

György Ligeti

1923 – 2006

Nonsense Madrigals

for six male voices
für sechs Männerstimmen

(1988–1993)

ED 7866

ISMN M-001-08154-2



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Durata totale: ca. 14'

First Performances / Uraufführungen

Nos. 1-4: September 25, 1988
Berliner Festwochen
The King's Singers

No. 5: October 28, London, Queen Elizabeth Hall
The King's Singers

No. 6: November 27, 1993
Huddersfield Festival
The King's Singers

Nonsense Madrigals

I. Two Dreams* and Little Bat**

Commissioned for the King's Singers
with the assistance of a grant from the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition
at Brigham Young University
and the Berlin Festival

György Ligeti
1988

Poco animato, gently swinging
(♩ = 75 / ♪ = 100)

Alto I (Countertenor) *p*
Sev - en sweet sing - ing birds up in a tree; sev - en swift

Alto II (Countertenor) *pp*
Sev - - - - -

Tenor

Baritone I *p*
Nine guns with nine bay - o - nets; nine bak -

Baritone II *p*
Nine gren - ad - iers, with bay - o - nets in their guns; nine bak -

Bass

A I *pp*
sail - ing ships white up - on the sea; _____

A II *p* *pp*
- - - - - en sing - ing birds; _____

T *p*
Twin - - - - - kle, twin - - - - - kle, lit -

Bar I *p*
- ers' bas - kets, bas - kets, with hot cross buns; stand -

Bar II *p*
- ers' bas - kets, bas - kets, with hot cross buns; _____

B *mp*
Nine brown el - e - phants -

Durata: 2'

*) "The Dream Of A Girl Who Lived At Seven-Oaks" and
"The Dream Of A Boy Who Lived At Nine-Elms" by William Brighty Rands (1864)
**) Cantus firmus: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Bat" by Lewis Carroll (1865)

7

A I *p* shin - ing in the sun; *sub. ppp* sev -

A II *p* sev - en bright weath - - er - cocks, *ppp* *p leggiero* sev - en slim race hor - ses rea - dy for a

T *(b)* - - - - - tile bat,

Bar I *sub. ppp* ing in a row; *pp*

Bar II *ppp* row; *pp*

B *p* in a row; *sub. ppp* *mp* nine new ve - loc -

10

A I *mf* - en gold *f* but - - ter - flies, flit - ting o - ver -

A II *mf* run, *f* but - - ter - - flies, flit - ting o - ver - head, *ff*

T *mp* how I won - - - - - der *mf*

Bar I *leggiere mp* nine knick - er - bock - er suits, *mf* nine pair of skates *f* *ff*

Bar II *leggiere mp* nine knick - er - bock - er suits, *mf* nine pair of skates *f* *ff*

B *mf* - i - pedes, *f* good ones to go; *p* with but - tons all com - plete; *ff*

13

ff ———— , *f* *dim. molto* ———— *ppp*

A I - head, sev - - - en red, ————

A II *f* ———— *più f* ———— , *mf*
sev - - - en red ro - ses blow - ing

T ———— what ———— you're at! ————

Bar I ———— with straps for the feet; ———— nine clev - - er con - jur - ers eat - ing ———— hot

Bar II *f* ———— , *ff* *f* ———— *ff*
with ———— straps, nine clev - er, con - jur - ers eat - ing ———— hot

B ———— *ff* ———— *f*
nine clev - er, nine stur - dy

16

A I *pp* ———— , *ppp*
sev - - - en white, ————

A II *sub. pp* ———— *poco cresc.* ————
in a gar - den bed, sev - en white

T ———— *p* ———— Up ———— a - - -

Bar I *pp*
coals;

Bar II *p leggiero* ———— *mf*
coals; nine lit - tle drum - mer - boys beat - ing on their dru - ru - ru - ru - dru - du - rum - dru - ru - ru - ru -

B *p* ———— *ppp*
moun - tain - eers leap - - ing on their poles;

pppp morendo al niente

18

A I

A II *p* , *mp* *ppp*
 lil - ies, with hon - ey bees in - side them;

T
 - bove the world you fly,

Bar I *mp espr.* *mf* *f* *p*
 nine fat al - der - men sit - ting on their thumbs; nine new

Bar II *pp* *mp espr.* *p*
 - drum; nine fat al - der - men, nine new

B *p*
 nine fat thumbs,

alla danza

21

A I *pp* *mp* 7 5 7
 sev - en round, round rain - bows with clouds to di - vide

A II *pp* *mp* 7 5 7
 sev - en round, round rain - bows with clouds to di - vide

T *p*
 Like a

Bar I *mf* *f* *sub.* *pp*
 knock - ers to our front door; nine new neigh - bours that

Bar II *mf* *f* *sub.* *pp*
 knock - ers to our front door; nine new neigh - bours

B *f* *sub.* *pp*
 nine thumbs; nine new neigh - bours

24 (7) *mf* *f*

A I them; sev - en pret - ty li(tt)le girls with sug - ar on their lips,

A II them; sev - en pret - ty li(tt)le girls with sug - ar on their lips,

T tea tray in

Bar I I nev - er saw be - fore; nine

Bar II that I nev - er saw be - fore;

B that I nev - er saw be - fore; nine

26 *p leggiero* *ff*

A I sev - en wit - ty litt - le boys, whom ev - ery - bod - y tips;

A II sev - en wit - ty litt - le boys, whom ev - ery - bod - y tips;

T the sky.

Bar I times run -

Bar II *pp* *mp* *pp*
 nine times, nine times run - ning,

B times run -

28 *in a curious, distant, nasal voice*
pp
 A I sev - en nice fa - thers, nice
in a curious, distant, nasal voice
pp
 A II sev - en nice fa - thers, nice
 T *pp*
 Twin - - - kle, - - - twin - - - - - kle, - - - lit -
 Bar I *mp pp mf sub. ppp*
 - ning, I dreamt run - ning, I dreamt, - I dreamt, I
 Bar II *mp pp mf ppp*
 I dreamt run - ning, I, I dreamt, I - - - dreamt,
 B *mp pp mf sub. ppp*
 - ning, I dreamt run - ning, I, I dreamt, I I dreamt,

32 *mp*
 A I mo - thers, to call - - li(tt)le maids joys;
mp
 A II mo - thers, to kiss - - the li(tt)le boys;
 T *b*
 - - - tle - - - bat!
 Bar I *pp*
 - - - dreamt, I dreamt, I, I dreamt run - ning, I dreamt, I
 Bar II *pp*
 I dreamt, I dreamt, I dreamt run - ning, dreamt run - ning,
 B *pp*
 - - - I dreamt, I dreamt run - ning, I dreamt run - ning, dreamt

36

A I *pp* sev - en nights *ff* ^{sub.} *pp* run - ning I

A II *p* run - ning I *ff* ^{sub.} *pp* dreamt,

T *pp* sev - en nights *mf* run - ning I *ppp* dreamt,

Bar I dreamt, I dreamt *f* ^{sub.} *pp* run - ning, I

Bar II I, I dreamt, *(pp)* I dreamt run - ning, I dreamt

B run - ning, run - ning, dreamt *pp* run - ning, run - ning,

38

A I dreamt, I

A II I dreamt run - - ning,

T I dreamt, I dreamt, I

Bar I dreamt, I dreamt, run - - -

Bar II run - - ning, run - -

B I, I dreamt run - - - - - ning,

39

A I dreamt, I, I dreamt all

A II run - - - - - ning, I dreamt it all

T dreamt, I, I dreamt it all

Bar I - ning, run - - - - - ning, I, I dreamt all

Bar II - - - - - ning, run - - - - - ning, I dreamt it all

B run - - - - - ning, I, I dreamt it

ff sub.

41

A I plain, with bread and jam, and bread and jam, and bread,

A II plain, with bread and jam, and bread, and jam, and

T plain, and cheese! and cheese!

Bar I plain,

Bar II plain,

B plain,

f *crescendo: more and more obstinately*

sub. ppp *

*) Breathe alternating with the other five singers

44

A I *fff* and _ jam for sup- per, *mp* a *ppp dolcissimo* *

A II *fff* bread, and _ jam, *Solo sub. p dolciss. espr.* I could dream it all

T *fff* and _ cheese! *ppp ** a

Bar I a *

Bar II a *

B a

47

A I *dim. morendo*

A II *no longer solo ** *dim. morendo* a - gain!

T *dim. morendo*

Bar I *dim. morendo*

Bar II *dim. morendo*

B *dim. morendo*

*) see footnote page 12

II. Cuckoo in the Pear-Tree

(William Brighty Rands)

Commissioned for the King's Singers
with the assistance of a grant from the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition
at Brigham Young University
and the Berlin Festival

György Ligeti
1988

Lively

(♩ = 180 / ♩. = 240)

A I

A II

T

Bar I

Bar II

B

P Cuck-oo!

P Cuck-oo!

f The cuck-oo sat in the old_ pear - tree, rain - ing or snow -

f The cuck-oo sat in the pear - tree, rain - ing or snow -

6

A I

A II

T

Bar I

Bar II

B

P Cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, naught cared he, cuck -

P Cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, naught cared he, cuck -

- ing naught cared he.

- ing naught cared he.

Durata: 1'30"

12

A I

A II

T

Bar I

Bar II

B

- oo!

Cuck - oo!

Cuck - oo!

f

The cuck - oo flew o - ver a house - - top high.

f

The cuck - oo flew o - ver a house - - top high.

17

A I

A II

T

Bar I

Bar II

B

pp (distorted nasal voice)

"Dear, are ___ you at home, for here am I?"

p

Cuck - oo, cuck - oo,

p

Cuck - oo, cuck - oo,

pp (distorted voice)

"Dear, are ___ you at home, for here am I?"

24

A I

A II
 cuck - oo, here am I, cuck - oo!

T
 cuck - oo, here am I, cuck - oo!

Bar I
mezza voce, unsurely
 "I dare not o - pen the door to you,

Bar II
mezza voce, unsurely
 "I dare not o - pen the door to you,

B

29

A I
(echo) ppp
 Cuck-oo, cuck-oo!

A II
p
 Cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo,

T
p
 Cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo,

Bar I
 per - haps you are not the right cuck-oo?"

Bar II
 per - haps you are not the right cuck-oo?"

B
(echo) ppp
 Cuck-oo, cuck-oo!

35

f (normal voice) *p* *pp* (distorted voice)

A I The right cuck-oo! "I am the right cuck-oo,

A II cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo! Cuck-

T cuck-oo, ah! _____ Cuck-

Bar I Cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo!

Bar II Cuck-oo, the right cuck-oo!

B cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo! "I am the right cuck-oo,

41

A I the prop-er one, for I am my fa-ther's on-ly son,

A II -oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo!

T -oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo! "For I am my fa-ther's on-ly son."

Bar I Cuck-

Bar II Cuck-

B the prop-er one!"

47

A I *p* *f* *p* (echo) *ppp*
 his on - - - ly son." Cuck-oo, cuck-oo!

A II (distorted voice) *p* *f* *p* (echo) *ppp*
 "His on - - - ly son." Cuck-oo, cuck-oo!

T (normal voice) *p*
 Cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo!

Bar I
 - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo!

Bar II
 - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo!

B *p* *f* *p* (echo) *ppp*
 His fa-ther's on-ly, on-ly son. Cuck-oo, cuck-oo!

52 (normal voice) *f* *fp* *f*
 A I His on - ly son! _____

A II (normal voice) *f* *fp* *f*
 His son, son! _____

T *f* *fp* *f*
 His on - ly son! _____

Bar I *fp* *ff* *pp*
 His on - ly son, cuck - oo!

Bar II *mp* *ff* *pp*
 Cuck-oo! On - ly son, cuck - oo!

B (normal voice) *mp* *f* Solo *mf* *f*
 Cuck-oo! Son! _____ "If you are your fa-ther's on - ly -

58

A I *p* Cuck - oo, cuck - oo! *f* "Come through the door light - *p*

A II *p* Cuck - oo, cuck - oo! *f* "Come through the door light - *p*

T *f* "The bob - bin pull tight - ly!" *sub. p pp*

Bar I *f* "Pull tight - ly, tight - - - - -" *sub. p pp*

Bar II *f* "Pull tight - - - ly, tight - - - - -" *sub. p pp*

B *fff* son, *f* pull, *f* pull!"

63

A I *mf pp* - - ly!"

A II *mf ppp ** - - ly!"

T *pp* Cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo,

Bar I *f ppp ** - - ly, tight - ly!"

Bar II *f ppp ** - - ly, pull!"

B *pp* Cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo,

*) Breathe alternately

67

pp

A I Cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo,

A II *pp* Cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo,

T cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo, cuck - oo,

Bar I

Bar II

B cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo,

71

A I cuck - oo! Cuck-oo! "It must be

A II cuck-oo, cuck-oo! Cuck-oo! "It must be

T cuck - oo, cuck - ! "It must be you,

Bar I "It must be you, it must be

Bar II Solo "If you are your fa - ther's on - ly son, on - -

B cuck-oo, cuck-oo! "It

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *pp* *mf* *f* *mf* *pp* *pp* *mf*

76

A I *f* you, *ff* the *fff* on - - - ly *pp*

A II *f* you, *ff* the *fff* on - - - ly *sub. p* cuck-oo, *p*

T *f* the *ff* on - - - ly *fff* cuck-oo, *p*

Bar I *f* you, *ff* the *fff* on - - -

Bar II *f* - - - ly *ff* one, *fff* my *sub. p* own,

B *f* must *ff* be *fff possibile* you, *sub. p* my *pp (breathe imperceptibly)* own

82

A I *pp* one!" -

A II cuck-oo, my own cuck-"

T cuck-oo, my own cuck-"

Bar I - - - - - ly one!" -

Bar II my own cuck - oo - - - oo!" -

B cuck - - - oo!" -

III. The Alphabet

Commissioned for the King's Singers
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and the Berlin Festival

György Ligeti
1988

Lento (♩ = 56)

First system of musical notation for 'The Alphabet'. It consists of six staves: A I, A II, T, Bar I, Bar II, and B. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is Lento (♩ = 56). Dynamics include *pppp* and *ppp*. The lyrics are: * ei ei ei ei ei ei ei ei.

Second system of musical notation for 'The Alphabet', starting at measure 7. It consists of six staves: A I, A II, T, Bar I, Bar II, and B. Dynamics include *pp*. The lyrics are: bi bi si ei bi ei bi ei ei si ei.

13

A I
ei di ei

A II
bi di si

T
si di

Bar I
bi si

Bar II
ei di

B
ei ei

19

A I
ei i

A II
ei di

T
ei i si

Bar I
di si ei

Bar II
di

B
di

24 *f sub. ppp*

A I (i) bi i i *pp*

A II (i) i bi (i) *f sub. ppp* *pp*

T *f* *ppp* *pp* i e

Bar I (i) i *f sub. ppp* *pp*

Bar II di (i) bi i *f sub. ppp* *pp*

B *ppp* *pp* *p* i d3i

29 *p* *ppp* *molto espr.*

A I (i) ar *p* *ppp*

A II di ei *p* *mf*

T f d3i ar *p* *mf* *molto espr.*

Bar I (i) e *p* *mf*

Bar II e f d3i (i) *p* *mf*

B *mf* *ppp* *pp* *mf* (i) ei

34

A I *f* *p* *fppp* el

A II *p* *fppp* ker

T *f* *p* *ppp* *pp* ker (i)

Bar I *f* *p* *fppp* d3i (i)

Bar II *p* *fppp* ei tf ar

B *p* *fppp* *pp* tf d3ei ker

39

A I *pp* *molto espr.* *mf* *p* *mp* *espr.* əu (u) (u) (u) pi

A II *pp* *molto espr.* *mf* *p* *mp espr.* (i) əu (u) (u) pi

T *p* *espr.* *mp* (i) əu (u) (u) pi

Bar I *pp* *p* *espr.* *mp* em əu (u)

Bar II *p* *espr.* *mp* (i) (i) əu (u)

B *p* *mp espr.* (i) (i) en

44

A I *f pp sub.* *p espr. mf p f ff*
 (i) kju? (u) e -

A II *f pp sub.* *, mf p f ff fff*
 (i) kju? (u) a? (a) (a) (a)

T *f pp sub.* *p espr. mf f ff fff*
 (i) (i) *espr.* a? (a) (a) e - s! ti! ju!

Bar I *pp sub.* *mf p p f ff*
 pi (i) i a? (a)

Bar II *pp* *p espr. mf f ff fff*
 pi a? (a) es! ti! ju!

B *pp* *espr. p mf f ff fff*
 a? (a) es! ti! ju!

48

A I *fff* *fff* *ffff ten.*
 - s! ti! ju!

A II *fff* *fff* *ffff ten.*
 e - s! ti!

T *fff* *fff* *ffff ten.* *ffff*
 (u) ti! vi! (i) -

Bar I *fff* *fff* *ffff*
 e - s! dAblju! vi! (i) e -

Bar II *fff* *ffff*
 dAblju! (u) e -

B *fff* *ffff*
 dAblju! vi e -

52

A I *pp* war? war?

A II *pp* war? war? (i)

T *sub. pp* war? (i)

Bar I *sub. pp* ks! war? wa i? (i)

Bar II *sub. pp* ks! wa i? war? (i)

B *sub. pp* ks! wa i?

57

A I *ppp* *dim.* *pppp* morendo al niente ze(d)...

A II *ppp* *dim.* *pppp* morendo al niente wa - ar? ze(d)...

T *ppp* *dim.* *pppp* morendo al niente (i) ze(d)...

Bar I *ppp* *dim.* *pppp* morendo al niente war? (i)

Bar II *ppp* *dim.* *pppp* morendo al niente (i) ze(d)...

B *ppp* *dim.* *pppp* morendo al niente war? (i)

IV. Flying Robert

("The Story of Flying Robert" from the "Struwelpeter"
by Dr. Heinrich Hoffmann [1845], English translation from German 1848)

Passacaglia

Commissioned for the King's Singers
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Tempo giusto
(♩ = 63 / ♪ = 126)

György Ligeti
1988

A I

A II

T *f risoluto*
When the rain, _____ when the rain _____ comes tum-bling down in the

Bar I *f*
Comes down, rain comes down,

Bar II *f*
Rain comes down,

B *f*
Down, rain

6

A I *p dolce*
All good _____ li(tt)le girls _____ and

A II *p dolce*
All good _____ li(tt)le girls _____ and _____

T
_____ coun-try or the town ... _____

Bar I *p*
comes down, comes down, rain comes down,

Bar II *p*
down, rain comes down,

B *p*
comes down, down, comes,

Durata: 3'

11

A I boys stay at home — and mind — their toys,

A II — boys — mind — their toys, *f* oh!

T — — — — — *f* Rob - ert — thought:

Bar I — — — — — *f* comes down, comes down, rain comes

Bar II — — — — — *f* down, rain comes

B — — — — — *ff* comes down, down.... "No, —

16

A I — — — — — *pp* all good li(tt)le girls

A II — — — — — *pp* all good li(tt)le girls

T — — — — — *ff* "No!" Rain it did! —

Bar I — — — — — *ff* down, comes down. Rain it did! —

Bar II — — — — — *ff* down, comes down. Rain did! —

B — — — — — *ff* — no, when — it pours, — it's bet-ter out of doors." — Did! —

20

A I and boys stay at home and mind

A II and boys mind

T And in a min - ute Bob was in it; here you see him, sil - ly fel - low,

Bar I Rain it did. Here you see him, sil - ly fel - low,

Bar II Rain it did, it

B Rain it

Solo sotto voce

mp

pp

pp

pp

23

A I their toys, all good

A II their toys, oh! all good

T un - der-neath his red um-brel - la! Oh! Oh!

Bar I un - der-neath his red um-brel - la! How it whis - tles

Bar II did. Oh! How it whis - tles through the trees and flow'rs and this - tles!

B did. What a wind! Oh! How it

f

mp

f

ff

mp

f

ff

mf

f

ff minaccioso

ff minaccioso

26

A I li(tt)le girls and boys *mf*

A II li(tt)le girls and *mf*

T Oh! How it

Bar I through the trees ... How

Bar II Oh! Oh! Oh! It has *Solo*

B whis - tles through the trees and flow'rs ... *mf*

28

A I stay at home and mind their

A II boys mind their

T whis - tles through the trees and flow - - - ers! *p* *f* *ff* (whistle) *f* gliss.

Bar I it whis - - - tles! *p* *ff* (whistle) *f* gliss.

Bar II caught, it has caught his red um - *sempre ff* *fff* *ff*

B How it whis - - - tles! Now look at him, *Solo* *ff*

31

Solo *ff*

A I toys. Up he flie - - - -

A II toys. It whis - tles through the trees!

T *ff* (voice) *p* *f* It whis - tles through the trees!

Bar I *ff* (voice) *f* What a wind! It

Bar II *p* *f* - brel - - - la! Up no longer solo

B sil - - - ly fel - low, oh,

33

Solo *ff*

A I - - - s to the skie - - -

A II Up he flies to the

T *p* *ff feroce* Now look at ³ ³ him, sil - ly fel - low, up -

Bar I *p* *f* has caught his um - - - brel - la.

Bar II he flie - - - - s!

B *f* *ff* up he flies to the

35

A I (skie-) s!

A II skie s! He

T he flies to the skies! No one heard his screams and cries!

Bar I Solo *ff* No one heard, no one heard his screams and

Bar II *sempre f* No one heard his screams and cries!

B skies! No one heard his screams and cries!

38

A I He cries! Through the clouds the rude wind

A II screams and cry no longer solo

T Screams and cries! Oh!

Bar I cries! Screams and cries! And

Bar II His screams and cries! Oh!

B His screams and cry - - - - -s!

tutta la forza

pp

sub. pp

42

A I bore him, and his hat flew on be - fore him; soon they got to such a height! *ff*

A II (crie-) - - - s! ...be - fore him; soon they got to such a height! *ff*, *sub. ppp* Oh! *sub. ppp*

T Soon they got to such a height! *ff*

Bar I his hat went up so *f* *sub. ppp*

Bar II And his hat went up so *f* *sub. ppp*

B They got to such a height, they were *f* *sub. ppp*

45

A I no longer solo (*pp*) (sempre $\text{♩} = 126$) High ...

A II *pp*

T *pp* *sub. pp possibile* *ff* And the hat went up so high ...

Bar I high, that it real-ly touch'd the ... *pp* *f*

Bar II high, that it real-ly touch'd the sky. *pp* *f* *sub. pp*

B near - ly out of sigh - - - *pp* *f* *sub. p*

(48)

ppp *espr.* *pp*
A I Tell, _____ where they stopp'd, or where

Solo *pp* *espr.* *p*
A II No one ev - er yet could tell where they stopp'd, where they stopp'd, or where

48 *pp*
T Tell where they stopp'd, or _____ where they

pp
Bar I When _____ the rain comes tum - bling down in

ppp *pp*
Bar II When the rain comes down, down

pp *pp*
B _____ ! When

(54) *Solo* *pp* *sempl.ice*

A I they fell? On - ly this one thing is plain, Bob was nev - er

pp
A II they fell ...

54
T fell? Where they stopp'd or fell?

Bar I the coun - try or the town, all

Bar II in the coun - try or the town, all

B the rain comes down _____

61

A I nev - er, nev - er, nev - er nev - er seen a -

A II

T

Bar I lit - tle girls and boys stay at home — and

Bar II lit - tle girls and boys

B all good lit - tle girls

69 *morendo*

A I - gain ...

A II *pp tenuto* - gain ... *diminuendo poco a poco al niente*

T *pp* All good *diminuendo al* litt - le girls

Bar I mind — their toys, *diminuendo al* stay at

Bar II stay at home and mind —

B and boys —

76

A I

A II

T

Bar I

Bar II

B

(dim.) - - - - niente

(dim.) - - - - **ppp**

and boys stay at home and mind their toys,

(dim.) - - - - **ppp**

home, at home and mind their

diminuendo al - - - - **ppp**

their toys, stay at home and

ppp

stay at

83

A I

A II

T

Bar I

Bar II

B

diminuendo poco a poco al fine **pppp**

and mind, mind their toys, and mind their toys ...

diminuendo al fine **pppp**

toys, — mind their toys ...

diminuendo poco a poco al fine **pppp**

mind their toys, mind their toys ... —

diminuendo poco a poco al fine **pppp**

home and mind their toys, mind their toys ...

V. The Lobster Quadrille

(Lewis Carroll [1865])

This work was commissioned by the South Bank Centre for the King's Singers
as a part of the "Ligeti by Ligeti" Festival in autumn 1989

Allegro molto leggero e ritmico

(♩ = 160)

György Ligeti
1989

p (annoyed)

A I Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er?

A II *pp* Said a whit - ing

T

Bar I *pp* Said a whit - ing

Bar II *p* (annoyed) Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er?

B

5

A I Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er?

A II *p* to a snail. *pp* Said a whit - ing

T

Bar I *p* to a snail. *pp* Said a whit - ing

Bar II *p* Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er?

B *pp* (indignant) There's a por - poise close be - hind us,

Durata: 1'45"

9 *p* *sotto voce, ppp*

A I Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er? See

A II to a snail. Said a *pp* *sotto voce, ppp*

T See

Bar I to a snail. Said a *pp*

Bar II Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er?

B and he's tread - ing on my tail. *p* *mf* *f*

12 *leggierissimo molto ritmico*

A I how ea - ger - ly the lob - sters and the tur - tles all ad - vance!

A II whit - ing to a snail. lit - tle fast - - *p (annoyed)*

T *leggierissimo molto ritmico*
how ea - ger - ly the lob - sters and the tur - tles all ad - vance!

Bar I whit - ing to a snail. *p*

Bar II Will you walk a lit - tle fast - - *p*

B *pp*
There's a por - poise close be - hind us

15 *ppp simile* *(enthusiastic)*

A I They are wait - ing on the shin - gle, will, will you walk? Will -

A II - er? Said a whit - ing to a snail.

T They are wait - ing on the shin - gle, will you come — and join the dance?.

Bar I Said a whit - ing to a snail. ... the dance?.

Bar II - er? Will you walk

B and he's tread-ing on my tail. Come, — join the dance!

18

A I — you, — won't you, — will — you, — won't you, — will — you — join the dance?.

A II *mp (annoyed)* ... a lit - tle fast - er? *f (enthusiastic)* Will — you join the dance?.

T Said a whit - ing

Bar I Said a whit - ing

Bar II a lit - tle fast - er? *(chattering snobbishly) f* You -

B *mf (indignant)* There's a por-poise close be-hind us, and he's tread-ing on

21

A I Will you join the dance? *f* *ff* *p*

A II Will you join the dance? *f* *ff* *p*

T to a snail. Will you walk *ff* *p (annoyed)*

Bar I to a snail. Will you *ff* *p*

Bar II can real - ly have no no - tion how de - light - ful it will be, *ff* *mp* *p*

B my tail. Will you walk *ff* *p (annoyed)*

24

A I ... lit - tle fast - er? *p (annoyed)* *pp sotto voce, leggerissimo molto ritmico* With the lob - sters, out to sea!

A II Said a whit - ing to a snail. *p* *pp*

T a With the lob - sters, out to sea! *pp sotto voce, leggerissimo molto ritmico*

Bar I walk? Said a whit - ing to a snail. But the *p* *pp* *mp*

Bar II when they take us up and throw us, *mp (chattering snobbishly)* *bliss* *pp* out to

B a lit - tle fast - er? Will you walk *p* *pp*

*) Baritone I: "But the snail replied": like in a baroque recitativo. Solemnly.

28

ppp (distorted, nasal voice)

A I Too _____ far, _ too _

pp (annoyed)

A II ... a lit-tle fast - er? Said a whit - ing to a snail. *pp*

T Said a whit - ing to a snail. *pp*

Bar I snail re - plied: *mf* Will you walk *pp* (annoyed)

Bar II sea! lit-tle fast - er? Will you walk *pp*

B a ... *pp* (distorted, nasal voice) Too _____ far, _ too _

32

p (distorted)

A I far! _____ Said he _ thanked the whit - ing kind - ly,

A II ... a lit-tle fast - er? Said a whit - ing to a snail.

sotto voce, leggierissimo molto ritmico

T ... and gave a look a-skance. Will you walk *pp* (annoyed)

sotto voce, leggierissimo molto ritmico

Bar I ... and gave a look a-skance. Will you walk *pp* (annoyed)

Bar II a lit-tle fast - er? Said a whit - ing to a snail.

B far! _____ *p* (distorted) Said he _ thanked the whit - ing kind - ly,

36 *sub.* *f* *sotto voce, leggerissimo molto ritmico* (normal) *ppp* *f*

A I but ... he would not join the dance. Would ...

A II He would not join the dance.

T a lit - tle fast - er? ... whit - ing

Bar I a said a whit - ...

Bar II But said a whit - ing:

B *sub.* *f* (normal voice) *pp* (annoyed) *ppp* (indignant)

but lit - tle fast - er? There's a por - poise close be - hind us,

39 *ff* *fff*

A I not, could not, would not, could not, would not join the dance! *sub.* *pp*

A II *mp* *mf* (annoyed) *f* *ff* ... to a snail. Will you walk a lit - tle ... join the dance! *ff* *fff*

T *mp* *mf* (annoyed) *f* *fff* to a snail. Will you walk a the dance! *ff* *fff*

Bar I *mp* (annoyed) *mf* *f* *fff* Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er? What mat - *ff* *fff*

Bar II *mp* (annoyed) *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er? Join dance! *ff* *fff*

B (very impatiently) *ff* *ff* *ff* *fff* *sempre fff* and he's tread - ing on my tail! Yes, on my tail! *ff* *fff*

*) Baritone I: "What matters it how far we go?" and "There is another shore, etc.": Shouting like a barker.

42

A I *sotto voce*
ppp His scal - y friend re-plied.

A II *p (annoyed)*
Will you walk a lit-tle fast - er?

T *sotto voce*
ppp His scal - y friend re-plied. *mf* Said a

Bar I *fff sim.*
- ters it how far we go? There is an-oth-er shore, you

Bar II *p*, *p (annoyed)*, *mf*
Will you walk a lit-tle fast - er? Said a

B *p*, *pp*, *poco a poco bocca chiusa (sempre ppp)*

46

A I ... to a snail.

A II *p*, *sub. ppp sotto voce*
Will you walk? The far - - ther off

T *p (annoyed)*
whit - ing: Will you walk?

Bar I know, up-on the oth - er side.

Bar II *p*, *sub. ppp sotto voce*
whit - ing to a snail. The far - - ther

B *ppp*, *(open) ppp sotto voce*
... far - - ther off

51

A I

A II
 ... from Eng - - land the near - er is to France, ... - er is to

T
 ...to France, the near - er is to

Bar I

Bar II
 (ppp simile)
 ... from Eng - - land the near - - - er to

B
 ... from Eng - - land the near - - - er to

ppp sotto voce

56

A I
 Will you walk a ... Then turn not pale, be-lov - ed snail, - but come and join the

A II
 France. ... lit-tle fast - er? Said a whit - ing

T
 France. Then turn not pale, be-lov - ed snail, - but come and join the

Bar I
 Will you walk a lit-tle fast - er?

Bar II
 France. whit - ing

B
 France.

molto leggero e ritmico
ppp sotto voce

pp (annoyed)

pp (annoyed)

ppp sotto voce

pp (annoyed)

pp

60

sub. ff (hilarious)

A I *p* dance. Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you, won't you join the dance, -

A II *p* *mf* to a snail, *ff* said a whit - ing.

T *sub. ff (hilarious)* dance. Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you, won't you join the dance, -

Bar I *p* *f* Will you walk a lit-tle fast - er? *ff*

Bar II *p* *mf* to a snail, *ff* said a whit - ing.

B *p* *f* Will you walk a lit-tle fast - er? *ff*

64

A I *fff* join the dance? _____

A II *(hilarious) fff* Will you, - won't you, - will you - join the dance? _____

T *fff* won't you - join ... dance? _____

Bar I *(hilarious) fff* ... to a snail. Will you - join, won't - you - dance? _____

Bar II *fff (hilarious)* Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er? ... dance? _____

B *fff (hilarious)* Will you walk a lit - tle fast - er? ... dance? _____

Dedicated to Simon Carrington and Alastair Hume

VI. A Long, Sad Tale

(from Lewis Carroll's: "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"
and "Original Games and Puzzles")

Comissioned by the King's Singers

Vivacissimo leggero e molto ritmico (Like Jazz!)

(♩ = 300 / ♩ = 150 / ♩. - 100)

György Ligeti
1993

A I *ppp* Head,

A II *ppp* Head,

T *ff mp ff* "Off with her head!"

Bar I *pp mf pp* Head, heal, teal, tell, tall, TAIL, tall, tell

Bar II *pp mf pp* Head, heal, teal, tell, tall, TAIL, tall, tell

B *Whining p molto espr.* "Mine is a

4

A I *ppp* tail,

A II

T

Bar I *mf pp mf pp* teal, heal, HEAD, heal, teal, tell, tall, TAIL, tall, tell, teal, heal,

Bar II *mf pp mf pp* teal, heal, HEAD, heal, teal, tell, tall, TAIL, tall, tell, teal, heal,

B *mp* long,

*) $\frac{7}{8} = \frac{3+4}{8}$

Durata: 1'30"

7

A I *ppp* head,

A II *ppp* tail,

T

Bar I *mf pp* HEAD, heal, teal, tell, tall, TAIL, tall, tell, teal, heal, HEAD, heal,

Bar II *mf pp* HEAD, heal, teal, tell, tall, TAIL, tall, tell, teal, heal, HEAD, heal,

B *poco cresc.* long,

10

A I

A II *ppp* head,

T *mf fpp* distorted, nasal voice "And a sad,

Bar I *f pp* teal, tell, tall, TAIL, tall, tell, teal, heal, HEAD, heal, teal, tell,

Bar II *f pp* teal, tell, tall, TAIL, tall, tell, teal, heal, HEAD, heal, teal, tell,

B *poco cresc.* *fpp* a long,

13

A I *ppp*
tail.

A II *mf* *fp*
"And a sad."

T *mf* *fp* *f* *dim.*
and a sad, and a sad, sad,

Bar I *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*
tall, TAIL, tall, tell, teal, heal, HEAD, heal, teal, tell, tall, TAIL,

Bar II *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*
tall, TAIL, tall, tell, teal, heal, HEAD, heal, teal, tell, tall, TAIL,

B *mf* *diminuendo* *ten.* *p*
and a long, long, long, long, long, long, long, tong tale,

16

A I *(b)*

A II *(b)*

T *(dim.)* *p* *pp*
sad, sad, sad, sad, sad, sad tale."

Bar I *pp* *f* *pp* *pp*
tall, tell, teal, heal, HEAD, heal tail.

Bar II *pp* *f* *pp* *pp* *fp*
tall, tell, teal, heal, HEAD, heal tail, sad

B *(p)* *(p)* *fp*
a sad

20

casually mp

A I "It IS a long tail,

A II *pp* Witch, winch, wench, tench, tenth,

T *ff* Turn *mf* witch *f* in - to *p* fai - ry! *ppp*

Bar I *pp* Witch, winch, wench, tench, tenth,

Bar II *ppp* tail.

B *ppp* tale."

23

A I cer-tain-ly, but why do you call it sad?" *pp*

A II tents, tints, tilts, tills, fills, falls, fails, fairs, FAI-RY! *f* Sad? *pp*

T

Bar I tents, tints, tilts, tills, fills, falls, fails, fairs, FAI-RY! *f* Sad? *pp*

Bar II

B

26

A I *ppp* *rude ff*
 "Let us both go to law:"

A II *pp* *rude ff*
 "Let us both go to law:"

T *p perfidiously* *ff* *f* *cresc.*
 fu - ry said to a mouse, that she met in the house, fu - ries, bu -

Bar I *ppp* *p* *ff* *f* *cresc.*
 She met in the house, fu - ries, bu -

Bar II *p perfidiously* *ff* *f* *cresc.*
 Fu - ry said to a mouse, that she met in the house, fu - ries, bu -

B *p*
 oh!

29

A I *menacing ff* *fff*
 I will pro - se - cute YOU!" bar - ked, bar - red, a tri - -

A II *ff sempre* *fff*
 I will pro - se - cute YOU!" "Come take no de - ni - al, we must have a tri - -

T *menacing* *ff sempre* *fff*
 - ries, bu - ried, (a) "Come take no de - ni - al, we must have a tri - ..."

Bar I *menacing* *ff* *cres - - - cen - - - do* *molto*
 - ries, bu - ried, bur - ked, bar - ked, bar - red, bar - rel, bar -

Bar II *menacing* *ff* *cres - - - cen - - - do* *molto*
 - ries, bu - ried, bur - ked, bar - ked, bar - red, bar - rel, bar -

B *p* *menacing ff*
 Bar -

*) $\frac{8}{8} = \frac{5}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$

32

tutta la forza
3

A I
al!"

A II
al!"

T
"For re - al - ly this mor - ning I've no - thing

Bar I
- red, bar - ked, bur - ked, bur - ried, bu - ries, fu - ries, bu - ries,

Bar II
- red, bar - ked, bur - ked, bur - ried, bu - ries, fu - ries, bu - ries,

B
cresc. *fff*
- red, bar - ked, bur - ked, bur - ried, bu - ries, fu - ries, bu - ries, ...

(bizarre, nasal voice)
tutta la forza, viciously

35

A I

A II

T
to do."

Bar I
mysteriously pp said the mouse to the cur. "Such a tri - al,
p Distorted nasal voice until the sign *

Bar II
mysteriously pp said the mouse to the cur. "Such a tri - al,
p Distorted nasal voice until the sign *

B
p "Such a tri - al, *sub. f* dear Sir,

*) Squeeze the nose with two fingers

38

A I *pp* Fu-ries, bu-ries, bu-ried, bur-ked, bar-ked, bar-red,

A II *pp* Fu-ries, bu-ries, bu-ried, bur-ked, bar-ked, bar-red,

T *p* "With no ju-ry or judge" ... *pp* Fu-ries, bu-ries, bu-ried, bur-ked, bar-ked, bar-red,

Bar I *p* with no ju-ry, judge" ... *whining p molto espr.* mine is a long

Bar II *p* with no ju-ry or judge" ... *whining p espr.* long

B *ff* dear *p* Sir,

43

A I *f* bar-rel, bar-red, bar-ked, bur-ked, bu-ried, bu-ries, fu-ries. *ff* "I'll be *very malevolent*

A II *f* bar-rel, bar-red, bar-ked, bur-ked, bu-ried, bu-ries, fu-ries. *ff* "I'll be *very malevolent*

T *f* bar-rel, bar-red, bar-ked, bur-ked, bu-ried, bu-ries, fu-ries. *ff* "I'll be *very malevolent*

Bar I *ff* and sad tale." "Be *very malevolent*

Bar II *ff* and sad tale." "I'll be *very malevolent*

B *mf* *indignant tone* *cresc. molto al* *ff* would be was-ting our breath." *ff* "I'll be *very malevolent*

*) Squeeze the nose with two fingers

48

A I judge, I'll be ju-ry." "I'll try the whole cause." *ff*

A II judge, I'll be ju-ry," said cun-ning old Fu-ry. *casually sub. pp* *ppp*

T judge, I'll be ju-ry." "I'll!" *ffff*

Bar I judge and I'll be ju - ry."

Bar II judge and I'll be ju - ry." "I'll!" *ffff*

B judge and I'll be ju - ry." "I'll!" *ffff*

53

A I *ppp* Quilt, guilt, guile, guide, glide, slide, slice, spice, spine, spins, shins, shies, shier,

A II

T *ppp* Quilt, guilt, guile, guide, glide, slide, slice, spice, ... "You, _____" *ppp sempre*

Bar I *mysteriously pp* "And con - demn you, _____" *ppp*

Bar II _____ spine, spins, shins, shies, shier, *ppp*

B *mysteriously pp* "And con - demn you, _____" *ppp*

56

A I
sheer, sheet, sheer, shier, shies, shins, spins, spine, spice, slice, slide,

A II
ppp
"You,

T
you,

Bar I
you,

Bar II
sheer, sheet, sheer, shier, shies, shins, spins, spine, spice, slice, slide,

B
you,

59

A I
sub. ff ppp
glide, guide, guile, GUILT, guile, guide, glide, slide. "To ...
sub. fff

A II
pp
you to ...
sub. fff

T
pp
you to ...
sub. fff

Bar I
pp
to ... death." *pp* * G.P.

Bar II
sub. ff ppp
glide, guide, guile, GUILT, guile, guide, glide, slide. "To death." *pp* * G.P.

B
sub. fff
you to death." *pp* * G.P.

*) Voice *pp* but breathing intensively (*ff*) — a kind of voiced whisper.