

# Prelude to a Fable

*1994, rev. 2012*



Gary Bachlund

# Prelude to a Fable

Music and Text by  
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$\text{♩} = 66$  *energetically* *ritardando*  $\text{♩} = 66$

STORYTELLER

DOG

Piano *f* *mp*

5 *ritardando* *a tempo* STORYTELLER  
Sto - ry - tell - ers, — the wis - est

8 spi - rits of each age, teach us tales. —

11 *ritardando*

The musical score is written for three parts: Storyteller (voice), Dog (voice), and Piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 66. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) shows the Storyteller and Dog parts as rests, while the Piano part plays an energetic introduction. The second system (measures 5-7) features the Storyteller singing 'Sto - ry - tell - ers, — the wis - est' over a piano accompaniment that includes a 'ritardando' section. The third system (measures 8-11) continues the piano accompaniment with the lyrics 'spi - rits of each age, teach us tales. —' and ends with a 'ritardando' instruction.

13 *a tempo*

Sto-ries filled with en - ter - tain - ments. Strange, ex - o - tic tales. Won - drous\_ tales.

16

*ritardando*

*Red* *Red*

19 *a tempo**ritardando*

Spec - ta - cles of words and worlds and vi - sion's sharp de - tails.

22 *a tempo*

We are com - pelled to see our - selves in them. A mir - ror of our se - cret

25

heart. Our fool-ish flights of fan - cy. Our foi-bles' face.

28

The farce and fol-ly in our lives.

31

*a tempo*  
Sto-ries for the small-est, the young - est chil - dren... Fa-bles for the tall - est who no

34

long - er are chil - dren. That we might see our-selves in them.

37

♩. = 66 *joyously*

As, for ex - am - ple:

*gru*-----

*f*

42

STORYTELLER

There once were two cas - tles on

*mf*

*8vb*-----

46

two loft - y hills.

One dog was in - be - tween.

DOG

A

Woof!

*tr*

50

mea - ger ta - ble - scrap or two ful - fills its choice cui - sine.

54 DOG *(marcato)*

*gliss.*

O-o-o? \_\_\_\_\_ Ta - ble - scraps! Did I hear ta - ble - scraps! Woof!

58 STORYTELLER

When fan - fares flou - rish from one loft - y height, then din - ner there is

O-o-o?

62

served. \_\_\_\_\_ Those fan - fares nou - rish our dog's ap - pe - tite, as Pav - lov once ob - served. \_\_\_\_\_

Woof!

67 DOG

*gliss.*

O-o-o! Ta - ble - scraps! Did I hear ta - ble - scraps! Did he say ta - ble - scraps? Please!

*gru*

71

Our dog a-waits the trum - pet call. Its food is soon fore-

Please! Please!

75

seen. One hun-gry dog ex - pect-ing ta-ble-scrap, that's how we set the

O-o-o!

79

scene.

*ritardando*

83

*DOG a piacere*

If dogs could speak, I'd sure - ly say: I'd ra - ther have ta - ble-scrap

*col canto*

*mf*

$\text{♩} = 70$

86

a - ny old day!— That's what I'd say if I had my way! I'd ra-ther eat ta-ble-scrap

90

a - ny old way!— Cold ca - na - pé? May-be souf - flé? I'd ra-ther taste ta - ble - scraps!

*ritardando* *a tempo* *gliss.*

*col canto*

94

Slice of fi - let? Pi-quant pu - rée? Con - som - mé?— Give me my ta - ble - scraps!

*ritardando* *a tempo*

*col canto* **f**

98

What's the de - lay? It's not so nice to munch on mice.

*ritardando* ♩. = 60 with an easy lilt

**mp**



102

Fur and claws and tail. To dine on bird is most ab-surd. Fea - thers taste so

107

*ritardando**a tempo*

stale. Oh ra-ther have ta-ble-scraps a - ny old day! That's what I'd say if

111

I had my way! I'd ra-ther eat ta-ble-scraps a - ny old way! For fa - bu-lous, fra - grant,

115

*ritardando*

♩ = 60

fla - vor - ful, first - class food, I glad - ly would stray quite far a - way, quite

119

*ritardando*

*a tempo*

far a - way, but\_ dogs can't speak! So? [ Dog Sounds ] \_\_\_\_\_

*gliss.*

*col canto*

*f*

124

[falsetto]

$\text{♩} = 66$

What's the de - lay? Ah - o-o-o! \_\_\_\_\_

*ff*

*mf*

128

STORYTELLER

A fes - tive feast\_ is sall - ied forth in - to one ban-quet hall. \_\_\_\_\_ And

132

from\_ that cas - tle in\_ the north, there comes the din-ner call. \_\_\_\_\_

136

140

$\text{♩} = 60$   
DOG

144

*ritardando*

$\text{♩} = 66$

STORYTELLER

148

152

Its ban-quet feast is set be-fore the south-ern crowd.

156

DOG

Tast - y mor - sels to the north! Sav' - ry vic-tuals

161

to\_\_\_ the south! Now I must choose which one\_ to lose?

166

*ritardando*

*mf*  
I'll scratch the north, and thus catch the south - ern ban - quet's crumbs.

170 ♩ = 60

Bow-wow-wow! Wow-wow-wow! Bow-wow-wow - wow! Oh, wow!

*mp*

173 STORYTELLER ♩ = 66

Then from the north is heard yet once a-gain the call un-to their ta - ble...

*mf*

177

Tis thus our fur-ry co - me - di - an is

181

♩ = 60

caught up in this fa - ble...

DOG

Then, a-gain, the

186

*ritardando*

north-ern folk do dine quite well; 'tis there\_ I'll heed *their* din - ner bell. Oh,

190 ♩ = 60

Bow-wow- wow! Wow-wow- wow! Bow-wow- wow! Wow! Oh, wow!

*mp*

193 STORYTELLER

♩. = 66

And, yet once more, the south - ern call to sup-per-time is blared.

*mf* *col canto* *a piacere*

198

Our fam-ished cur is all a - stir and in its thrall en- snared. DOG I do be-lieve the

*8va*

203

south - ern folk serve bet - ter, fresh - er fare. My chance, per-haps, to

207

snap ta - ble-scrap is bet-ter o - ver there! Bow - wow-wow- wow! Wow-wow- wow!

211

*ritardando* ♩. = 66 STORYTELLER

Wow!

These bright fan-fares al - ter-nate from ram-part walls in the

215

north and the south. Our se-cond-guess-ing dog

219

is all caught up with mere op- tions to fill its mouth.—

223

*a piacere* *a tempo* *poco meno mosso*

And so it goes.—

*col canto* *mp*

228

*a tempo*

233

*poco meno mosso* ♩ = 70

STORYTELLER

DOG The fan-fare ends, as all things must,

Woof?



238

and thus a-mend our he-ro's lust. For op-tions lost, like ri-vers ne-ver crossed,

242

*♩ = 70 sorrowfully*

in-sist up-on some cer-tain cost. DOG  
Ta-ble- scraps? Bow - wow-wow-wow. Some

246

*allargando* *♩ = 66* STORYTELLER

We are com-pelled to see our -  
how no chow. Woof? O-o-o....

251

selves in him. One mir-ror of our se-cret heart.

254

His fool-ish flight of fan - cy might be our own. The farce and foll-y in our

257

*ritardando*  $\text{♩} = 60$

lives. Might we learn a les-son through

260

such a mo - ral? In such sim - ple sto - ries with which we can - not quar - rel?

263

*ritardando*  $\text{♩} = 70$

That we might see our-selves in them. DOG

Gr-r- r... Gr-r- r... Gr-r- r...

circa 10' 30"