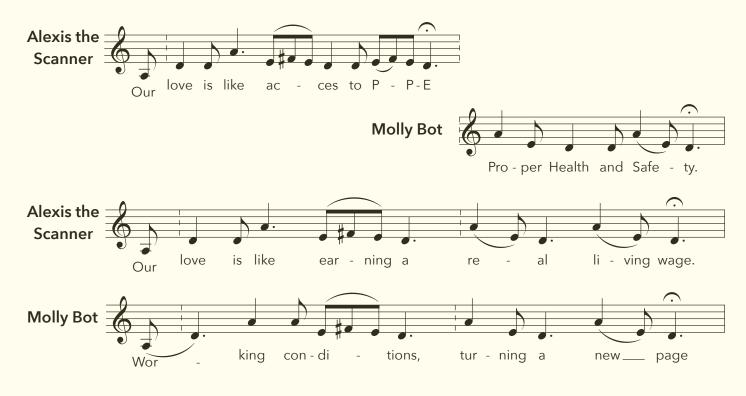
- 3 Ensemble: Love Brass Chords + hints of Poor Old Associate #1 (in \square)
 - 4 New love duet between Alexis the Scanner and Molly Bot











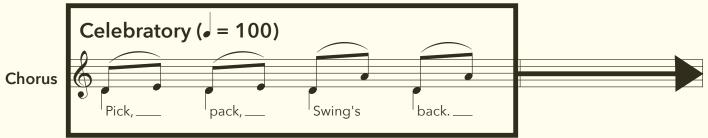
5 - Renewed Pick Pack Motif fades out, finishing the number

18 - Epilogue B. Final Chorus

1 - Ensemble: **Amazon Tune Revolted**

2 - Chorus: Celebratory Pick Pack Motif

Celebratory Pick Pack Motif

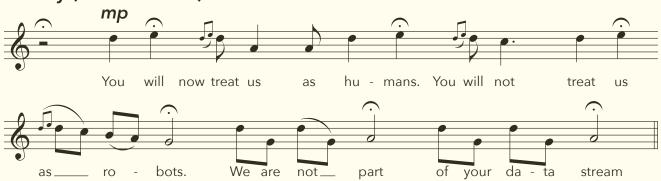


3: Ensemble: Autohoodening Reel

4 - Chorus (sottovoce): Celebratory Pick Pack Motif and Folk Song #2

Folk Song #2





5 - **Team** narration:

You will now treat us as humans, You will not treat us as robots, We are not part of your data stream

We are no longer your nameless associates, We are fellow workers with a happy face! Catching up in our resting space

6 - Ensemble: *Autohoodening Reel*7 - Chorus (sottovoce): *Celebratory Pick Pack Motif* and *Folk Song #2*

8 - **Team** narration:

Sore feet, back, hands, your head aches? Make sure you take adequate breaks. Feeling sick? Stay at home, your job's not at stake.

> Together working in harmony Trusted, not monitored endlessly Our bodies respected with empathy.

9 - Everybody: Final **Poor Old Associate** (in \square) with new words It repeats over and over until the end of the play



10 - Over the singing of *Poor Old Associate*, the **Narrator** ends the play with the words:

Now you know what they endure
We hope that you will not ignore
We know you want your presents quick
But stop and think before you click!