

Lions and Ants

Walt Mason (1862-1939)

from *Walt Mason: His Book* (1911)

Gary Bachlund

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of a piano introduction and three vocal phrases. The piano introduction (measures 1-2) is marked *f* and includes a tempo marking of quarter note = 80. The first vocal phrase (measures 3-4) is marked *a tempo* and *ritardando*. The piano accompaniment for this phrase includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand, both marked *mp*. The second vocal phrase (measures 5-6) is marked *ritardando* and *a tempo*. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand, both marked *mp*. The third vocal phrase (measures 7-8) is marked *a tempo* and *ritardando*. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes in the left hand, both marked *mp*. The tempo marking *a tempo* and quarter note = 80 are repeated at the beginning of the third phrase.

f

ritardando *a tempo* *ritardando*

3 *a tempo* *ritardando* *a tempo* *ritardando* *f* *mp* 3 3

6 3

9

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

12

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

mp

15

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

18

and he showed the scars in tri - umph as they

mf

21

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

mf

25

♩ = 80

camped up-on his frame. _____

f

9

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25-27. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5. The piano accompaniment features a descending eighth-note scale in the bass line, marked with a fermata and the number 9. The right hand plays chords in the treble clef. A dynamic marking of *f* is present.

28

non ritardando ♩ = 80

Once that hun-ter,

mf

6

Detailed description: This system contains measures 28-30. The vocal line has a whole rest in measure 28, followed by a half note G4 in measure 29, and quarter notes A4, B4, and C5 in measure 30. The piano accompaniment has a busy texture with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and chords in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present.

31

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

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 31-34. The vocal line has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a bracket and the number 3.

35

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

Detailed description: This system contains measures 35-37. The vocal line has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, C7. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and chords in the right hand.

38

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

mp *mf*³ *mp*

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

3 3 *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 the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line begins with a dotted quarter note, followed by eighth notes, and a half note. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a descending eighth-note scale in the left hand, marked with a '9' for a nine-measure phrase.

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 and piano parts. The vocal line has a dotted quarter note followed by eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment 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 shows the vocal line with a dotted quarter note and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment 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 with a dotted quarter note and eighth notes. The piano accompaniment is dominated by a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand and a steady eighth-note accompaniment 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