

Women on Top Scene 2

33

Soon after the stage is empty, enter Blepyrus SL. He is wearing a yellow petticoat and ornate, female bedroom slippers. He is in pain.

Malcolm Hill
2012 mj335

BLEPYRUS

B Blep

mf

*throwaway
afterthought*

Ev ry-thing has gone: no cloak no shoes no

wife. Ev - ry - thing has gone,

ev - ry - thing has gone.

34

24

B Blep

Più mosso

=56

Ev - ry thing, and I des-pa-rate-ly need_____ to poo.

Più mosso

=56

29

B Blep

It's still night, no-one'slook-ing one place is as good as a - no-other.

34

B Blep

cresc.

No shoes_____ no cloak_____

40

B Blep

rubat

a tempo

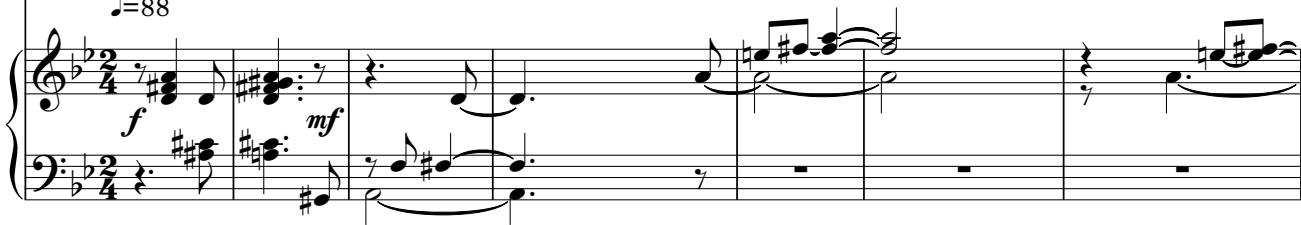
Blep squats on
bench mid-SL

ev - ry - thing has gone.

35

47 *Enter TRYGAEUS Tryg SR*

T Tryg 

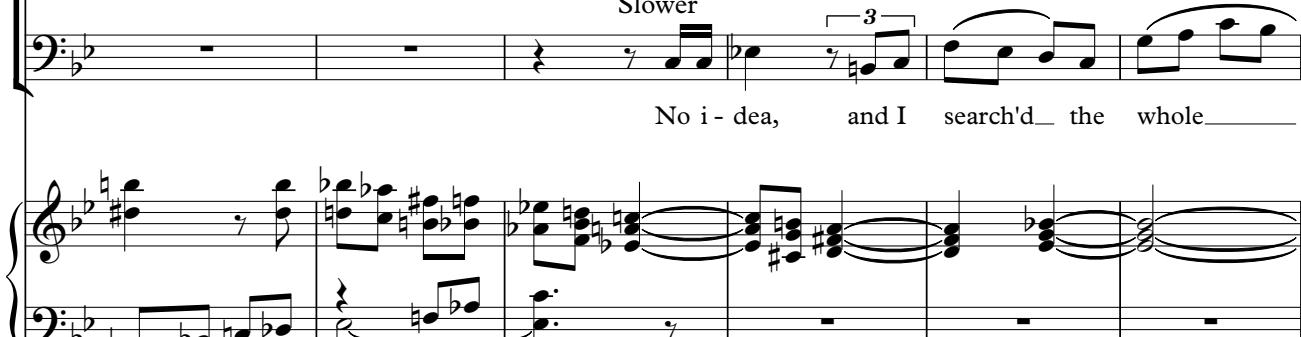
B Blep 

54 

T Tryg 

61 

T Tryg 

B Blep 

73

T Tryg - - - - - Why did-n't you ask your
B Blep - - - - - bed-room.

77

T Tryg - - - - - wife where she'd put it?
B Blep - - - - - Be-cause she was - n't a-ny where to be

81

B Blep - - - - - seen: I've no i - dea where she's gone; I some -
- - - - -

85

T Tryg - - - - - Crumbs, we are both
B Blep - - - - - times wish I'd ne - ver mar - ried.
- - - - -

89

T Tryg

in the same boat: my cloak has dis-ap pear'd

93

T Tryg

too, so have my shoes, and my wife

97

T Tryg

Per - haps she's gone to

B Blep

I bet Prax - a-go-ra's out do - ing no good.

friends for break-fast. I want-ed to go to th'Ass-em-bly, but I

B Blep

Pro-ba-bly.

I want-ed to go to th'Ass-em-bly, but I

109

T Tryg can't with-out my cloak.

B Blep Like-wise, but first I must get rid of this pear stuck

116

B Blep in my pipes. Please could you call my doc-tor; but is there a better one to get?

122

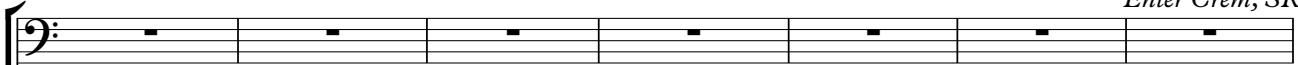
B Blep I know, call A - the-nian Health Di-rect; Oh no, we vo - ted it closed to

130

T Tryg Tryg puts his hands over his ears and exits SL

B Blep cresc.
save cash. Oh!

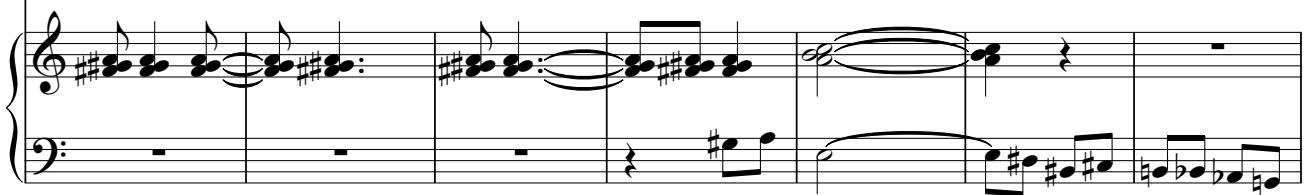
Q Crem



B Blep



I des - p'rate-ly need to ex - pel this blast - ed pear!



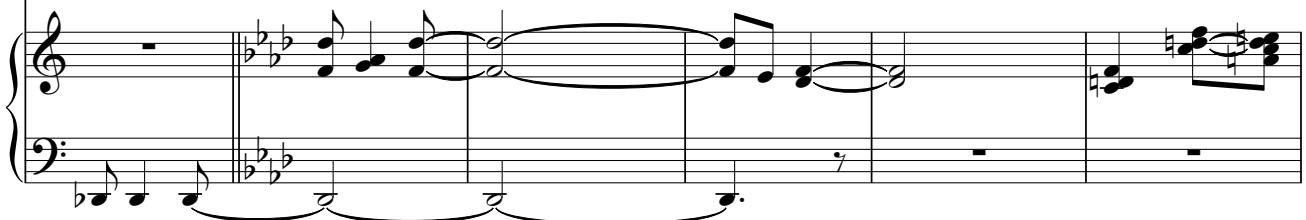
145

=66

Q Crem



Greet - ings, my friend. You seem to be in la-bour.

=66

151

Q Crem

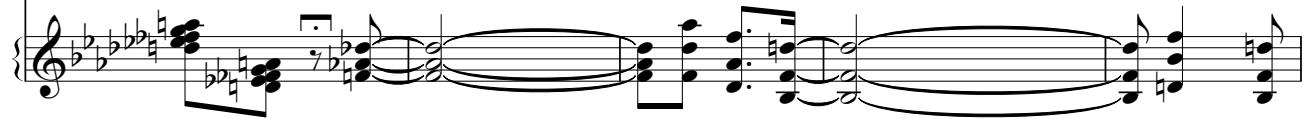
*Blep sighs*

Wear-ing Prax-a-go-ra's clothes now?

B Blep



Not a-ny more.



156

B Blep



They were the on ly things I could lay my hands on.

Blep stands

What have you been do -



162

Q Crem

Just come back from th'Ass - em-bly. Yup.

B Blep

- ing Chre- mes? O-ver al - rea-dy?

169

Q Crem

No, I ar - riv'd just too

B Blep

But it's on ly just day-break. Were you in time for the at - ten-dance fee?

175

Q Crem

late; the Ass - em-bly was al rea-dy full of pale faced shoe-ma-kers.

B Blep

So if I go there_

182

Q Crem

Nope.

d=70 41

They de

B Blep

will I get no-thing?

Bo-ther.

What hap-pen'd?

189

Q Crem

ba - ted "How best to save the sink - ing of the state"

più mosso

led by a

197

Q Crem

fair and come-ly youth, who held that the on - ly course of safe - ty was that

204

Q Crem

wo - men take the_ reins of state.

212

Q Crem

There were shouts of ap- plause_____ from all the pale_ faced fac - tion,___

218

Q Crem

— who were col-lect - ed in the front, while those of us____ at the back

225

Q Crem

all cried out in dis-a gree - ment. But we were shout-ed

B Blep

So I should hope.

231

Q Crem

down. Then their lead - er heape'd all praise up on____ all____ wo-men, while on

238

Q Crem

you most foul a - buse.

First - ly that you are a vil-lain.

B Blep

What?__

244

Q Crem

We'll come to that la - ter. Next he said you are an

B Blep

Oh!_ And what a-bout you?__

250

Q Crem

ar - rant thief. And an in form- er. No, he said the same

B Blep

Just me?

Me?

*Crem points to
the Audience*

♩ = 70

Q Crem 257 of all these men here. The fi - nal part of his

262

Q Crem speech, which summ'd up all he'd said, was in ef-fect that our wo - men are the

267

Q Crem sole foun-tain heads of all true wis - dom, first-rate pro fess -

272

Q Crem ors of po - li - ti - cal e - co - no-my, strict ob - ser-vers of se - cre -

276

Q Crem cy; For when did wo - men, did wo - men di -

280

Slower

Q Crem vulge the my - ste - ries, while with men, with men state se-crets are al-ways in

Slower

284 **a tempo**

Q Crem dan - ger. To in-vest the wo men

Aside, to the Audience: To Crem:

B Blep There's some thing in that! What was the fi-nal out come?

a tempo

288

Meno mosso

Q Crem with the pow-ers of gov-ern-ment. With all the chan ges that our ci - ty has so

Meno mosso

J=64

291

Q Crem

of-ten ex-pe-ri-enc'd, this al-one re-mains un-tried.

B Blep

You mean this bill has been

294

Q Crem

I do. And all the pow-ers that un til to-day were held by men now are trans ferr'd to wo-men.

B Blep

passed?

298

Q Crem

Yes, and she will al-so

B Blep

What? My vote lost to my wife?

303

Q Crem

man - age all the mo ney___ at home too.

B Blep

But does this mean___ that we no long-er

307

Q Crem

Più mosso

cresc.

Yes,____ my friend, now____ it's our wives' turn.

B Blep

have to work___ from day-break?

Più mosso

313

Q Crem

Crem high fives Blep

$\text{♩} = 92$

And so,____ from

318

Q Crem

quasi Handelian sea-song

now_ on it's our____ pri- vi- lege to gos - sip,_ groan and

322

Q Crem grum-ble to our heart's con-tent; sim.
it's

327

Q Crem now our pri-ve-leges to gos - sip and groan and grum -

332

Q Crem - - - ble, to groan and groan and grum - ble

338

Q Crem to our heart's con - tent, our heart's con -

(rit)

344

Q Crem a tempo
tent. Ev - ry man must yield to the new de - cree;

p

350

Q Crem but then there's the old max - im:

355 *f.*

Q Crem "Our most stu - pid de - crees al - ways have a

f *p* *p* *p*

360

Q Crem hap - py con - clu - sion". May the Gods grant

Lento *mp* *Crem and Blep raise their arms*

Q Crem so in this case too. Now it's

4 arms down *J=92*

J=92

372

Q Crem our, It's our

B Blep It's our pri- vi- lege, from

sim.

378

Q Crem

pri vi-legé, so now it's our pri-vi-legé to groan and grum - ble, now it's

B Blep

now it's our pri-vi-legé to grum - - - - - ble

384

Q Crem

our pri-vi-legé to grum - ble to grum -

B Blep

to gos - - - - - sip to grum - ble and

390

Q Crem

ble to grum-ble and groan. to groan and groan to groan

B Blep

groan it's our pri-vi lege, it's our pri-vi-legé to

396

Q Crem

and groan and grum - ble and groan, it's our pri-vi-legé it's our pri-vi-legé

B Blep

groan and groan it's our pri-vi-legé it's now our pri-vi-legé,

403

Q Crem

it's now our pri- vi- lege, now our pri- vi- lege to gos- sip, groan and grum ble, to
now, it's now our pri- vi- lege to gos- sip, groan and grum ble, to

B Blep

Adagio

409

Q Crem

gos sip, groan and grum-ble to our heart's con tent. But now
gos sip, groan and grum-ble to our heart's con tent.

B Blep

Adagio

*Pause to let singers
get their breath back,
plus possible applause*

415

Q Crem

I must get back home to col- lect_ all my be long-ings and bring them to the_ Fo-rum.

*Blep gives him an
uncomprehending look*

B Blep

Enter Prax SR, no longer disguised as a man; she is dragging Blep's cloak

421 $\text{♩} = 84$

S. Prax

Q Crem *warmly* *Exit Crem SL*

Fare-well.

$\text{♩} = 84 \quad \textbf{p}$

legato

432 $\text{♩} = 88 \quad \textbf{f}$

S. Prax

B Blep *What do you care?*

f Annoyed: $\overbrace{\text{♩} \text{♩} \text{♩}}^3$

Where have you been? I've my

Allegro approximate rhythms: don't wait before jumping in

$\text{♩} = 88$

This section is unaccompanied

441

S. Prax

B Blep *What, dress'd like that? In my clothes!*

sta tus to main tain, Pax - a-go-ra.

Some-one's sto-len my

447

S. Prax I sup-pose you think it was me.

B Blep cloak. Yes, and you still have-n't told me where you were.

454 *coquettishly*

S. Prax Do you think I've been with my lov - er?

B Blep Lo - ver sin - gu - lar or

458

S. Prax Would-n't you like to know?

B Blep plu - ral? And is that my cloak you're

462

S. Prax Of course, Ble-py-rus. I was called to a friend's It was

B Blep drag-ging in the mud? A man friend?

470 *Blep picks up the cloak and puts it on seat*

S. Prax cold. As I am a de - li cate flow - er, I bor-row'd your cloak..But I left_ you_

477

S. Prax cov - er'd up, dear, be - neath the blan-kets.

B Blep And did you take my staff and

482

S. Prax *p* Yes, so I'd be safe walking a-round.

Q Crem (Offstage throughout, interrupting) Sounding like a telephone cold caller Hel - lo, I'm

B Blep shoes too? Through you....

488

Q Crem call-ing a-bout your a - ba - cus: your o - pe - ra - ting sys - tem has been co -rup -

492

S. Prax *Prax looks at Blep*

Q Crem Go a - way!

B Blep *Blep looks at Prax* Go a - way!

496

B Blep *mf* Through you I've lost a pint and a half of bar-ley, 'cos I miss'd the Ass-em-bly pay-ment.

502

S. Prax *mf* Think no-thing of it, she's got a whop - ping boy. No,

B Blep Who's got a boy? The Ass-em-bly?

509

S. Prax *p* — sil-ly, the wo-man I helped all nightlong. Was the Ass-em bly go-ing to meet to-

Meno mosso

55

515 *winking to the Audience*

S. Prax day? True, I do re-mem-ber now.

B Blep Yes; why?

Tempo primo

So you have-n'theard what cra-zы de-cree they've

523

S. Prax No.

B Blep passed? It's bloom-ing mar-vel-lous! They're go-ing to make you wo-men the-

530

S. Prax What of? Wool-len ma-nu-fac-ture? Which de-part-ment?

B Blep o-ver-seers. No, the State!

538

Mostly to the Audience:

S. Prax By Aph-ro-di-te,

B Blep Ev-ry bloom-ing one with-out ex-cep-tion.

545

S. Prax — our ci-ty will be-come real-ly pros-per-ous.

B Blep How come?

*getting gradually
more authoritarian*

549

S. Prax

mp

For ma-ny rea-sons. First, we'll to-le- rate no_ vile

p

555

S. Prax

per-ju rers, no_ vile in - form- ers,-

B Blep

But these ve - ry trades gain me a

561

S. Prax

f

Shush! and lis-ten to your wife.

Mostly to the Audience:
J=72

No pet ty

B Blep

live - li-hood.

p

J=72

p

567

S. Prax

lar-ce- ny, no en-vi-ous grudg-ing, no rags, want or po-ver-ty, no de fa - ma-tion,

574

S. Prax

no dis- tain- for debt.

B Blep

To the Audience:

Grand pro-mi-ses, if they come to pass!

582

S. Prax

with happy conviction:

rit.

I am well aware how wise my scheme is, soon the

rit.

587

S. Prax

na - nation to an-cient laws at tached, may dread re-form and in - no - va-tion.

592

B Blep

No, if re-form-ing is your aim, right bold-ly may you speak, for no-vel-ty has

597

S. Prax

To Blep only:

Slowish

Let me, I pray, be-speak your si-lence and at

B Blep

charms for us, we hate what-e'er's an-tique.

Slowish

602

S. Prax

To the Audience:

ten - tion un - til to each is ma-ni- fest_ the depth_ of my in - vent- ion. To

607 **Slightly faster**

S. Prax

me, dear friends, and ci-ti-zens, it seems but just and fair, that of this life's good

Slightly faster

612

S. Prax

things you all should have an equal share.

My fol-low-ers at the Ass

616

S. Prax

em - bly and Jus - tice do pro - claim that all things be in

620

S. Prax

com - mon and our style of life the

622

S. Prax

Più mosso

same. Stop your mouth with dung!

B Blep

How? Shall dung, then, be com - mon too?

Più mosso

626 **rall** *ff* **A tempo** *f* $\text{♩} = 104$

S. Prax No, you fool, but Peace. Stop in-ter-rup-ting! Of

B Blep *Blep goes to speak*

rall **A tempo** $\text{♩} = 104$

632

S. Prax all the goods and pro-per-ty which e - ve - ry man has got, to - get - her when col

Ped.

637

S. Prax lect - ed, I would make one com-mon lot. From that fund we the wo - men

642

S. Prax will, like pro - vi-dent trus - tees ap- por-tion out to each e nough for com-fort and for

a little slower

S. Prax ease. Wheneach may have for ask - ing, clothes,_ wine and food, thus_

a little slower

S. Prax 652 to de-fraud the com-mon fund would do no earth - ly good.

B Blep But just sup-pose some

Slow

B Blep bux - om lass a man should chance e - spy, will the ge - ne - ral

S. Prax 661 'Gainst this con-tin-gence,

B Blep purse sup-ply a sum_ with which her charms to buy?_

665

S. Prax

as is fit, the law doth now pro-vide: the hand-some and the ug-ly shall be

670

S. Prax

seat-ed side by side; who-ev-er to the pret-ty wench would fain pay his ad-dress

675

S. Prax

-es must first on the ill-fa-voured one be-stow some kind ca-res ses. Con

8va

8va

680

S. Prax

verse-ly, if a fris-ky maid a woo-ing wish to go, she on the old and

(8)

8va

(8)

8va

685

S. Prax

ug - ly first her fa - vours must be - stow.

=88

63

B Blep

This sounds ghast - ly.

S. Prax

B Blep

690

S. Prax

We've got slaves for that.

B Blep

mf

p

mf

How will the soil get tilled? How will the soil get tilled? How will we get new

695

S. Prax

The wo-men will weave new ones for you, but on-ly af-ter yours are

B Blep

p

clothes? How will we get new clothes? How will we get new

701

S. Prax

worn out; but on - ly af - ter yours are worn out. The same for

B Blep

clothes? What will be our mode of life? What will

Music staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp, common time.

Music staff: Bass clef, key signature of one sharp, common time.

707

S. Prax

ev - ry-one: think of the ci - ty as one great

B Blep

be our mode of life? What will be our mode of life? What will

Music staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp, common time.

Music staff: Bass clef, key signature of one sharp, common time.

711

S. Prax

one great dwell - ing-house.

B Blep

be our mode of life? What will be our mode of life? How

Music staff: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp, common time.

Music staff: Bass clef, key signature of one sharp, common time.

716

S. Prax

mf

Why would they steal if we

B Blep

will you deal with rob- bers? How will you deal with

all share ev - ry thing?

rob- bers? with rob- bers? with rob- bers?

721

S. Prax

all share ev - ry thing?

p *pp* *mf*

rob- bers? with rob- bers? with rob- bers? Will our homes be

726

S. Prax

mf

As long as you sleep at home not with a whore;

B Blep

safe at night? Will our homes be safe at night? So will our

731

S. Prax

p

not with a whore, not with a whore. As long as you sleep at home

B Blep

homes be safe? Will our homes be safe at

Meno mosso

♩=80

736

S. Prax

not with a whore.

B Blep

Blep looks totally horrified as it dawns on him

night? And she must be an old wo - man

Meno mosso

♩=80

741

S. Prax

That's it in one! The coun cil of - fi - ces and

B Blep

first? Where will I eat?

745

S. Prax

courts of law are to be - come free res - tau - rants. But now,

not spread

747

S. Prax

in vir - tue of my Of - fice, I must go to the Fo - rum

749

S. Prax

to re - ceive all the goods and cof - fers own'd by ev - ry ci - ti - zen, to

751

S. Prax

swell the pub - lic fund. I'll or - der a shrill-voic'd he - rald - ess

753

S. Prax

to make this de-
cree known to all.

*Prax starts to
exit SR*

*Offstage:
La-ter to*

B Blep

Pathetically

When will my meal be ready?

p

756

S. Prax

day.

*Blep collects cloak, drops it
and starts to go after her.*

*He stops, approaches
the Audience and
sings to them:*

Now I'll on - ly be known as "The

B Blep

Musical score for B Blep at measure 758. The vocal line continues with lyrics: "Hus - band of our La - dy Pre - si - dent". The score includes two staves: the top staff shows the vocal line with dynamic markings and a fermata over the last note; the bottom staff shows harmonic changes between measures 758 and 759.