

Final Report Draft

COMMON (Creation Of a Master Musical Of Nature)

WORK PACKAGE 3A: CREATING THE LIBRETTO - SPAIN

I. INTRODUCTION: Why

Starting the creation of a musical with the *libretto* (or *book*) is essential for several reasons, as the *libretto* serves as the backbone of the production. Here's why it's important and necessary:

1. Clear narrative structure

The *libretto* is the foundation of the musical's story. It defines the plot, characters, dialogues, and how events unfold. By starting with the *libretto*, the creative team can ensure the story has a clear and coherent structure, with a well-defined beginning, middle, and end. It also helps to integrate the songs and choreography smoothly into the narrative.

2. Character development

The characters in a musical need to be well-defined from the outset, and the *libretto* is crucial for this. It provides the dialogues and situations that allow the audience to understand and connect with the characters. When characters are well-developed in the *libretto*, the songs written for them can better reflect their emotions, motivations, and conflicts.

3. Proper pacing and timing

The *libretto* defines the overall pacing of the musical. It helps distribute moments of intensity, drama, or comedy, balancing the use of dialogue and songs. Without a clear *libretto*, the musical could feel unbalanced, with some moments being unintentionally too long or too short.

4. Consistency in tone

The *libretto* establishes the overall tone of the show, whether dramatic, comedic, satirical, or otherwise. This is important because it helps maintain emotional consistency throughout the musical. Without a defined tone in the *libretto*, the show can feel disconnected or inconsistent.

5. Integration of visual and technical elements

Creating a libretto also allows for an early vision of the technical aspects of the musical, such as set changes, lighting, or visual effects. The libretto describes the setting and actions, facilitating the planning of these elements from the early stages of development.

6. Flexibility to adapt songs

Once the libretto is developed, composers and lyricists can create songs that fit seamlessly into the story. If the music were written before having a clear libretto, it might be necessary to modify or adjust the songs to fit the narrative shifts, which could complicate the process and make it less cohesive.

7. Flow between dialogues and songs

The libretto is key to determining the moments where songs naturally fit into the narrative. In a good musical, songs aren't there just for entertainment; they emerge when words are not enough to express what the characters feel. Having the libretto helps to identify those critical moments where action transforms into music.

8. Coordination among the creative teams (text, composition, performance and visuals)

The libretto is an essential tool for everyone involved in creating the musical—from the composer and lyricist to the director and actors—to have a shared vision of the show. It serves as a "map" that guides artistic and technical decisions, helping everyone work with a common purpose.

9. Themes and message of the musical

Through the libretto, the central themes of the musical are established. This allows the songs and choreography to reinforce those themes and the overall message of the work. When the "what" and "why" of the story are clear from the libretto, the rest of the artistic elements (music, lyrics, set design, etc.) can align more effectively.

In summary, starting the creation of a musical with the libretto allows for building a solid foundation upon which all other creative elements—music, lyrics, set design, choreography, etc.—are added. Without a clear libretto, the musical risks lacking narrative cohesion, which could hinder its ability to effectively convey its story and emotionally resonate with the audience.