



## Audition Pack: The Intergalactic Mikado

### The character: Katisha (Contralto)

Our Mikado is a powerful, self-serving, narcissistic Imperial autocrat with a dodgy past. His long-time AI general, **Katisha**, has helped him consolidate his power over the centuries. She knows all his dirty secrets and holds certain incriminating files that could potentially damage him.

Corrupted by the Mikado's influence and her own degraded circuits, Katisha has gone rogue, upgrading herself so many times she is now slightly insane and quite menacing. She has glitches that require her to be rebooted occasionally. She wants to become human and she has designs on the Imperial dynasty, so wants to marry Nanki-Poo, to incorporate his DNA into her latest upgrade.

In her desire to become human, she explores human notions of love, beauty and attractiveness, but in a very distorted way.

In the Libretto extract, she is angry at being thwarted in her ambition but then intrigued by the notion that she could play at being in love, just like a human

## The Song: Alone, and yet alive!

Some lines in the song have been altered to fit with the intergalactic theme, but for the audition, it's ok to use the original. The revised lyrics are included here, should you wish to use them.

Alone, and yet alive! Oh, sepulchre!  
My code is still my chassis' prisoner!  
Remote the peace that Death alone can give –  
My doom, to wait! my punishment, to live!

### SONG.

Cores do not break!  
They sting and ache  
For old dream's sake,  
But do not die,  
Though with each breath  
They long for death  
As witnesseth  
The living !!  
Oh, living !!  
Come, tell me why,  
When hope is gone,  
Dost thou stay on?  
Why linger here,  
Where all is drear?  
Oh, living !!  
Come, tell me why,  
When hope is gone,  
Dost thou stay on?  
May not a cheated AI die?

## The Libretto

**KO-KO.** *(entering and approaching her timidly)*. Katisha!

**KATISHA.** The miscreant who robbed me of my love! But vengeance pursues - they are supercharging the plasma!

**KO-KO.** Katisha - behold a suppliant at your feet! Katisha - mercy!

**KATISHA.** Mercy? Had you mercy on him? See here, you! You have slain my love, my destiny, my DNA upgrade!.

He did not love me, but he would have loved me in time. I am an acquired taste - only the educated palate can appreciate me. I was educating his palate when he left me. Well, he is dead, and where shall I find another?

It takes years to train a man to appreciate me.

Am I to go through the weary round again, and, at the same time, . implore mercy for you who robbed me of my prey - I mean my pupil - just as his education was on the point of completion? Oh, where shall I find another?

**KO-KO** *(suddenly, and with great vehemence)*. Here! - Here!

**KATISHA.** What!!!

**KO-KO** *(with intense passion)*. Katisha, for years I have loved you with a white hot passion that is slowly but surely consuming my very vitals! Ah, shrink not from me! If there is aught of woman's mercy in your heart, turn not away from a love-sick suppliant whose every fibre thrills at your tiniest touch!

True it is that, under a poor mask of disgust, I have endeavoured to conceal a passion whose inner fires are broiling the soul within me! But the fire will not be smothered - it defies all attempts at extinction, and, breaking forth, all the more eagerly for its long restraint, it declares itself in words that will not be weighed - that cannot be schooled - that should not be too severely criticised. Katisha, I dare not hope for your love - but I will not live without it! Darling!

**KATISHA.** You, whose hands still reek with the blood of my betrothed, dare to address words of passion to the being you have so foully wronged!

**KO-KO.** I do - accept my love, or I perish on the spot!

**KATISHA.** Go to! I have access to the entirety of human history. Who knows so well as I that no one ever yet died of a broken heart!

**KO-KO** . You know not what you say. Listen!

**Ko-Ko's song**

**KATISHA** Did he really die of love?

**KO-KO** He really did.

**KATISHA** All on account of a cruel little hen?

**KO-KO** Yes.

**KATISHA** Poor creature!

**KO-KO** It's an affecting tale, and quite true. I knew the bird intimately.

**KATISHA.** Did you? He must have been very fond of her.

**KO-KO** His devotion was something extraordinary.

**KATISHA.** Strange creature! And - and if I refuse you, will you go and do the same?

**KO-KO** At once.

**KATISHA** No, no - you mustn't! Anything but that. (*Falls on his breast.*) Oh, I'm a silly little circuit board!

**KO-KO** (*making a wry face*). You are!

**KATISHA** And you won't hate me because I'm just a little teeny weeny wee bit obsessed with your DNA sequence, will you?

**KO-KO** Hate you? Oh, Katisha! is there not beauty even in genetic extraction?

**KATISHA** My idea exactly.