

Lions and Ants

Walt Mason (1862-1939)

from *Walt Mason: His Book* (1911)

Gary Bachlund

The musical score is set in 6/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 80. It begins with a piano introduction marked *f* (forte) and *ritardando*. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The vocal line starts at measure 3, marked *a tempo* and *ritardando*. The lyrics are: "Once a li - on met a lion near the hun - gry crit - ter's lair, and the way that li - on mauled him was de - ci - ded - ly un - fair; but the". The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano), and articulation like triplets. The tempo returns to quarter note = 80.

hun - ter ne - ver whim-pered when the sur - geons, with their

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 12, 13, and 14. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "hun - ter ne - ver whim-pered when the sur - geons, with their". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The right hand plays chords with eighth-note patterns, and the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed above the piano staff in measure 13.

15

thread, sewed up for - ty - sev - en gash - es in his mu - ti - la - ted head;

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15, 16, and 17. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "thread, sewed up for - ty - sev - en gash - es in his mu - ti - la - ted head;". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The right hand features some sixteenth-note runs in measure 16.

18

— and he showed the scars in tri - umph as they

Detailed description: This system contains measures 18, 19, and 20. The vocal line has a rest in measure 18, followed by the lyrics: "and he showed the scars in tri - umph as they". The piano accompaniment features prominent triplet patterns in both hands in measures 18 and 19. The right hand has triplets of eighth notes, and the left hand has triplets of quarter notes. The system ends with a fermata over a chord in measure 20.

21

gave him plea - sant fame, and he al - ways blessed the li - on that had

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21, 22, and 23. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "gave him plea - sant fame, and he al - ways blessed the li - on that had". The piano accompaniment features block chords and some melodic lines. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed above the piano staff in measure 22.

25

♩ = 80

camped up-on his frame. _____

28

non ritardando

♩ = 80

Once that hun-ter,

31

ab - sent - mind - ed, sat up-on a hill of ants, and a - bout a mil-lion

35

bit him, and you should have seen him dance! And he

38

used up lots of lan - guage of a deep ma - gen - ta

mp *mf* ³ *mp*

3

41

tint, and a - po - stro - phized the in - sects in a style un - fit to print.

3 3 3

44

— And it's thus with world - ly trou - bles; when the

f

47

big ones come a - long, we se - rene - ly go to meet them, feel - ing

mf

51

val - iant, bold and strong, but the wea - ry lit - tle

The musical score for measures 51-53 features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has one flat. The piano part includes a descending scale in the right hand with a fingering of 9.

54

wor - ries with their poi - soned stings and smarts, put the lid up - on our

The musical score for measures 54-57 continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

58

cour - age, make us grey, and break our hearts. Lit - tle wor - ries,

The musical score for measures 58-61 includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part features a triplet in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

62

wea - ry lit - tle wor - ries, wor - ries, wea - ry lit - tle wor - ries,

The musical score for measures 62-65 features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a triplet in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

65

— yes, the wea - y lit - tle wor - ries with their

68

poi - soned stings and smarts, put the lid up - on our

71 *ritardando a piacere*

cou - rage, make us grey, and break our

74

hearts. Li - ons and ants.

ff

circa 2' 20"

6 III 2006
Nancy