

COCAINE LIL

Anonymous American folk poem

Nancy Van de Vate

The stage or performance area is rather small, and there is a backless bench to one side. The soprano walks slowly and carelessly to center stage. She wears a bright red dress which hangs unevenly, its V-neck carelessly draped. She is sloppy and looks dissolute. She begins to sing in a husky ("torchy") voice, not looking directly at the audience. The lights are dim.

Slowly and freely

mf

Sop. Did you ev - er hear a - bout-----Co -caine Lil?---

J.S. 1-4

Fast ♩ = 132

Sop. ---

Two actors step out from each side, standing behind the soprano and just inside the stage area. Their chanting should be very jazzy, with fingersnapping, tongue-clicking and hand-slapping. It should be done

mf

J.S. 1-4

Chee chu chu chu chee chu chee chee chu - - chu - - - chu - - -

Sop. polyphonically, as well as in unison. Both vocalized and unvocalized sounds should be used, with many "chee's" and "chu's." Other syllables may also be used.

J.S. 1-4

chu - - chu - - CONTINUE FOR ONE TO TWO MINUTES.

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4 *Fast* ♩ = c. 88
P — *mf* snap fingers

Sop. She lived in Co-caine Town on Co-caine hill, She had a Co -

J.S. 1-4

Sop. caine dog and a co-caine cat, They fought all night-----

J.S. 1-4

Sop. with the co-caine rat.

1, 2 *mp* *P*
 Ja ja ja ja ja ja ja ja Hu ja ja ja hu ja - ja - - -

3, 4 *mp* *P*
 Ja ja ja jee ja ja - hu - hu ja ja ja hu ja ja jee ja - -

gliss.

Sop.

1, 2 *c. 15"* *p ↔ f* *1-2 min.*
 Continue with random, polyphonic chanting,
 very rhythmic, with cross-accents.
 Add an occasional meow and bark. Move
 back and forth between vocalized and

3, 4 *p ↔ f* unvocalized sounds.