

Baritone

The Nightingale

Words by Kenneth Hodgkinson

after Hans Christian Andersen

Music composed by

David Sumbler

The Nightingale

Words by Kenneth Hodgkinson

Music by David Sumbler

Nos. 1 & 2: tacet

[During the introduction of No. 3 the Emperor (baritone) enters, thoughtfully carrying a book – (his score, with a suitable cover). He walks to his place or dais. He may sit, or remain standing for the duration of No. 3. He opens the book and reads aloud, finger tracing words.]

No. 3

Lento (♩ = 66)

4

(Repeat only if necessary
for Emperor's entrance.)

7

1 2

Now let me

p

9

see. What does it say about my kingdom? Ah. Here. "The

11 **Allegretto** (♩ = 108)

ci - ty is a - - ma - zing." And here.

13 **Andante** (♩ = 88)

"The Palace is astounding." And further on.

mf

15 (spoken)

"The gardens are the ult - i - mate aesth - e - tic ex - per - ience." What on earth does

18 poco a poco rall. - - - - -

that mean? What is this? "But no-thing can compare with the

21

Night - ingale." The Night-ingale? What is this Night - ingale? Let me

24 - Lento (♩ = 72)

see. A sing - ing bird. A - bout my pa - lace

28

he writes two sentences. About my gar - den three

33

lines. About the nightingale pa - ges and

pp

accel.

37

pa - ges and pa - ges. Where is my Lord High

f

sf

Allegro

40

Chamberlain?

mf

f

ff

molto accel.

Allegro (♩ = 160)

No. 4

Allegro non troppo (♩. = 108)

21 (12+9)

f

2

3

I have read in this book of a wonder-ful bird – – hold your tongue!

mf *f (sempre)* *mf*

4

It lives here in my Empire, but I've ne-ver heard – – save your lungs!

5

that it e-ven ex-ist-ed. Folk say that its song – – not just yet!

6

is worth all my do-minions, and folk can't be wrong - - out you get!

7

I want it. You find it. Why did-n't I know? - not one word!

8

It must sing here this evening, so off you must go. Get the bird!

No. 5: tacet

Cue: (Narrator) "So the Chamberlain returned to the Emperor and told him not to believe all he read in books. The Emperor was furious."

No. 6

Lento **accel.**

One chance I give you. Unless the nightingale comes to - night, the

5 **Allegro** (♩ = 160) **sempre accel.**

whole court will *ff* suf--fer. *mf* There'll be floggings, whips and canes. There'll be

8 hanging up in chains. There'll be screaming in the gaols. There'll be pulling out of nails. Nasty

11 things that won't a - muse done with blades and wire and screws; wa - ter

13 drip-ping on your head, till you wish that you were dead!

cresc. *8va* *sf*

Nos. 7 – 12: tacet

No. 13

Adagio (♩ = 76)

accel.

Vivace (♩ = 132)

Adagio, accel.

Vivace

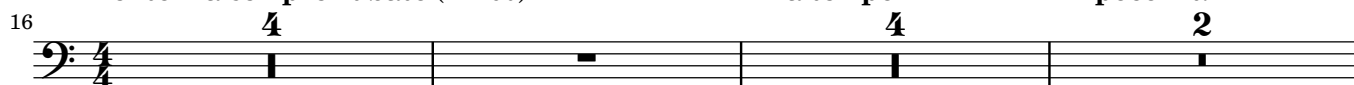
sempre simile



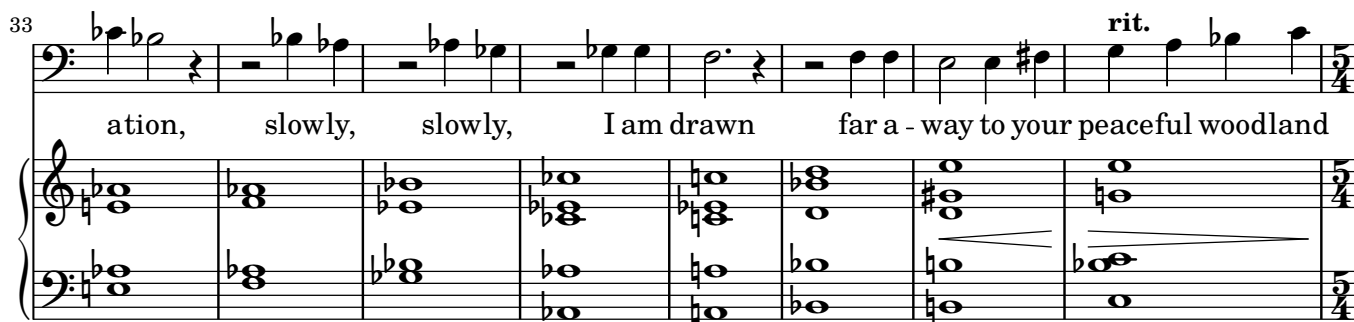
Lento ma sempre rubato (♩ = 60) poco rit.

a tempo

poco rit.



Poco più mosso (♩ = 84)



Poco Andante (♩ = 92)

41

home. There, the tangled branches lie, still and si-lent, laced across the som-bre night.

46

And out_of the darkness comes your music rising, rising, rising, And my

51

Meno mosso (♩ = 69)

eyes shine with tears of overpow'ring de-light. Sleeping eyes. Sleeper's eyes

58

Quasi a tempo - lento

wake and o-pen, sleeping eyes. Hear that voice, sweet and strong,

63

Nature's own en - trancing song. Through the leaves, tender-ly,

cresc.

68

Streams a pure melody, Up to the in-finite sky.

mf *dim.*

74

All the world vibrates in sympathy. All the stars respond in ecs-tasy, Sing-ing and

fp *fp* *fp cresc. molto*

79

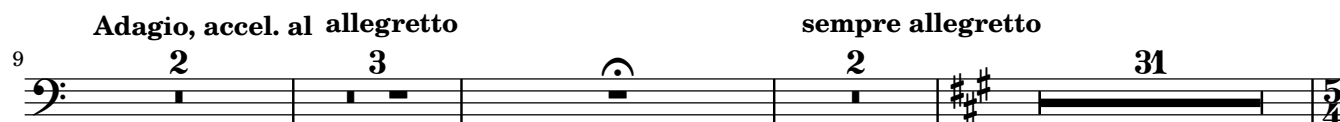
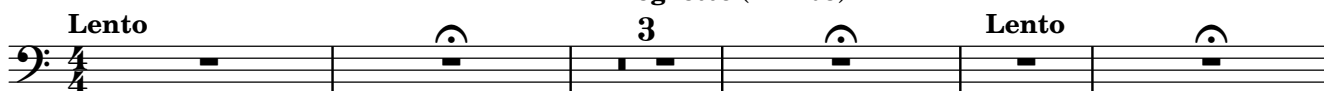
danc-ing on high.

(Flute)

f *mf dim.* *p*

No. 15

Allegretto (♩ = 108)

*Narrator:*

After the thirty-third
encore, the Emperor arose



53

way to her own greenwood. Oh, ungrateful bird. So, my new favourite,

mf

56 **Allegretto, come prima**

you must sing once more.

f

59

Now

61

you must all a-gree That this bird is the best Be-cause he is so new And

mf

64

brill - i - ant - ly dressed. Tick tock, click cluck, plink

This system contains measures 64 and 65. The vocal line in the bass clef has lyrics: "brill - i - ant - ly dressed. Tick tock, click cluck, plink". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass clef. The bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The treble clef has chords and single notes.

66

plonk, tweet tweet, Pre - ci - sion in ad - vance. Click

This system contains measures 66 and 67. The vocal line in the bass clef has lyrics: "plonk, tweet tweet, Pre - ci - sion in ad - vance. Click". The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line. In measure 67, the treble clef features a series of chords marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

68

cluck, plink plonk, tick tock, squeak squeak, And

This system contains measures 68 and 69. The vocal line in the bass clef has lyrics: "cluck, plink plonk, tick tock, squeak squeak, And". The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line. In measure 68, the treble clef has chords marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

70

no - thing left to chance.

This system contains measures 70 and 71. The vocal line in the bass clef has lyrics: "no - thing left to chance.". The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note bass line. In measure 70, the treble clef has chords marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. In measure 71, the treble clef features a series of chords marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic, with a "6" (sixteenth note) marking above each chord.

72

74

Su-per-i - or outside, Su-per-i - or within. No

mf

77

feeble, wilful flesh, But sturdy works of tin. Tick tock, click cluck, plink

80

plonk, tweet tweet, Let all the peo-ple see It gua-ran-tees one

p *f* *p*

83 *p*

ab-so-lute re - li - a - bi - li - ty.

p *f*

87

89

That un - grate-ful bird from my

fp

91

king-dom shall be ban-ished, But this, on sil - ver cushions,

93

set be - side my bed. Gifts of gold and jewels

cresc.

95

on him shall be la-vished, While our fi - nest poets pour

97

prai - ses on his head.

99

Nos. 15A & 15B: tacet

No. 16

Andantino (♩ = 108) 24 Allegro (♩ = 144) 6/8

24 24 24 *ppp*

And.

32 **Lento** (♩ = 56)

8va

p

38 **Andante** (♩ = 72)

42 **pochissimo stringendo fino a misura 88**

Ah. Ah. What is that grim

45

shape there? Ah. Can it be Death him -

mp

48

self? He holds my sceptre and he wears my

mp

51

crown. Closer he comes. He sits now on my

54

heart. Now, over there,

mf *p* *mf*

57

those kind an lovely fa-ces. Can they be my good deeds?_

dim.

60

How few, how few. But there! Those o-thers!

63

Hid - eous, mocking me The fa -- ces of my

65

sins, that say "Re - mem - - - ber!" "Re -

67

mem - ber this," they say, "and this re - mem - - - ber!"

69

They damn my soul. Mu-sic, mu-sic,

72

to drown their voi-ces! I'll make you sing, my

75

ar - ti-fi-cial bird! This le-ver here, if I have strength to move it.

8va

78

So, it is done. Now, sing!

80

mp cresc. *f*

82

84

No use. When I have need of more than

85

man can give,

86

Fool that I am to pin my hopes up - on a

87

(♩ = 100)

life - less thing.

cresc. *ff*

90

trb *dim.*

93

95

rit. Moderato (♩ = 80)

My Nightingale!

98

Here in my deepest need, You heard. You came. Before your

101

poco rit. a tempo

song — those spec — tre shapes recede, And leave me shame. You

104

strengthen me. Death listens. Even he bids you sing, sing on.

108 *poco rit.*

Reclaim my crown and scep-tre as your fee. Bid him be

111 *poco meno mosso*

gone!

113 *rit.* *Andante* (♩ = 69)

That

115 *rit. poco a poco*

cold, pale phantom, Death, now slips a - way.

Larghetto (♩ = 60)

118

Oh, Night-in--gale, to you my life I owe,

121

Yet nothing in re - turn can I be-stow. I shall not of - fer

124

gifts of gems or gold, Rewarding worth with trash, true warmth with cold.

127

Free - dom to come and go makes you content; Not mine to give, but

130

on - ly to pre-vent. But see these eyes that are with

132

tears be-- dewed, And take my

7va

134

tears as proof of gra - ti-tude. Oh,

f dim.

137

sing to me a-gain. Sing me to sleep. (Flute...)

mf dim. *pp*

142

cresc. *mf dim.*

No. 17

Narrator:

One by one they crept upstairs, to look at their dead Emperor. They entered the bedroom —

Lento (♩ = 69)

Narrator:

— and stopped, astounded.

3

Narrator:

The bed was empty. Over by the window
stood their Emperor. He turned, and smiling
at their astonished faces, he said to them:

Emperor speaks:
Good-morning!

4

Vivace (♩ = 176)

5

7