

VoiceArt Certificate of Singing

Advanced Level

Suzie Songster

With

**Penny Pianist
Accompanist**

**Performance recorded on
30th June 2021**

This is the sort of information expected for the
Advanced and Associate Performer Levels.....

NB – please include translations of songs if you are singing in another language.

Pretty Music from Parade

Words and Music – Jason Robert Brown

Born - 1970

Pretty Music brings to mind the ragtime music of the period in which Parade is set.

Despite the jovial flavour of this song from the show; set in America's "deep south" in the early 1900s, Parade is a dark, true story of racism, its impact on justice and the ease with which people can twist circumstances to suit their entrenched beliefs.

In 1998, Jason Robert Brown was approached to write the music for Parade by the great director Hal Prince. Prince had first offered it to Stephen Sondheim who turned it down.

Sondheim was Brown's inspiration and idol when he was an aspiring, fledgling musician and composer, so it was a daunting undertaking for him, a young man, not yet 30.

Parade was fraught with financial problems and nearly didn't happen. As it was, it only ran for 84 performances, but it has gone on to enjoy seasons elsewhere in America and in the UK.

Despite the cool reception from the public, critics praised it, particularly for Brown's fine song-writing and he received a Tony Award for the best original score in 1999.

Pretty Music is sung by Governor Slaten, frivolously enjoying a party during which there are all sorts of underhand discussions, bribes and dealings. Lucille approaches him to advocate for her husband Leo Frank, who has been wrongly accused of the rape and murder of a 13 year old girl.

Here is that scene from the 2007 London, Donmar Warehouse production of Parade with Gary Milner as Governor Slaten and Lara Pulver as Lucille.

<https://youtu.be/tYFI-1KdKmc>

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parade_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parade_(musical))

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Robert_Brown



[The first day of Leo Frank's trial – Atlanta Journal- July 29th 1913](#)