

THE *Lotte Lenya* COMPETITION SONGBOOK

“Comin’ Home” from *Beau: the Musical*

Music by Ethan D. Pakchar and Douglas Lyons, Lyrics by Douglas Lyons

Beau tells the story of musician Ace Baker, who at 12 discovered the grandfather his mother intended to keep a secret; a man who changed Ace’s life forever by putting a guitar in his hand, and self-love in his heart

SHOW SYNOPSIS

It’s 2012, at a small Honkytonk bar in Nashville, Tennessee. Musician Ace Baker and his band “Beau” have returned to his hometown to release their second album by the same name. Every band member doubles as a storyteller, popping out from behind their instrument occasionally to take on the various parts of Ace’s life that inspired this album.

Ace grew up poor in Nashville with his single mother, Raven. He had no father figures whatsoever. Raven told Ace his father was a deadbeat, and that his grandfather had passed.

At school Ace navigates being bullied daily by his classmate Ferris. What begins as stomach punches in hallways, turns to private kisses in bathroom stalls. Very early on, Ace becomes confused as to who he is and what he wants.

One afternoon while Raven is away at work, Ace answers a phone call from Memphis, Tennessee. Beau Johnson, Raven’s father, has been alive all this time and is sick in the hospital. When Ace confronts Raven about this, it becomes clear there are deeper secrets she’s withholding from him. Ace is gutted- as everything he’s believed to be true is now in question.

The next day, Ace defies Raven by sneaking off to Memphis to meet his grandfather Beau. That day begins a five year relationship with a man who grants Ace self-love, music, and legacy. The summers with Beau and Ace create an unbreakable bond. Pain, truth and fear are all exchanged between the men. Beau is the first person Ace comes out to, and the first person to always hear his new songs.

Raven and Beau never repair their relationship, but deep in Raven’s heart she’s glad that her son has the father figure he always longed for. When Beau passes unexpectedly, Ace is left heartbroken, but he fuels everything he’s learned into his music. That music starts the band that is this show. And no matter where he goes, he always knows that Beau is looking down on him.

SONG CONTEXT AND SCENE DESCRIPTION

Ace initially agrees to meet his mother's new boyfriend, but when the moment arrives, it's far too much for him to handle. Ace avoids the family plans and locks himself in his room instead.

His mother's new suitor triggers a lot for him. It's a reminder that he has no father figure who shares his blood. As his mother and her boyfriend go out for the night, Ace is left pondering where his father might be.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Our narrator and band leader, in his 20's. Ace is bruised, bright and eventually brave. He's quirky and queer with a voice box of gold. His presence vibrates a room, and when he's at a mic, everyone leans forward to listen.

(C3-A4) A Pop/Folk Tenor. He's the offspring of James Taylor and James Brown. He has an iconic, soothing voice, that can turn gruff when the feeling moves him.

NOTES ON PERFORMANCE

Take your time and really marinate in the sadness and helplessness. Find the positives in the song, such as when you imagine what "could have been" or what it *would* be like if you could meet your father, but alas, reality hits and you find yourself feeling alone and empty.