

piano/vocal

## 7. Four Little Horses

(MARCUS, CHILDREN, CATHERINE)

MARCUS: You asked earlier what they're learning. Behold: the four times tables. Children learn through movement, through rhythm, much better than from books.

Michael Johnson

CATHERINE: I'm not all about books. Come on. I'm watching.

*MARCUS gestures to the CHILDREN to form a large ellipse.  
He then bends over and makes horse jockey movements.  
He faces left and gestures to CATHERINE and The CHILDREN to follow suit.*

MARCUS: (To CATHERINE) This is the "rhythmic" part of the Main Lesson.

*EVERYONE imitates MARCUS's movements as he gallops in place for three beats, and on the fourth beat, hops one step.*

MARCUS

*Vamp under dialog until cue.*

Piano { *p dolce*

Children Group 1

CH.1.

Children Group 2

M.

Pno. {

The musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is for 'MARCUS' (soprano) with lyrics: 'Four little horses running in a race. One'll cross the finish line and'. The second staff is for 'Piano' with a dynamic 'p dolce' and a 'pedal simile' instruction. The third staff is for 'CH.1.' (alto) with lyrics: 'Four little horses running in a race. One'll cross the finish line and'. The fourth staff is for 'CH.2.' (bass) with lyrics: 'Four little horses running in a race.'. The bottom staff is for 'M.' (treble) with lyrics: 'win first place. Four little horses - es. Four little horses - es.'. The piano accompaniment staff at the bottom features eighth-note chords in the bass and treble clefs, with measure numbers 9 through 16 above it. Measure 16 includes a '3' below the staff, indicating a triplet. Measures 11 and 13 have a '3' below them, and measure 12 has a '7' below it.

\* For this number, the staff for Children Group 1 is abbreviated O. and the staff for Children Group 2 is abbreviated CHA. 63

CH.1.

17                   18                   19                   20                   21                   22

win first place. Four lit - tle hors - es \_\_\_\_\_ Four lit - tle

CH.2.

One - 'll cross the fin - ish line and \_\_\_\_\_ first place. Four lit - tle hors - es. \_\_\_\_\_

M.

8 run - ning in a race. One - 'll cross the fin - ish line and win first place.

Pno.

3                   18                   19                   20                   21                   22

*crescendo poco a poco*



CH.1.

23                   24                   25                   26                   27                   28

hors - es \_\_\_\_\_ oo. \_\_\_\_\_

CH.2.

oo. \_\_\_\_\_

M.

8 Four lit - tle hors - es. \_\_\_\_\_ Each has

Pno.

23                   24                   25                   26                   27                   28

*f*

CH.1.

29 30 31 32 33 34 35

Four lit - tle hors - es. Hors - es.

CH.2.

Four lit - tle Horses — Hors - es.

M.

8 four legs keep - ing pace. How ma - ny legs will fin - ish the race?

Pno.

29 30 31 32 33 34 35

*Two of the CHILDREN break formation. One stands outside the circle and the other inside as they face each other and raise their arms to form an arch. The other CHILDREN maintain the ellipse formation, but gallop in place for three beats, and on beat four step through the arch. For each child that passes under the arch, ALL shout a multiple of four and clap.*

*On "sixteen" everyone raises their arms and waves their hands as if crossing a finish line.*

MARCUS: "Count  
with me!"

WITH HIC:

CH.1.

36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

Four! Eight! Twelve! Sixteen!

CH.2.

Four! Eight! Twelve! Sixteen!

M.

8

Four! Eight! Twelve! Sixteen!

Pno.

*legato*

36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

*pp*

**f**

*ALL resume singing and galloping  
in an ellipse under the arch until  
OPHÉLIE interrupts.*

CH.1. 45 Four lit - tle hors - es 46 run - ning in a race. 47 One - 'll cross the fin - ish line.  
 CH.2. 48  
 M. 49  
 Pno. 50

Four lit - tle hors - es  
 run - ning in a race.

*mp*



OPHÉLIE: Dammit! Shit, fuck!  
I can't do it!

CH.1. 51 Four lit - tle hors - es 52 run - ning in a race. 53 One - 'll cross the  
 CH.2. 54  
 M. 55  
 Pno. 56

run - ning in a race. One - 'll cross the fin - ish line. Four lit - tle  
 One - 'll cross the Four lit - tle hors - es run - ning in a race.

*pp*

### **Slower, straight eighths**

$\text{♩} = 110$

MARCUS: Who's this? CATHERINE: That's Ophélie. She's our new student.

MARCUS:  
(miffed)

Is she, now? Alright, Ophélie. Calm down now.  
You can do it. Just gallop like this.

Pno.

WHO'S THIS?

57 dolce

58

59 legato

60

OPHÉLIE:  
Oh, are we playing horsie? Okay,  
I'll be the front end and you be  
yourself.

MARCUS:  
Sick burn.  
Here, follow me.

*OPHÉLIE kicks MARCUS  
and screams. Music stops.*

A musical score for piano in G major (three sharps) and common time. The left hand (Pno.) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The right hand enters at measure 61 with a series of eighth-note chords. Measure 62 shows a continuation of the right-hand chords. Measures 63 and 64 feature melodic lines in both hands, with the right hand reaching a high note in measure 64. The score includes dynamic markings like 'f' (fortissimo), 'p' (pianissimo), and 'Dialog.' above the staff.

**cue:** *Marcus claps twice.*

J = 120

*leggiero*

*Vamp under dialog.  
Out on any beat.*

Musical score for piano (Pno.) in G major (two sharps). The score consists of two staves. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a dynamic marking **p**. Measure 65 starts with a sixteenth-note rest followed by eighth-note pairs. Measure 66 begins with a sixteenth-note rest. The tempo is indicated as *leggiero*. Measure 66 ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line.

**cue:** MARCUS: ... Listen first,  
then sing with me:

*In a circle formation, the CHILDREN step in place and clap on every fourth beat as MARCUS sings.*

M.  
67  
8 Night - fall cov-ers this world of ours— and the first four plan-ets are the bright - est stars.  
68  
69  
70

Pno.

67 68 69 70

pedal simile

pedal simile

M. Mer-cu - ry's first then Ve-nus, Earth and Mars. The first four plan-ets are the bright - est stars.

Pno.

M. Night brings the dark. the first four plan-ets are the bright - est stars.

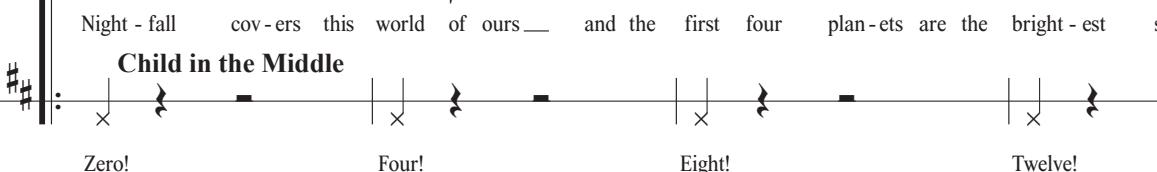
Pno.

*During the following: The CHILDREN step in place in a circle and hold up numbers on their fingers from zero to nine. The CHILD in the middle—the first time MARCUS, and then CHARLOTTE, see script pg. 42—runs to the "zero" child, calls out "Zero!" and directs the "zero" child to pinch the loose end of the yarn. He then dances over to the "four" child, unspooling the yarn, creating a taut line of red yarn between the two children and repeats the same actions, calling out "Four!" The child repeats this with every multiple of four, unspooling the yarn, until he reaches zero again and calls out "Twenty!"*

*First time under dialog.*

**SCORE NOTE:** In this section, the CHILDREN sing the melody as an infinite round. Group names indicate that each group begins the melody from the beginning at the designated point.

**Children Group 1**

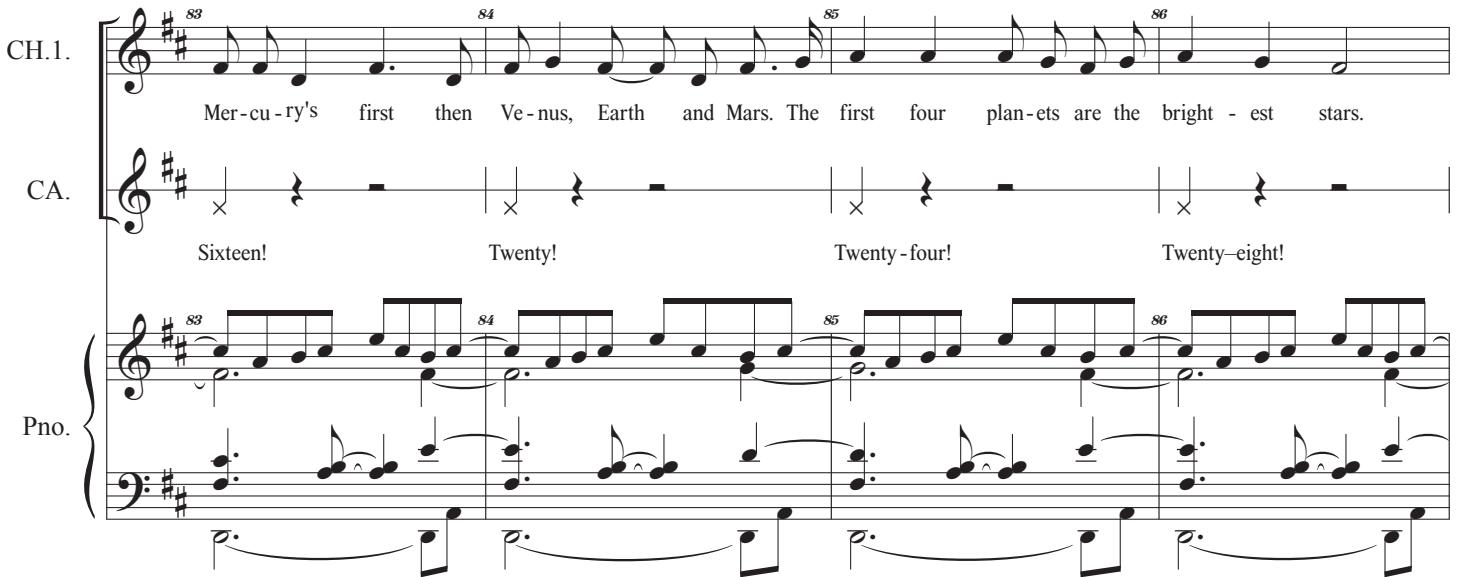
CH.1. 

CA. **Child in the Middle**

Zero!                  Four!                  Eight!                  Twelve!

Pno.

### Children Group 2

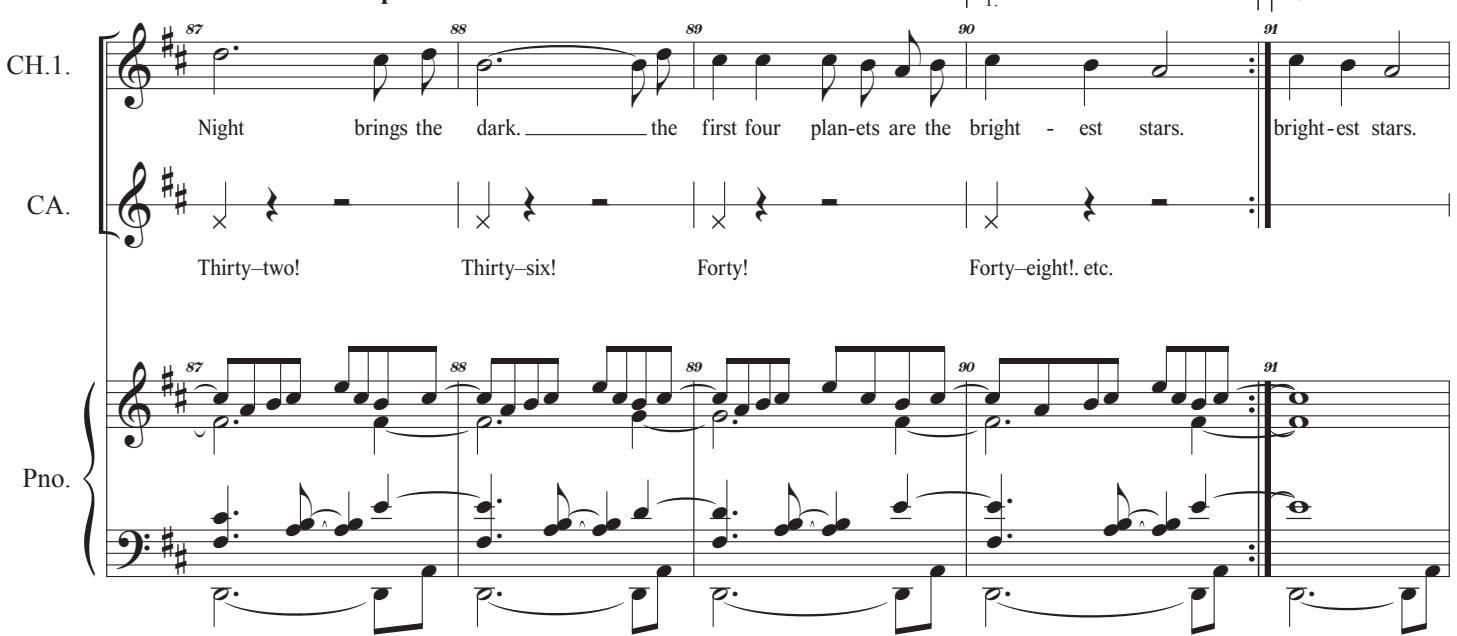
CH.1. 

*After the first repetition, on the number twenty, the CHILDREN have made a star shape in the center of the circle with the red yarn. MARCUS signals to everyone to raise up the star shape. When the star shape is raised up, the CHILDREN walk in a circle. MARCUS motions for another child to come into the circle and dance under the rotating star, retracing CHARLOTTE'S path through the moving circle, starting his count at 24 and continuing.*



*Repeat until MARCUS claps to stop the activity.*

### Children Group 3

CH.1. 

**cue:** MARCUS Alright! To the Rest!

MARCUS: Lovely! Look at the beautiful star you've made!  
Sit down, Charlotte, honey. Hold up the star, children. That's it!

*The CHILDREN laugh and dash off  
to different activities. CATHERINE indicates a place for  
OPHÉLIE to go and be calm.*

*Safety: out any time.*

Dialog.

**cue:** CATHERINE: And so the princess sang...

*The CHILDREN just stand awkwardly.  
Some of them mock her.*

Haughty  $\text{♩} = 126$

Four one time makes...

sub. **pp** rubato

(Silence.)

OPHÉLIE:  
(struggling to follow the  
movements)  
Four!

(Silence. Giggles.)

OPHÉLIE:  
Come on, you fuckers!  
Four two times makes eight!

CATHERINE:  
(flashing a smile at OPHÉLIE)  
Four.

(Chaos.)

L'istesso tempo

Four one time makes...

Four two times makes...

sub. **pp** rubato

mf

sub. **pp**