

# Picture my face (2023–2025)

for soprano and piano

Rebecca Saunders

Slow - tempo I

♩ = c.44 *very free and expressive*

Soprano

Piano

*a melody! lyrical*

*mf*

*p* *mp* *mp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp*

1

*sempre molto espr.*

∅

*pp*

*accel.*

*freely*

tempo 2 \*

♩ = 54 min.

\* [flexible tempo 2 throughout. Can at times be ♩ = 60–63]

7

vib.

wan - ted to [wan - ted to] to ask.

*p* *sub. pp* *p* *ppp* *p* *mp*

-P →  
-3 →

## Picture my face (2023–2025)

for soprano and piano

Originally partially Lied 1 from the opera *Lash* (2023–2025), this song has been completely re-worked and extended.

I wanted to ask...  
Did you picture my face?  
If my face were lively or still.  
Was it animated or held?  
In close-up or whole.  
A face is shown.

The skin, the lash, the hair,  
the moles and marks,  
wounds and scars.

The eyes so close.  
The skin in base close-up.  
A face is shown.  
My face in repose.  
Did you picture my face?

Text from *Lash – Acts of Love*, libretto by Rebecca Saunders and Ed Atkins

Duration circa 8½ minutes.

## Explanatory Notes

### Soprano

↓ Spoken, quasi-sprechgesang, integrated gently into sung context.

⊗ Mouth closed [m]    ∅ Mouth ½-closed    ○ Open

½-air An expressive function, gehaucht.

[an-] → Scat repetitions, always lyrical and fluid.    [wan-  
ted  
to] → Scat repetitions in triplets.

♩ → ♯ From slow to fast, stay smooth.

**tr** Tight classical trill, max. ¼-tone interval, less where possible.

M. **tr** Monteverdi trill or trillo