

## Mirror of Matsuyama outline v. 3.22.21

---

### Voices:

**DAUGHTER** - teen - soprano

**FATHER** - lyric baritone

**MOTHER/MIRROR MOTHER** - lyric soprano, possible coloratura - shimmer/glass tone

**STEPMOTHER** - contralto, possible mezzo - warmer/darker tone

### Compositional approach:

linear/counterpoint and tone clusters (rather than diatonic harmonic progressions)

Interplay between two scales (modal):

yo (pentatonic - ionian/aeolian "ish" - **m3**, M2, M2, m3, M2)

in (pentatonic - Phrygian "ish" - **m2**, M3, M2, **m2**, M3)

Percussion/Choral/Strings/Woodwind/emphasis

Separate colors (not blended)

contrast - rhythmic, range/tessitura, lyrical vs. percussive (drum/pluck)

Chorus creates wordless tone clusters, emotional sound painting, moving blocks of color

---

### Scene One:

MOTHER is on her deathbed. DAUGHTER weeps disconsolately while FATHER mourns quietly. MOTHER ushers daughter over to her, insisting that she not be sad. MOTHER gives DAUGHTER an ornate hand mirror and counsels DAUGHTER to seek her in the mirror. MOTHER passes, and DAUGHTER is struck down by grief.

### Scene One MUSIC:

*Lyrical aria sung by MOTHER -*

*"Mother's Love" Theme; play with "yo" scale (La/Do or Do/Mi relationship)*

*"Grief" theme - DAUGHTER/FATHER counterpoint/accompaniment of wordless vocalese*

*"Grief" is based on "in" scale and portamento half-step (flat 2)*

*"Mirror" motif appears - as MOTHER gives mirror to DAUGHTER*

*Based off plucked/rolled chords of Koto - high/shimmer*

*rolled chords D-E-F-A-Bb-D with ½ step melody F-E (opposite "Grief")*

*"Ghost/Death" motif appears as MOTHER passes*

*"Mother's Love" vocal line blends/fades into bamboo flute (shakuhachi)*

*Chorus: Haunting tone clusters - breathy*

*Duet sung by DAUGHTER and FATHER - with Chorus -- Struck down by grief*

*"Emotion without logic" theme*

*Taiko Drums - Deep, harsh, earthy, overwrought, guttural*

*wild contrasts of percussion and vocal wailing - "Grief"*

*Chorus of wailing vocal effects, cresc/decrec, falls, clusters, contrasts/moving sound.*

**Scene Two:**

FATHER packs up MOTHER'S clothes to donate. Meanwhile, he burns incense in front of MOTHER'S portrait; in the portrait, she wears a wedding kimono and holds the hand mirror. DAUGHTER enters, sees MOTHER'S things being packed, and accuses FATHER of wanting to kill the memory of MOTHER. Furious, FATHER banishes DAUGHTER to her room.

**Scene Two MUSIC:**

*Aria sung by FATHER,*

*Switching emphasis between minor (sad) and major 3rd (happy memories)*

*Shorter, broken phrases, infused with vocal ornamentation*

*"Mirror" motif reappears with the portrait - shimmer, enticing*

*Daughter's Entrance = Dissonant Duet*

*"Grief" + "Emotion without Logic" motifs*

*(Taiko, percussive figures, percussive vocal effects - more anger than grief.)*

*Crescendo and increase in dissonance with m2 interval - "in" scale*

**Scene Three:**

FEMALE FRIEND pays a visit to FATHER to see how he and DAUGHTER are doing. At first FATHER pretends everything is fine, but soon he discloses that his relationship with DAUGHTER is strained and they haven't been speaking. FEMALE FRIEND soothes him, citing the grieving process. FATHER confesses tearfully that he is grieving too, and feels lost and alone.

**Scene Three MUSIC:**

*"Living/Warmth" theme appears at the entrance of FEMALE FRIEND.*

*Aria sung by FATHER*

*moments of lyricism gives way to "Emotion w/o Logic" motif as FATHER expresses concerns*

*Aria sung by FEMALE FRIEND*

*"Living/Warmth" theme explored - lyrical, understanding*

*Aria becomes a Duet as FATHER joins-*

*"Grief" theme subsides as ½ portamento shifts to M2*

**Scene Four:**

DAUGHTER entertains herself with a game of hide-and-seek. We find out that her hide-and-seek partner is MOTHER. When DAUGHTER discovers where MOTHER is hiding, MOTHER tickles her and she giggles like a child. MOTHER exclaims how happy she is that DAUGHTER summoned her through the mirror. DAUGHTER hugs MOTHER tightly. MOTHER reassures DAUGHTER that nothing can ever come between them, in life or death.

#### **Scene Four MUSIC:**

*Aria sung by DAUGHTER “Laughing/Joyous” - we must be charmed*

*Theme comes from the “Mirror” motifs of koto, rolled chords, arpeggiated lines, active rhythms but transformed to emphasize Bb pentatonic.*

*Aria transforms to a Duet with the appearance of MOTHER*

*Aria sung by MOTHER*

*MOTHER overtakes duet with “Mother’s Love” theme to reassure their bond*

*“Ghost/Death” must contain hints of threat; choral tone clusters, felt drum rumbling.*

#### **Scene Five:**

FATHER, FEMALE FRIEND, and DAUGHTER sit down to a fraught dinner that FATHER is hosting. Also at the table, and seen only by DAUGHTER, is MOTHER. While FATHER and FEMALE FRIEND strain to make small talk, MOTHER criticizes FATHER. DAUGHTER repeats what MOTHER says and claims MOTHER is saying it. FATHER rebukes her. DAUGHTER accuses FATHER of wanting to replace MOTHER. FEMALE FRIEND excuses herself and leaves. DAUGHTER produces the mirror and challenges FATHER to look into it. He does, and is suddenly able to see MOTHER at the dinner table.

#### **Scene Five MUSIC:**

*“Living/Warmth” theme as the scene moves to the dinner table.*

*MOTHER appears - all tacit except bamboo flute - haunting and cold version of “Mother’s Love”*

*Quartet - FEMALE FRIEND/FATHER vs. MOTHER/DAUGHTER.*

*Linear counterpoint weaving “Living/Warmth” motifs with a cruel, warped version of “Laughing/Joyous.”*

*Build tension through subtle but ever increasing “Emotion Without Logic” elements;*

*Taiko Drums, wild contrasts, and Chorus of haunting vocal effects.*

*“Living/Warmth” disappears with exit of FEMALE FRIEND*

*“Ghost/Death” Theme returns as FATHER sees MOTHER*

*Choral vocal tone clusters - long, sustained, shifting colors in tandem with the Shakuhachi*

#### **Scene Six:**

MOTHER chastises FATHER over the presence of FEMALE FRIEND in FATHER’S life, along with his absence in DAUGHTER’S life. FATHER denies he’s done anything wrong and entreats MOTHER to leave them be. MOTHER declares she will take DAUGHTER into her own custody, back to [the afterlife](#), where DAUGHTER will remain. She departs the room, and locks FATHER inside.

#### **Scene Six MUSIC:**

*Aria sung by MOTHER as she “haunts” him*

*Moving between dark/light “Ghost/Death” Theme and warped “Mother’s Love” Theme*

*Recit/Aria sung by FATHER*

*Music shows influence of “Living/Warmth” Theme but is filled with tension*

*MOTHER retakes the scene with her aria*

*Increasing dissonance and tension with “Emotion w/o logic” influences*

### **Scene Seven:**

MOTHER and DAUGHTER pack for DAUGHTER’S journey to the afterlife. DAUGHTER wonders about the clothing she should bring, and MOTHER announces clothing won’t be important, because there is no weather there. Instead, DAUGHTER must bring as many pairs of walking shoes as she can, because the afterlife is infinite, and its denizens wander forever. DAUGHTER hesitates at this, but MOTHER paints a description of the great meal that begins everyone’s stay in the afterlife, and DAUGHTER joins in the reverie.

### **Scene Seven MUSIC:**

*Duet between MOTHER and DAUGHTER*

*Return of the “Laughing/joyous” Theme*

*LOVE the shoes!!! Focus on the shoes...*

*...wander forever - show DAUGHTER’s moment of hesitation - dissonance*

*MOTHER sings fantastical aria describing the meal*

*Filled with the “Mirror” motif; light, shimmer,*

*DAUGHTER joins aria to show her decision*

### **Scene Eight:**

FEMALE FRIEND visits the house and discovers the front door open, with the closets gutted. She hears FATHER’S banging and unlocks his door. FATHER presses FEMALE FRIEND to help him find DAUGHTER before she participates in her first meal in the afterlife, or she will not be able to return. FEMALE FRIEND, in compassion, resolves to help FATHER retrieve DAUGHTER.

### **Scene Eight MUSIC:**

*Open with “Emotion w/o Logic” motif; drums + choral colors painting frightening situation*

*Drum motif masks FATHER’s banging on the door.*

*Aria sung by FATHER*

*Heightened emotion; perhaps colored with a returning “Grief” motif indicating “grief to come” if unable to save his daughter.*

*Aria sung by FEMALE FRIEND*

*Return of “Living/Warmth” theme but in heightened tone -*

*She has a purpose and mission to help FATHER & DAUGHTER*

### **Scene Nine:**

MOTHER and DAUGHTER enter the afterlife. DAUGHTER is fearful of how vast and dark it is. There is a terrible keening sound, and DAUGHTER runs and hides behind MOTHER. MOTHER explains it is a DISCONTENTED SOUL. The DISCONTENTED SOUL stalks them, lamenting the circumstances of its life and death. MOTHER assures DAUGHTER she will eventually get used to this, as the afterlife is full of these.

### **Scene Nine MUSIC:**

*Musical world is filled with dark "Ghost/Death" colors;*

*Chorus tone clusters, haunting woodwinds, uneven, rumbling percussion*

*Aria sung by DISCONTENTED SOUL*

*Heightened vocal effects, ornamentation, keening, raw emotion "Grief" motif?*

*Aria sung by MOTHER*

*Dark mixture of "Mirror" and "Laughing" Theme*

*Surface displays nonchalance. Under colors show threat.*

### **Scene Ten:**

FATHER and FEMALE FRIEND arrive at an empty dining room where a long table holds a feast. A large, ornate mirror hangs above the table. At the opposite end of the room, MOTHER and DAUGHTER enter excitedly, with plates in hand. Upon seeing each other, FATHER begs DAUGHTER to come home.

MOTHER commands her to continue filling her plate. FEMALE FRIEND urges her to do what she truly wants. As tensions and volumes rise, a torn DAUGHTER looks at their chaotic reflection in the mirror, cries out, and flings her plate at it.

### **Scene Ten MUSIC:**

Scene opens with fantastical aria motifs from MOTHER's earlier aria

*Based on the "Mirror" motif; light, shimmer -*

*but with a dark undertone; Chorus "Ghost/Death" tone clusters*

*Trio - MOTHER, FATHER & DAUGHTER*

*Music should reflect the earlier conflict between FATHER and MOTHER (Scene Six)*

*DAUGHTER is torn, trying to appease both parents.*

*Aria by FEMALE FRIEND to DAUGHTER*

*Subtle but based on "Warmth/Living" themes*

*MOTHER & FATHER duet interrupt the aria*

*Return of "Emotion without logic" theme and parallel dramatic build as in Scene One.*

*(Taiko Drums - Chorus of vocal effects.)*

*Dramatic effect as DAUGHTER smashes mirror.*

### **Epilogue:**

DAUGHTER is at home again with FATHER. Together, they hum a lamentation and burn incense in front of the portrait of MOTHER. In the portrait, MOTHER wears a wedding kimono and holds the hand mirror; except now the mirror has a crack in it. FEMALE FRIEND joins them, and they raise their voices in honor of the solitary journeys both the living and the dead must undertake.

### **Epilogue MUSIC:**

FATHER & DAUGHTER Duet

Filled with “**Living/Warmth**” motifs

Duet transforms to Trio with the addition of FEMALE FRIEND

Transforms to Chorus to honor spirits - focused on **Mother’s Love**” theme.