The Doctor
opera in 1 act

Music: Martin Herman
Libretto: Tom Curley based on the
play adaptation of Chekhov's "The Doctor"
by Byungkoo Ahn

Resonant, spacious, suspended

Piano

Synthesizer

Electric Guitar

Percussion

Mother (soprano)

Boy (soprano)

Doctor (baritone)

'Cello

Electric Bass
The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

legato...

plaintive

With

mf

synth strings
I am nothing.

He is
The Doctor

my life, my being.
If he dies...
He is
The Doctor

my life, my being. If he dies...?
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

Vulgar, stupid, brain-less, and then.
The Doctor

Between past and future an impassable gulf. He was
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

The Doctor

born.  To the Found-ling hos-pi-tal?  Yes.  No fa-ther, a stu-pid mo-ther.
The Doctor

Yes. That's what I thought. No, I did not think.
What am I now?
With him a mother.
Without him, nothing.
The Doctor

Between past and future an impossible... impossible...
And if he dies, can I live?  live?

The Doctor
The Doctor

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

Pno.

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

Synth.

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

El. Gtr.

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

Perc.

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

Mother

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

Boy

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

Doctor

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

Vlc.

You are silent, but I do not despair? I do.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

I was no-thing then, no-thing. I am Mo-ther.
The Doctor

now. I can hope. Yes, hope for him, his life, his being.
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

bridge...
The Doctor

Why are you silent?

The Doctor

Must we despair?

No thing is certain, no thing.
The Doctor

Pno.  

\( \text{marimba} \)

\( p \)

\( \text{organ/strings} \)

\( f \)

\( \text{marcato} \)

\( \text{He has a tumor on the} \)

\( \text{Vlc.} \)

\( f \)

\( \text{El. Bass} \)
Such cases are always fatal.
The Doctor

Al - - ways?  Al - - ways?  No - thing is.  No,

pizz.
The Doctor

nothing is certain. nothing Why always? How?
The Doctor

He has a tumor on the brain. He has a brain.
The Doctor

tumor on the brain.
on the brain.
Such cases are always fatal.
The Doctor

Must we despair?  Nothing is certain, Nothing is.


piano/organ  perc organ

No. 36
The Doctor

No, always? Why always? How? always?

pizz.

The Doctor
The Doctor

He has a tumor on the brain.

Mother

no - thing is

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

arco

El. Bass
He has a tumor on the brain.
The Doctor

brain.

Such cases are always fatal.
The Doctor

[Music notation]

Must we despair?
No thing is certain,
No thing is.

The Doctor

Pno.
Synth.
El. Gtr.
Perc.
Mother
Boy
Doctor
Vlc.
El. Bass
Why always? How? Always?

No, Why always? How? Always?

The Doctor

The Doctor

Listen, Olga, spare me a moment's attention. I must ask...
Ne- ver mind, you can't li- sten now. I'll come back
The Doctor
The Doctor

G.P. (brief)

misterioso, resonant

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor
as an echo

Mi - sha, _______ does your head ache?

The Doctor
all day long, never complaints, never cries.

Mi-sha, Mi-sha, does your head ache?
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

harmonic-rich

Not a sound all day long,

Mi-sha, Mi-sha,
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Misha, Misha,

espr., cantabile

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor

I keep dreaming.

Misha, Misha,
What do you dream?

‘The Doctor’
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

plains,

Not a sound all day long,

I keep dreaming. I keep dreaming the same

What do you dream?
dream... the same... dream... It fills my head... it ne-ver stops.
The Doctor

Can nothing be done?

It hurts, always hurts.

Mi-sha,

What do you
The Doctor

Pno. 

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

I keep dreaming. I keep dreaming. It fills my dream?

What do you dream? Mi-sha...

done? Nothing is certain.

What do you dream? Mi-sha...
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

The Doctor

Ni-co-lai, you are a doc-tor,
sure-ly you can help him.

head it ne-ver stops. It hurts,

Ol-ga... Ol-ga...

Mi-sha...
My treasure, my life.
My hope, my hope.

hurts, always hurts.

O - l - g - a...
The Doctor

Please, please, please.

life.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

255

The Doctor

glock.

My

I keep dreaming

f
The Doctor

What do you dream?  Mi-sha...

My treasure, my hope,

dreaming
The Doctor

The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

"dream? Mi-sha... Mi-sha... What do you dream?"

"My treasure, my hope"

"life..."

"I keep dreaming"
Pno.  

Synth.  

El. Gtr.  

Perc.  

Mother  

Boy  

Doctor  

Vlc.  

El. Bass  

The Doctor
The Doctor

My treasure, my hope, my life.

My treasure, my hope, my life.

What do you dream?

Mother: life

Boy: keep dreaming.

Doctor: What do you dream?

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Synth.

El. Bass

Vlc.
The Doctor

My treasure, my life.

What do you dream? Mi-sha...

I keep dreaming.
My counting.

My dreaming.

My treasure, my hope, my life.

What do you dream?
My treasure, my hope, my

Mother

My

Perc.

My

The Doctor

Boy

Misha...

Doctor

What do you

Vlc.

El. Gtr.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

"life."
"My"
"glock."
"keep"
"dream?"
"Mi - sha..."
The Doctor

What do you dream? Mi-sha...

What do you dream?
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

sure, my life.

Boy

dream?

Doctor

dreaming.

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Treasure, my hope, my life.

What do you dream?
The Doctor

My treasure, my hope, my

My

meng.

ning.

What do you

light
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

life.

keep dreaming.

dream?

My

Misha...
What do you dream?

Mi - sha...
The Doctor

My treasure, my life.
The Doctor

My treasure, my
The Doctor

hope,  my  life.
Ghost Boy-Dreamscape, Interlude
Misterioso, sostenuto
distant

(smooth, mellow electric piano)

gentle, light

glock.

82 The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor

![Musical notation](image-url)

349

The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

strings

A dead

A dead

The Doctor
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

son is not a son. A treasure destroyed is

son is not a son. A treasure destroyed is
The Doctor
The Doctor
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

| a loss. | The im - pass-a - ble gulf |
| a loss. | A shad - dow, a |
The Doctor

be - tween life and death.

shadow of a shadow. a shadow.

409
The Doctor

No light, a gulf of darkness.

No shadow, No light,
The Doctor

No light, no shadow, a

No light, no
The Doctor

gulf of darkness. Loss,

shadow, a gulf of darkness.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

absence, Loss, no father,
The Doctor

no mother,
a
no mother,
no

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

gulf of darkness.
darkness.

Boy

Doctor

son. absence,
Loss,
shadow,

Vlc.

El. Bass
The Doctor

Better a Foundling Hospital

Better a Foundling Hospital
The Doctor

A child without a name.

Better that

A child without a name.

Bet-ter that
The Doctor

than love lost, in that gulf Im-pass-a-ble.

be-tween life and

Impassable. The unutterable

Nothing. Dark.
The Doctor

Always. Dark. (The utterable)

Al - ways. Dark. (The utterable)

The Doctor
The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .

Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass

The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .

The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .

The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .

The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .

The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .

The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .

The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .

The Doctor

poco a poco ritard . . .
I am nothing but a mother.
I was vulgar, stupid, brainless.

Between the present and the
You are in sorrow. I share it. Such sorrow makes falsehood.
cri-mi-nal. Do you still say the boy is my son?
Is the gulf so dark you do not know the truth?
For once in your life be

true. Is he my son?
dy-ing and still you lie. Two o-ther men ad-mit their fa-ther-hood of
120
He is, your son.

Ni-co-lai,

You wret-ched woman,

driving
you are still lying as you lied nine years ago.
Think you must lie or I will not give you money?
Think you must lie or I will not give you money? Your lying

Your lying
sticks in my throat.

sticks in my throat.

you are still
ly-ing as you lied nine years a-go.

Think you must lie or I will not
Think you must lie or I will not give you money?
Your lying sticks in my throat.
What have I said, Olga?
Darling, forgive me.
I was so hurt, I wanted to hurt you. I...
love you so, please, please, please,
tell me the truth. tell me the truth.
I forgive any unfaithfulness if I could only know the truth.
I could only know the truth. I am not.
Mi - sha is your son.
God, Olga, how could you? I have
your letter to Petrov.
I have your letter
You call him a father to Mi-sha.
Only the boy.

I have your letter to Petrov.

You
call him a father to Mishka.
How can I show you? It can
not be that I am father father father
It can show you?
Pno.

```
\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#

\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

Synth.

```
\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#

\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

El. Gtr.

```
\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#

\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

Perc.

```
\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

Mother

```
\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

Boy

```
\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

Doctor

```
\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

```
make her understand my grief.
My son
My son

\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

Vlc.

```
\# \# \# \#\n\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
\# \# \# \#
```

El. Bass
not die like this. I am not father not
father of the dead. She
must understand that, but how, but how,

Doctor
She must understand that, I am not father of the dead.
She must understand that, but how, how, how?

the boy.

I had

...
It can not be
only the

how? can I show you?
It can not be
that I am father of the dead.
It can not be that I am
on - - ly the boy.

Ne - - - ver, ne -

not make her un - der - stand my grief.
My son can not die like
Doctor

Never, never,

Vlc.

I am not father

El. Bass

Boy

this.

Mother

boy.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Synth.

Pno.
ever the hurt. Never, never,
of the dead. She must understand that,
lines emerging and dissolving in and out of each other...

only the boy.

Never, ever hur...
Pno.

Synth.

El. Gtr.

Perc.

Mother

Boy

Doctor

Vlc.

El. Bass