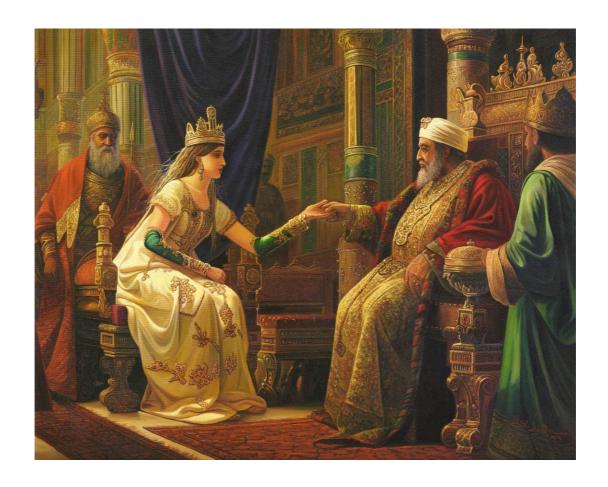
# The Story of Sterre

Based on the biblical story of Queen Esther



Text: Shon Kranen

Music: Mathieu Daniël Polak

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### The story of Sterre

#### Introduction

"The story of Sterre" takes place in earlier times, in the distant past!

### Party at the palace

What do I hear there? What do I hear there? The bells for all of King Grande's servants are ringing everywhere! All seventy-seven servants walked hastily up and down the grand palace. And look! There the tables are set with richly embroidered tablecloths and there are set up the golden bowls with fresh grapes, watermelons, dates and figs!

A lot of hard work has been done on the preparations for a great party, a fantastic party, a .... An insanely cool party! Not a slumber party or just a dance party, but a week-long party for all the king's important, posh friends: for the ministers, the generals of the army and all the distinguished families from all over the country. And then a party for everyone, the inhabitants of King Grande's land, which will also last a week.

Of course, everyone who throws a party does something special for the day, you will too, right? With decorations, good food and drinks and beautiful music of course. And yes, that's what King Grande wanted, only ...... He thought he was so great that he wanted to show that only him could throw a party as great, big and fantastic as he did. For HE (!) is the king of empire of Persia and Media. An empire that in earlier times was larger than Spain, France and Germany combined!

So, the square in the palace garden was decorated with beautiful blue and white cloths of the most expensive linen, which were tied to white columns with white and red cords and with silver rings. The floor was made of the most beautiful colored stones, which were laid one by one. The precious drinks were brought by the servants in gold and silver cups. And on one side of the palace square sat the best musicians in the country playing dance music. Can you imagine this?

#### **Queen Sahar**

Now you should know that at that time in Persia and Media it was customary for all women to have their own feast at the same time as the feast of King Grande. After all, his party in the palace, I forgot to tell you, was only for men.

So, on the other side of the garden wall, Queen Sahar danced with her guests. They had a lot of fun and didn't mind at all that they didn't have to come to the king's stiff party. They feasted on the cakes and the fruit ice cream and danced and danced.

By the end of the feast in the palace garden and that of the inhabitants of King Grande's land, many guests but especially the king had drunk a little too much.

He called a servant and said, "Get my wife Sahar, because I want everyone to see that I have the most beautiful wife in the country!" But when the servant came to Queen Sahar, she replied that she would not come under any circumstances. She didn't want to be exhibited as some kind of doll, especially if her husband had drunk too much. With this answer, the servant went to the king. King Grande was immediately completely taken aback, and he shouted: "The party is over!" At this, all the guests hurriedly walked to the exit, not understanding what was going on. What a strange sight that was! All those guests who walked home through the gates with their best clothes but with an angry, sad or disappointed face!

King Grande wasn't used to thinking for himself, so he didn't know what to do next. That's why he called his seven ministers together to talk about it. No sooner had the ministers sat in their seats than the king cried out in despair: "What shall I do now? I called my wife, but she didn't come!" "Well," said one of the ministers, "I don't know that either, but what I do know is what is written about this in our sacred book of laws."

"I have already read what is written in the law book," said Kram Ettur, the chief minister with a false look on his face. "And?" asked the king curiously. "If a queen doesn't listen to the king of our country," lisped Minister Kram Ettur, then ... yes then... may she no longer be queen and ... and... and... she must be banished to a distant and foreign land!" Then he looked around with narrowed eyes to see what effect his words would have. "Does she really have to go to another country?" said King Grande, startled. Because he couldn't do without her, without Queen Sahar, because she had always made the wisest decisions.

Secretly, Kram Ettur had changed the text of the sacred code of law, because at first it did not say that the queen should be banished. He just wanted to have more power and influence over the king. So, he said, "Yes, Queen Sahar should be banished. We can't just change our sacred code of law. We must set an example: all the women of the country will now be afraid and will listen to their husbands and obey them!" The other ministers murmured slavishly and approvingly. And the king? He didn't dare to say anything now, because he had asked his ministers for help. Throughout the country, large placards announced what had been decided. Queen Sahar taken to an island, very far away. Fortunately, two friends were allowed to come with her.

#### The new queen

But now the king had no wife. He hated it and secretly cried every night, because he was so insecure and so very alone.

Fortunately for him, the sacred code of law - and it was true and not changed by Kram Ettur - stated that a king was obliged to have a wife. So a plan was drawn up by the ministers to find a new wife for the king. And how do you think they handled that in Persia and Media at the time? Listen to you! They sent announcers with groups of musicians into the country. They had to go to all the village squares and town squares. And that's where the big news was announced with great fanfare:

"All young women who do not yet have a husband must report to King Grande's palace. They have the special privilege of being chosen as the new queen of Persia and Media!" The announcers repeated this in different languages, because you must know that there were several peoples living in the land, all of whom spoke a different language.

And so there was also an announcer in Merhan, a small town in the west of the great empire. Many Firmamentians lived there, a people who long ago were forced to live and work there for King Grande, who at the time needed many people to build palaces and city walls. Due to the inhumane hard work, they often died far too young due to illness and exhaustion. So did Iris' parents. Fortunately, she had a strong, wise and loving uncle named Jaron, who took great care of her and taught her many important life lessons. When people looked into her eyes, they often said, "I see lights like stars in her eyes!" Now she did indeed have very beautiful, dark eyes in which, at the slightest light, glowing dots were reflected, which shone as if they were stars. That is why she was called Sterre at an early age.

Just as Uncle Jaron and Sterre were about to go home from the market, they heard the voice of the King's announcer echoing across the square. They immediately understood what this meant for Sterre, who could now become one of the candidates for the title: Queen of Persia and Media. After all, she had become a young woman. And so, not much later, Sterre moved to the special women's quarters of the king's palace. And Uncle Jaron? Fortunately, he found work close to the palace, so that he could keep an eye on things in this way. And that wasn't easy. Because in the women's quarters of the palace where all 117 women lived temporarily, a lot of things happened that he didn't get to see or hear. What do you think, could it be very cozy in a place where 117 women all wanted to be the smartest, wisest and most beautiful? They all wanted to be queen, of course? Well, you know, some of them were nice to each other, but there was also a lot of jealousy. And oh yes, what a difficult feeling that is. Everyone is jealous sometimes. Because don't you sometimes want to have something that you don't wish for someone else? Or do you not want to be able to do something that someone else can do? In any case, jealousy is something that makes people less beautiful on the inside. Maybe even from the outside. You'll be shocked by your reflection if you're jealous!

There were four women, who were very jealous and who were increasingly mean to Sterre. Why? They didn't really know that either! Maybe it was because Sterre said too many things that were way too sensible. Probably because of Uncle Jaron's wise life lessons! Or was it because she was Firmamentic because of it? Or because they saw that Sterre really had very special eyes? She herself had no idea.

For example, they often hid a shoe or a piece of Ster's clothing, so that she was always forced to search. Or they would say ugly things to her when Hegai, everyone's babysitter and foster mother, couldn't hear it. Like, "You'll never be able to be queen with your ugly hair!". Sterre was in despair, what to do now? She couldn't report it to Hegai because he was only busy with educating the women and the beauty treatments.

Sterre remembered what Uncle Jaron had said when there was something urgent. "Write a note if it is really necessary and put it in the hollow of the olive tree to the left of the entrance to the palace garden". Now was the time to do that! She wrote a note to get Jaron's good advice and, in the evening, she crept out of the sleeping quarters through the kitchen to the palace garden. Her heart was pounding painfully in her body, she found it so exciting. Barefoot, she rushed across the prickly grass to the olive tree and put the note in the hollow of the olive tree.

The next day, Uncle Jaron saw, as he did every day, if there was any tree mail. And now Sterre's note was in the tree cavity! He took the note home, read it, and thought deeply. Then he smiled and wrote his advice on the paper and brought it to the hollow of the olive tree. When Sterre unfolded Jaron's letter, she read in the moonlight: "Whenever someone says something ugly to you, say: Oh, how interesting!". Because if you say that, the bullies will get confused and then you won't be bothered by those nasty words anymore. And to her delight, it worked every time! The bullies became increasingly confused by this and Sterre almost immediately forgot what they had said. Maybe the bullies noticed that the ugliness was in themselves, who knows?

In the women's quarters, all the young women received all kinds of beauty treatments, had to study a whole series of books and learned all kinds of mannerisms that were important in a palace at that time. Like, when you drink tea, your pinky finger should raise a little.

After seven weeks, all the women had visited King Grande one by one to make his acquaintance and to dine with him. For in this way the king could see if there was anyone among them who was so wise and beautiful that she could become queen. Because do you remember that he is always so insecure? And that's why he really wanted to have a confident woman next to him. Well, you've probably figured it out already. When it was Sterre's turn and he had been with him, the ceremony was quickly decided. Because of her uncle's life lessons, so that as you know even the bullies did not have a hold on her and of course because of her eyes as stars, the king was soon completely convinced of all the beautiful qualities of Sterre. Indeed... He was totally caught off guard! His heart was pounding, and a slight glee came over him, a merriment like a warm gust of wind on one cheek.

Not long after their first meeting, King Grande and Sterre were married. Sterre gave him a lot of joy and not only him, but the whole country enjoyed it. For the new queen, mercy is paramount, so that you take care of each other when necessary, and justice is self-evident. All people felt much safer at school, on the streets and basically everywhere because everything became fairer and everyone helped each other.

One day, Uncle Jaron overheard a conversation that two soldiers were having at the entrance gate of the palace. They were angry with the king because they felt they were earning too little. And they even wanted to assassinate the king! When Uncle Jaron heard this, he rushed to Sterre to tell her so that she could warn the king. But... Jaron was not allowed in because you had to apply first to be allowed to have an audience with King Grande. So, he wrote another tree mail letter and put it in the hollow of the olive tree. After Sterre had read the letter to the tree, she announced its contents to the king, who reacted immediately and had the soldiers arrested and imprisoned. The attempt on his life has been ennobled in this way by the ever-observant uncle Jaron.

#### **Minister Kram Ettur**

Do you remember Minister Kram, Kram Ettur? The minister who wanted power and influence and had secretly changed the sacred code of law to banish the previous queen to an island? Well guess what; Would he be happy that he was asked almost nothing because Queen Sterre makes almost all the decisions? And yes, even without his advice! So, he was white-hot and "not amused", so to speak. His already grim mood came to a head when he walked across the town square in his ministerial clothes and there was an older man there who did NOT bow to him! "Why don't you bow to me, old man?" shouted he to the man. We Firmamentians bow only to the infinitely large firmament, which you see when you look upward, where there is the sun, the moon, and thousands of stars, where the inconceivable secret of the origin of everything is to be found." Minister Kram only half understood. And because he didn't like things he didn't understand, he called the guards and said, "Arrest that man and take him to the dungeons!" Dw husband was Uncle Jaron! Not much later, for it was indeed he who had not bowed to Kram, who was imprisoned in the palace prison.

And what did Minister Kram do? He strode with a steady step to the crown room of the palace and knocked on the door. When he arrived at the king's house, he said with a lot of noise: "Dear Highness, today I have managed to avoid many problems". King Grande frowned and looked at Kram questioningly. Kram went on to say:

"Well, your highness," continued Kram, "I have succeeded in arresting a dangerous man who belongs to the Firmamentians. He refused to bow to me. I am the most important minister of your kingdom! He said that none of his people would do that because they worship something that ....."

And then his story stopped for a moment because he couldn't retell what Uncle Jaron had said very well.

"And um, yes eh ... they worship the blue sky or something, at least not You or any authority!". " Is that a problem?" asked the King Grande, surprised. "I've never noticed anything about it. " It's really a terrible problem!", replied Kram: "Because people who don't worship us and don't bow down to us will one day does not listen to us at all, and then a civil war will break out that will destroy our people, our empire!" The king could not imagine it, but as the minister spoke in a very vehement tone, he thought he must decide something. So, he said: 'Get all the ministers together and I'll hear what your proposal is'. No sooner said than done, Kram. In no time, all the ministers were in the meeting room and heard Kram's story. As is so often the case, they all got very tired of Kram, because he never gave up and kept on dragging on until he got his way, and his proposal was approved.

And do you know what his proposal was!? It meant that Firmamentians were no longer allowed to eat fruit or vegetables!? When the king heard this, he asked: "What kind of strange punishment is this, what do you want to achieve with this!?". "Your Highness," Kram began, "If we make sure that those nasty Firmamentians are no longer allowed to eat fruit and vegetables, they will slowly weaken, because they will only be able to eat fatty or unhealthy things. No more vitamins, proteins or minerals and then they become weak and sick!" He looked utterly triumphant. "But you can never control that," said the king: "Yes," resumed the shrewd Kram, "we will put soldiers on guard at the marketplace, for there you can buy everything. And so we can arrest all the Firmamentians who want to buy fruit or vegetables."

King Grande's could not ask his always wise wife Sterre for advice, because she was traveling through the country. So... he had to approve the plan, because he could not find any objections himself. And so Kram's nasty plan was adopted and carried out. Everywhere, in all villages and towns, placards were put up saying: "It is strictly forbidden to buy or eat fruit and vegetables for all Firmamentians." Soldiers stood at every market throughout the country to check whether this was being observed.

You can probably imagine how surprised and dismayed all the Firmamentians and many other people were when they heard of this prohibition. The market people were angry, of course, because they suddenly sold much less fruit and vegetables. Everyone who had a sense of justice, firmamenian or not, was angry or sad.

Long lamentations were sung, so loud that Uncle Jaron could hear them in his cell! He asked the guard why they were singing like that. When he told him, he understood why he had not received any fruit or vegetables in the last few days. And... He then thought for a long time ...

#### Sterre

In the meantime, Sterre had returned from her trip across the country. Her journey was for it because she wanted to see with her own eyes what the inhabitants of the kingdom needed most and where she could offer help where needed. She found her husband, the king, in his throne room with a dejected face.

"What's the matter, my dear man?" asked Sterre. "I've been sleeping so badly lately," sighed the king, "And I... I... don't know why". "Did you miss me so much?" asked Sterre mischievously. "Yes, that too, but that's not all." "Then something must have happened that I don't know because I know you better than anyone". If only I knew what," he sighed. "

"You know," said Sterre, "Let's take a look at the yearbooks together," said the clever Sterre, "because that's where everything that happened is." Then they read through what had happened in the last few months.

"What did my uncle Jaron get when he warned you that those two men were trying to kill you?" asked Sterre, when she read what her uncle had done at the time, which spared the king's life. Do you remember that? Those two men were dissatisfied with their wages and what they were up to?

Have you ever seen someone turn red with embarrassment or embarrassment? Well, I can tell you, the king turned redder than the reddest tomato when Sterre asked him to. Sterre looked straight at him and of course asked what was wrong. The king stammered, "Um... Eh... he... Eh... didn't get anything at all and... and...". "And what's the matter, what do you mean by your - none-?", Sterre said, looking at him sternly. He's in jail now because..." And he now realized very well why he had slept so badly. Would you be able to sleep well if you knew you had done something stupid? Well, I don't!

Everyone would have been furious if he or she knew that his or her favorite uncle was innocently locked up in a shabby cell. Right!? But not Sterre! She closed her eyes. From her uncle she had learned what was perhaps the most important lesson in life: "Change what you can change, accept what you can't change and try to learn to tell the difference between the two".

She listened and found out what Kram had done. And heard of the absurd measure that the Firmamentians were no longer allowed to eat fruit and vegetables. To King Grande's surprise, she smiled and the stars in her eyes were bigger than ever.

"My dear Grande," said Sterre. "Yes?" said Grande. "Would you like to ask the cook and the footmen for something?" "Of course, my dear wife," replied the king. "Well, do you mean to tell them that I can't eat fruit and vegetables anymore?"

. . . . . . (Here's a big silence).

Can you imagine the face the king made at that time!? He alternately turned white, red, and ashgray, and then stammered, "Sterre... you... you... are... so... also... also Firmamentic!?"
"Certainly", replied Sterre, "And you're only now wondering about that!". She laughed out loud because her own husband had only now realized that he had made sure that his own wife was no longer allowed to eat healthy food by listening to his own minister, Kram! Then she whispered in his ear the plan she had come up with. Now the king smiled too!

Not long after, Minister Kram received an invitation from the king: "Dear Kram, would you like to come and have dinner with your wife tonight? We're going to celebrate GRATITUDE."

A delicious dinner was prepared for this occasion. And then the time had come for the doorbell to ring and there they were in their best clothes, Minister Kram and his wife. For Kram, although astonished at the "celebration of gratitude," he was greatly honored that only he and his wife had the honor of being invited.

Star and King Grande welcomed them with all due respect, and after they had eaten the first course of their meal, the king asked Kram: "Dear Kram. How would you thank someone who is very important to you and who saved your life? Because I want to thank someone on the day of gratitude." Sterre and the king looked at Kram expectantly. Because maybe you already know what Sterre's plan was!

Kram frowned, and in his immeasurable self-importance thought that the king wanted to thank him, and then said, "I would let him ride through the city on your most beautiful horse with a splendid cloak and a crown, I would let him be king for one day, and when he passed, I would be so loud that everyone can hear it, shouting that this is the one who wants to thank you, while the most beautiful bugles would sound across the square!"

Satisfied with himself, he looked at Star and the king. Both smiled mysteriously! Then the king said, "You have spoken beautifully, Kram, excellent, and I am going to do exactly what you told us!" He called the guard and said, "Go to prison, take the Firmamentian, Uncle Jaron, out of his cell, and bring him here, for I want to thank him personally!"

Can you imagine how Kram's face changed? Let's see it for you. Exactly so! From an affable, happy face, it changed to a face of a downtrodden earwig with big bulbous eyes!

Meanwhile, the guard descended the stairs to Uncle Jaron's cell. There he heard a beautiful song resounding in the subterranean prison. A beautiful, cheerful and cheerful song. Uncle Jaron sang! When the song was sung, the astonished guard asked:

"How is it possible that you sing a joyful song while you are locked up here in this dark prison!?". "I heard that today is a celebration of gratitude, which made me think about my whole life. And you know, my dear wife and many friends are no longer alive, I have been hungry and often had to work way too hard and now the Firmamentians no longer get fruit and vegetables. Really horrible. But then I thought about all the things I was grateful for; For the cheerfulness, love, friendship, the beautiful nature with its beauty, the music that can express everything, creation and so much more. And then my heart filled with joy!"

"Perhaps you will be even happier now," said the guard, "for I have come here to tell you that you may come to the king and queen, who are going to bring you good news." A little later, Uncle Jaron entered the dining room of the palace, where the King Grande greeted him kindly and his radiant niece Star embraced him closely.

The next day, Uncle Jaron rode the most beautiful horse in the country through the square of the palace. He wore a shining silk cloak stitched with gold thread, and on his head he wore a gold crown inlaid with 17 diamonds. The king shouted as loud as he could, so that everyone could hear: "This is the man to whom I am most grateful, and who will rule the country with me for one day tomorrow!"

The people clapped and shouted, for they all appreciated the wise Uncle Jaron. Only the Firmamentians could no longer cheer so loudly, weakened as they were by lack of vitamins, because they were not allowed to eat fruit and vegetables for a while.

The next day, Jaron, Sterre and the king sat together at the conference table.

"Dear lord Jaron," said the king, "today is the day that you may join the government." "Dear king and queen," Uncle Jaron began, "Would you like to do something about the fact that a large part of the population is weakened and unhappy?"

"Um... Eh... yes... Of course!" stuttered the king, who was getting nervous. Do you remember that King Grande found it difficult to rule and that he always asked advice from Sterre or his ministers? "Well," continued Uncle Jaron, "by the decree of the Firmamentians not to eat fruit and vegetables for a long time, they are greatly weakened, including your wife and I!" "What ... what!" King Grande exclaimed, bewildered. He looked at Sterre, and only now saw that

"What ... what!" King Grande exclaimed, bewildered. He looked at Sterre, and only now saw that she had lost weight.

"Sterre, my dear, are you also a Firmamentian!? I was never aware of that!" "So, the people of the one I love the most, whom I love the most, and whom I am most grateful for, are weakened and starved by that terrible plan of Kram, which I stupidly approved at the time!?"

"Grandie", said Sterre, "Everyone makes mistakes and if you can rectify them or at least acknowledge them, then you do what you have to do". The king breathed a sigh of relief and looked at Uncle Jaron because he wasn't quite sure what was expected of him. Uncle Jaron smiled because he understood that it was his turn. He said: "First of all, we have to make sure that everyone in the country can eat healthy". "Oh yes, of course!" cried the king, "I was just thinking of that too!"

"And secondly," Sterre continued, "should the people who did not give my people and others fresh fruit or vegetables be given a just punishment?"

"So... yes...", Grande hesitated uncertainly, "And ... Eh... Oh yes! That Kram, that bastard, that bully, yes, I'll have him locked up right away! And ... Is there anything else? Third or something?" "Maybe we could do something nice so that everyone feels like they belong and let them know that everyone is important to the country and feels welcome!" said Uncle Jaron. "I already know!" cried the king triumphantly, for now they were coming to the territory in which he was good. "We're throwing a fantastic party for everyone, not two parties like in the old days, but one sevenday party for everyone!"

So that is what happened, as had just been decided. In all the villages and towns of the kingdom, there was a celebration on the squares with plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables and many more goodies.

A party for everyone, while all over the country there was cheerful music and dancing.

The music also penetrated the subterranean cell, where Uncle Jaron used to be imprisoned. But now Kram's bewildered face was just visible between the bars.

## 00. Prelude

Prelude en/of interlude. Kan ook als achtergrondmuziek gelden

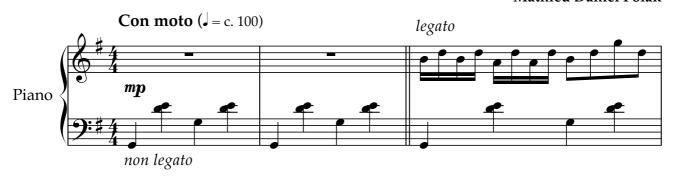
Sterre project



## 01. Belletjes

Sterre project

Twinkelende, blije muziek

















### 02. Dansen in het Paleis

Sterre project

Vrolijke dansmuziek





De dans van koningin Sahar



## 04. De dans loopt vast

Sterre project

Vrolijke dansmuziek

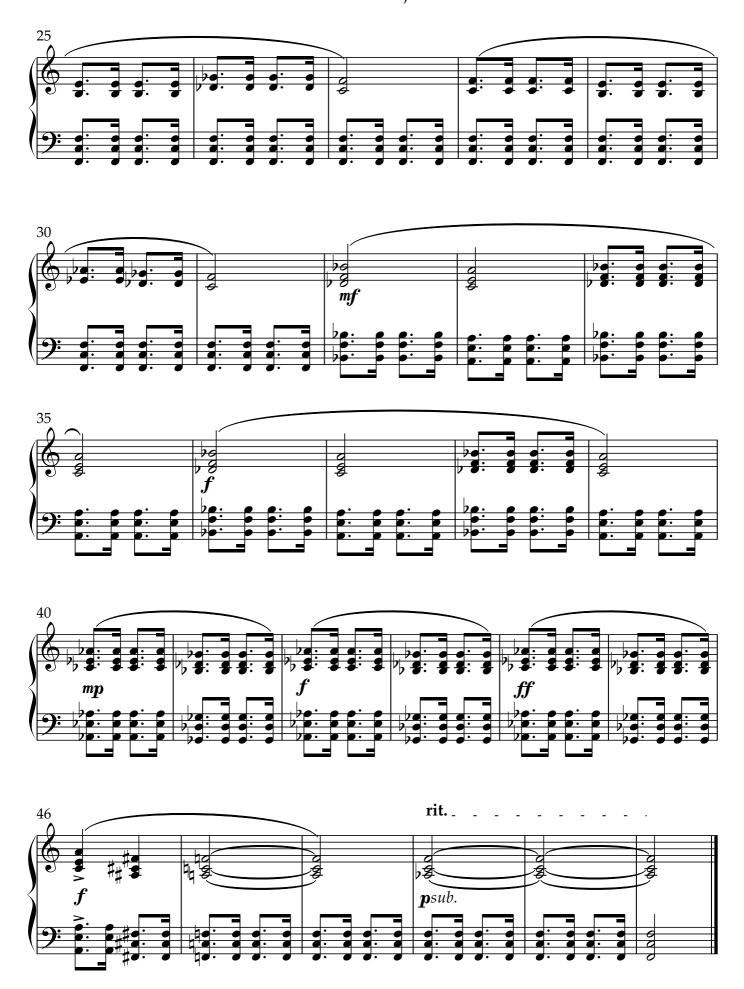


## 05. Etturtje

duister figuur

Sterre project Mathieu Daniël Polak





## 06. De koning is droevig

Piano

Sterre project



## 07. Aankondiging

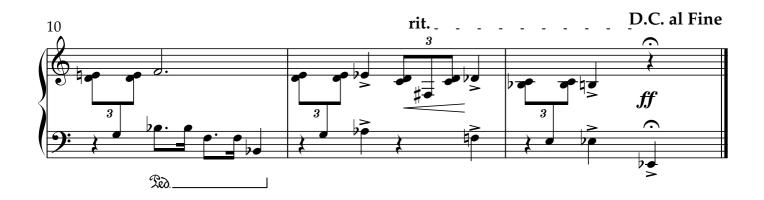
Signaalmuziek

Sterre project Mathieu Daniël Polak









## 08. Meisje Sterre

Krachtig en mysterieus

Sterre project













## Kinderliedje Sterre

De verteller zingt, zing je mee?

Sterre project



### 09. De Kameel

Sterre project

Hobbelig



## 10. Jaloers

Piano Sterre project Mathieu Daniël Polak 

2 Jaloer



## 11. Ludiek

Speels





## 12. De koning is verliefd

Piano



# **Omslagblad**

### 13. Drama

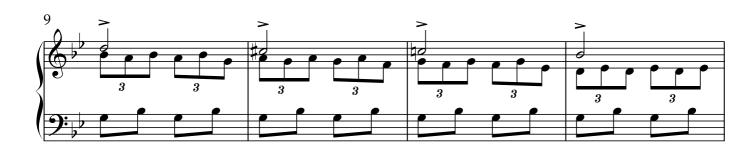
Licht dramatisch muziekstuk

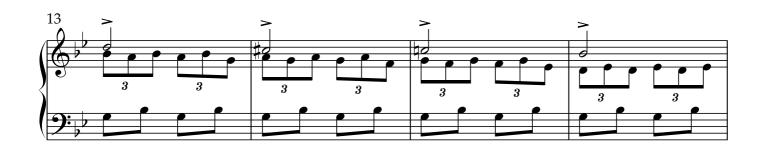
Sterre project

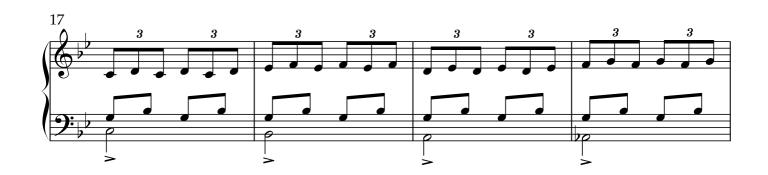
Mathieu Daniël Polak











2 13. Drama



### 14. Etturbak

duister figuur

Sterre project Mathieu Daniël Polak



## 15. Klaaglied

Sterre project

lamento



## 16. Sterre jonge vrouw

Piano

Sterre project Mathieu Daniël Polak





## 17. Vrolijk

Ludiek muziekje

Sterre project Mathieu Daniël Polak



2 17. Vrolijk



#### 18. Triomf

Triomfantelijke mars



2 18. Triomf

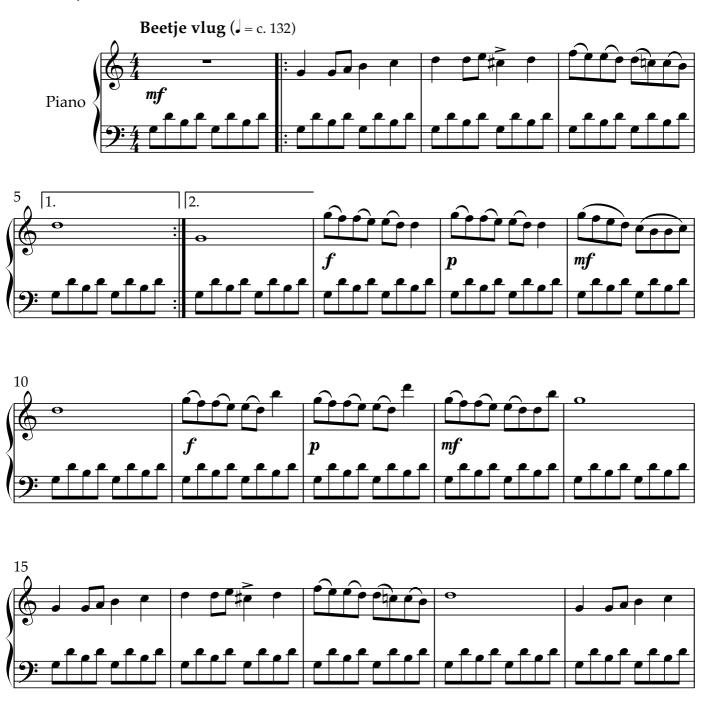


# **Omslagblad**

### 19. Mooi lied A

Piano

Sterre Project Mathieu Daniël Polak





## 19. Mooi lied B

Piano





#### 19. Mooi lied C

Sterre project

Piano

Mathieu Daniël Polak



2 Unfinished



#### 20. Sterre Grand Valse

Piano





