### Bethan Clark

# Last Night

SSAB a cappella chorus

Text: Aileen Wuornos & Nick Broomfield 8th October 2002, Florida State Prison Aileen Wuornos was executed by the State of Florida on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2002 for killing seven men while working as a prostitute. The murders happened within the space of one year and all the victims were shot at point-blank range. Wuornos claimed she acted in self-defence as a result of attempted or actual rape.

Her childhood was one of parental abandonment, drug abuse, sexual violence, prostitution, incest and unwanted pregnancy. Her adult life saw her homeless, married to a man 50 years her senior and being arrested for crimes involving alcohol, violence, armed robbery and finally multiple murders. Wuornos spent 10 years on death row.

In 1993, British documentary maker, Nick Broomfield, made 'Aileen Wuornos: The Selling of a Serial Killer' which highlighted the shoddy work of her legal team and her financial exploitation by those claiming to have her best interests at heart.

11 years later, Broomfield made a second documentary 'Aileen: The Life and Death of a Serial Killer', this time focusing on her declining mental state, and questioning the decision to execute her given that she was demonstrably of unsound mind. The documentary culminated in a final interview with Wuornos, the night before she was killed by lethal injection.

It was this interview that inspired 'Last Night', where the women represent Wuornos and the men, Broomfield. The text is taken directly from the interview with attention paid to speech rhythms, stumbles and noises off-camera (handcuffs, scraping chair). The principal chords and melodic motifs were shaped by the dates each victim died, together with the date of Aileen Wuornos' execution.

Bethan Clark November 2017

#### The percussion

The handcuffs should sound like heavy chain links. The chair should sound like an old metal chair being scraped across a hard (marble? concrete?) floor. The suggested rhythms for both parts are approximations.

#### The solo voices

Ideally the woman playing Wournos' role would have an American accent and the man playing Broomfield would have an English accent.

#### Suggested staging

Ideally the men would stand behind the audience 'off camera' and the women would be on stage.

#### About the films

Both full documentaries are available on Netflix.

The interview extract this text is taken from is available on YouTube - 'Aileen Wuornos - Interview the day before being executed'

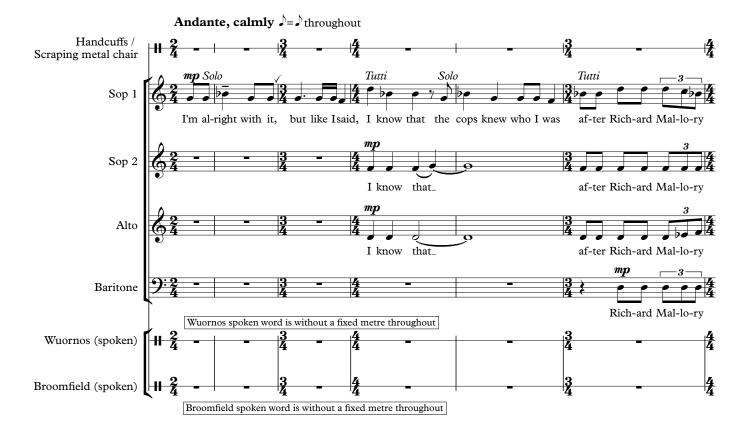
## For Tim Last Night

Aileen Wuornos / Nick Broomfield Bethan Clark

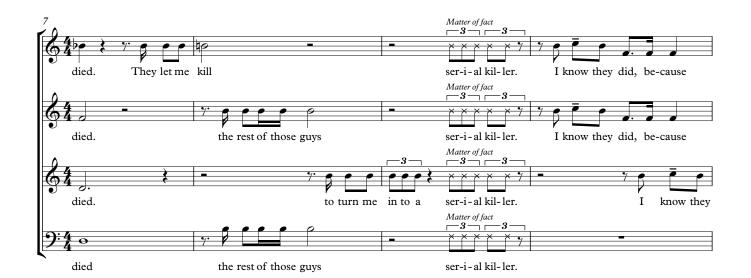
**Broomfield:** You know, I'm just wondering how you're gonna be [Women: \*manic grin\*] at 9.30 tomorrow morning. Are you... [Women: \*nod vigorously \*] prepared?

**Wuornos:** I'm prep... I'm alright, I'm alright with it [**Women**: \*manic grin\*]

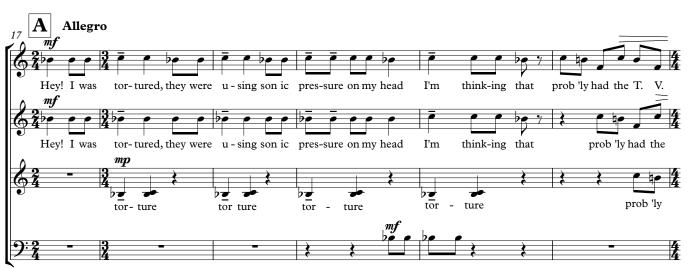
All Men: And how...?



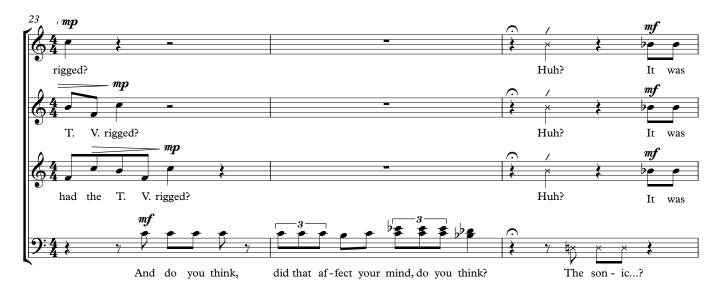




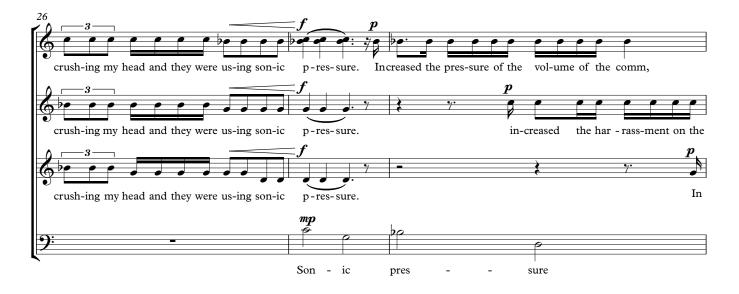


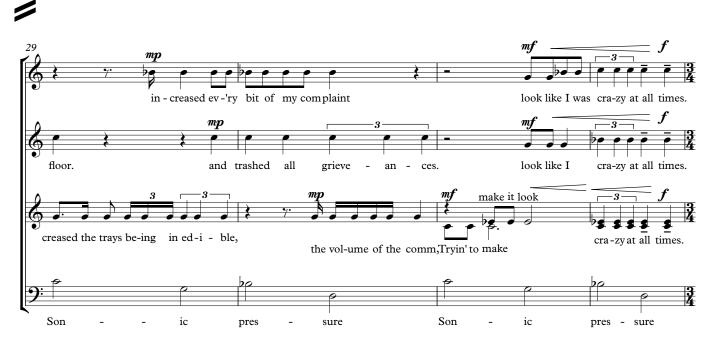


Son ic pres-sure?

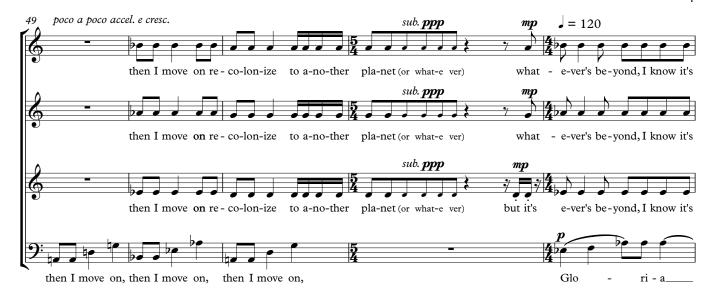




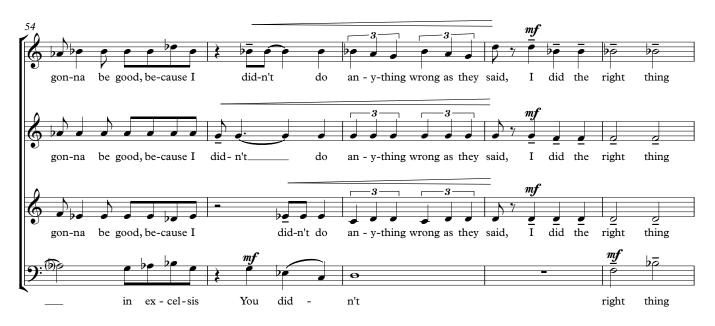




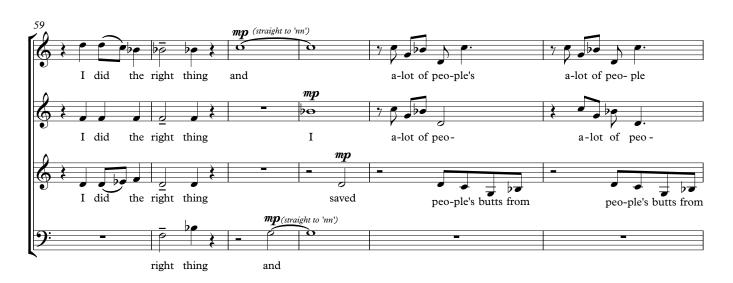


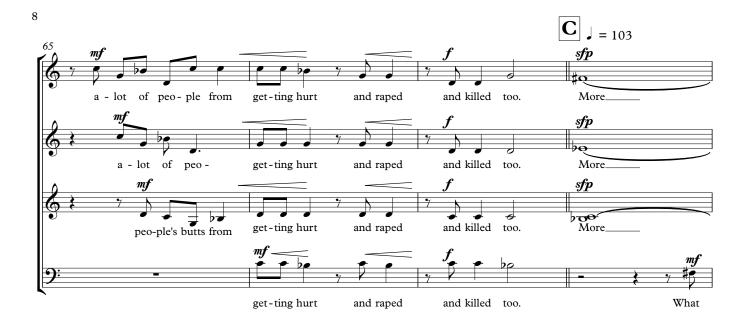




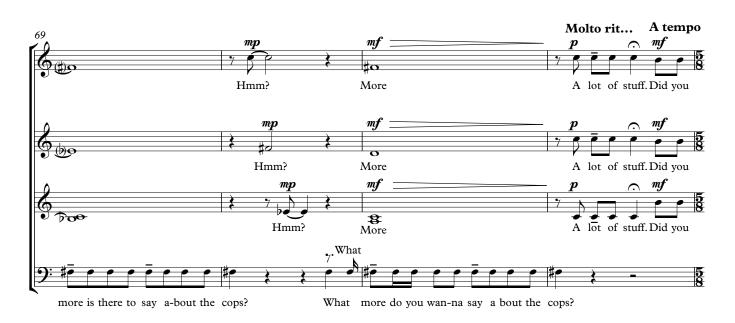




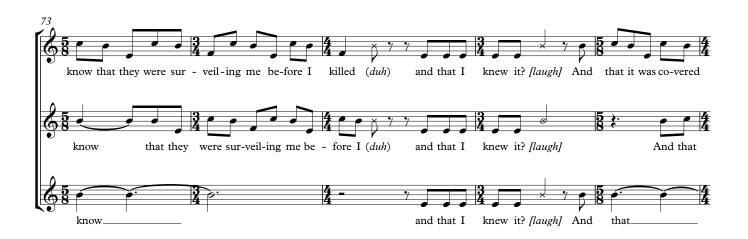


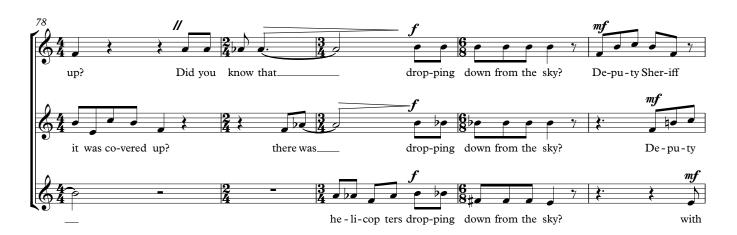




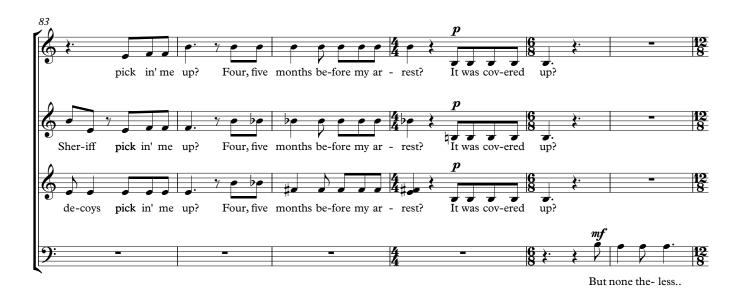




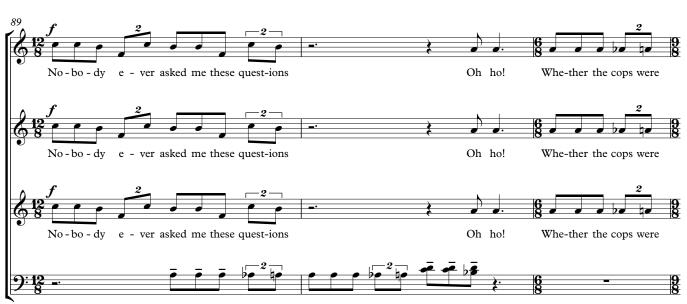




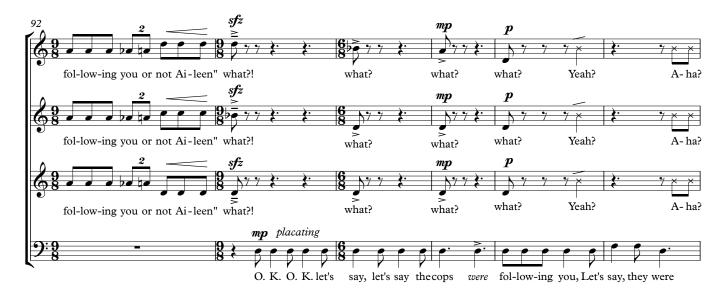




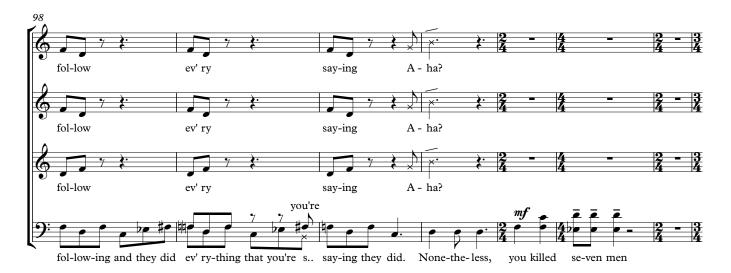




Whe-ther the cops were fol-low-ing you or not, Ai-leen











And I'm ask-ing you what got you to kill the se-ven men?



