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.

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.

Michael Johnson

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

Pno. *crescendo poco a poco*

CH.1.: hors - es _____ Oo. _____

CH.2.: _____ Oo. _____

M.: Four lit - tle hors - es. _____ Each has

Pno. *f*

CH.1. (mm. 29–35)
Four lit-tle hors - es. Hors - es.

CH.2. (mm. 29–35)
Four lit-tle Horses ___ Hors - es.

M. (mm. 29–35)
four legs keep-ing pace. How ma-ny legs will fin-ish the race?

Pno. (mm. 29–35)

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!"

CH.1. (mm. 36–44)
Four! Eight! Twelve! Sixteen!

CH.2. (mm. 36–44)
Four! Eight! Twelve! Sixteen!

M. (mm. 36–44)
Four! Eight! Twelve! Sixteen!

Pno. (mm. 36–44) — *legato*, **pp**

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

CH.1. Four lit - tle hors - es run - ning in a race. One - 'll cross the fin - ish line.

CH.2. Four lit - tle hors - es

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

Pno. *mp*

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

CH.1. Four lit - tle hors - es run - ning in a race. One - 'll cross the

CH.2. run - ning in a race. One - 'll cross the fin - ish line. Four lit - tle

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

Pno. *pp*

66

Slower, straight eighths

♩ = 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.

dolce

legato

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.*

Dialog.

Pno.

cue: *Marcus claps twice.*

♩ = 120

*Vamp under dialog.
Out on any beat.*

leggiero

p

Pno.

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.

Night - fall cov-ers this world of ours ___ and the first four plan-ets are the bright - est stars.

p

Pno.

p

pedal simile

M.

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

M.

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

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.

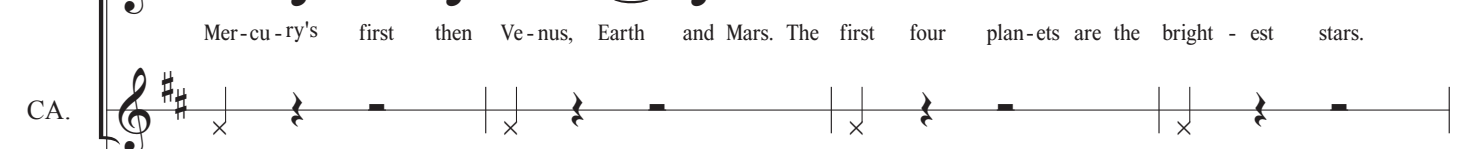Night - fall cov-ers this world of ours___ and the first four plan-ets are the bright-est stars.
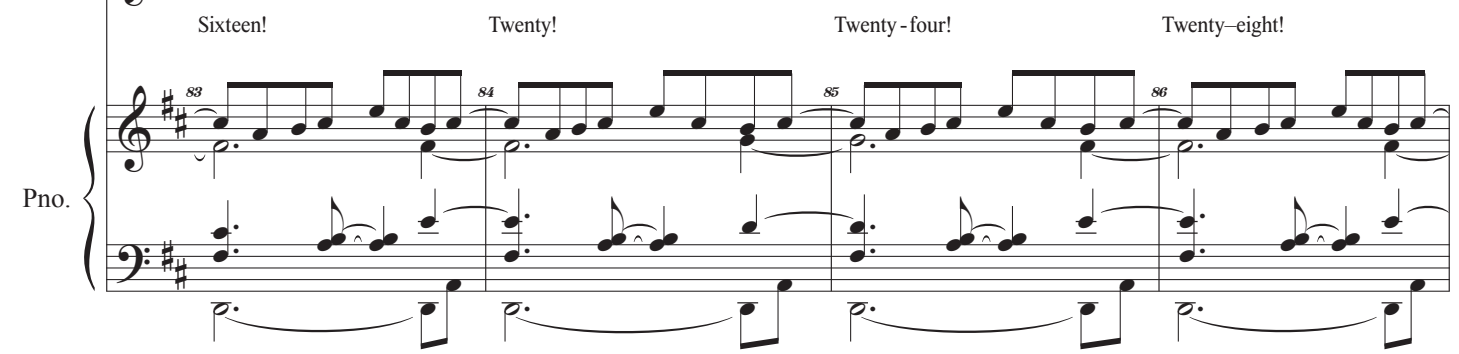
Child in the Middle

CA.

Zero! Four! Eight! Twelve!

Children Group 2

CH.1.

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

CA.

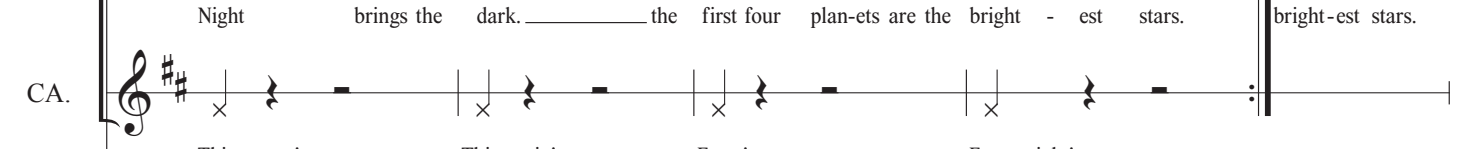Sixteen! Twenty! Twenty-four! Twenty–eight!

Pno.

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

1. 2.

CH.1.

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

CA.

Thirty–two! Thirty–six! Forty! Forty–eight!. etc.

Pno.

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.

Pno.

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

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

Haughty ♩ = 126

CA.

Four one time makes...

Pno.

mf

sub. **pp**

rubato

(Silence.)

OPHÉLIE:
(struggling to follow the
movements)
Four!

CATHERINE:
(flashing a smile at OPHÉLIE)
Four.

(Silence. Giggles.)

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

(Chaos.)

L'istesso tempo

L'istesso tempo

CA.

Four one time makes...

Four two times makes...

Pno.

sub. **pp** *rubato*

mf

sub. **pp**