

Prelude to a Fable

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Prelude to a Fable

After a story by Hans Christian Andersen

Music and Text by
Gary Bachlund

Allegretto

energetic

Adagio

Storyteller

Dog

Piano

Measures 1-4 of the score. The piano part starts with a forte (f) dynamic and transitions to mezzo-piano (mp) at measure 4. The tempo changes from Allegretto to Adagio at measure 4.

5

STORYTELLER *lyrical*

Sto-ry-tell - ers, _ the wis-est spi-rits of each age,

9

teach us tales. _____

13

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

17

Spec-ta - cles of words and worlds and

20

Poco più mosso

vi-sion's sharp de-tails. We are com-pelled to see our -

23

rit.

selves in them. A mir-ror of our se-cret heart.

26

A tempo

rit.

A tempo

Our fool-ish flights of fan - cy. Our foi-bles' face. The farce and fol-ly in our

29

rit. . . .

Adagio

lives. _____ Sto-ries for the small-est, the

32

young - est chil dren. Fa-bles for the tall-est who no long - er are chil - dren. _____ That we might

36

rit.

A tempo

Allegro

[The Dog appears.]

joyously

see our-selves in them. As, for ex-am-ple:

42

STORYTELLER

There once were two cas-tles on two loft - y hills. One

47

dog was in - be - tween.____ DOG A mea - ger ta - ble - scrap or two ful - fills its choice cui-

Woof!

53

sine.____ DOG

NOTE: It is expected that the highest notes for the DOG be in falsetto.

Ah - oo! Ta-ble-scrap! Did I hear ta-ble-scrap! Woof!

grr

58

STORYTELLER

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

63

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

68

STORYTELLER

Our dog a-waits the
Ta-ble-scrap! Did I hear ta-ble-scrap! Did he say ta-ble-scrap? Please! Please! Please!

pizz

gru

73

Meno mosso

trum - pet call. Its food is soon fore - seen. One hun-gry dog ex -
Ah - oo!

pizz

77

molto rit.

pect-ing ta-ble-scrap, that's how we set the scene.

pizz

81

DOG

If dogs could speak, I'd sure-ly say: _____ I'd

mf

85

Presto

molto rit. . . . *ten.* **A tempo**

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

mf

90

rit.

A tempo

a-ny old way!_ Cold ca-na-pé? May-be souf-flé? I'd_ ra-ther taste ta ble-scraps! Slice of fi- let?

95

molto rit. *ten.*

A tempo

molto rit. .

Pi-quant pu-rée? Con-som-mé?_ Give me my ta-ble-scraps! What's the de - lay?

col canto

f

100 **Presto** with an easy lilt

It's not so nice to munch on mice. Fur and claws and tail. To dine on bird is

mp

105

molto rit. . . . **Presto**

most ab-surd. Fea - thers taste so stale. Oh ra-ther have ta-ble-scraps a-ny old day!_

mf

110

rit. - - - - - **A tempo**

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

col canto

114

molto rit. . . . **Andante**

fa-bu-lous, fra-grant, fla-vor-ful, first-class food, I glad-ly would stray quite far a-way, quite

mp

119

Presto

far a-way, but dogs can't speak! So? [Dog Sounds *ad libitum*...]

f

124

What's the de-lay? Ah-ooo!

ff

128

Allegretto

STORYTELLER

A fes-tive feast is sall-ied forth in-to one ban-quet

mf

132

hall. And from that cas-tle in the north, there comes the din-ner

136

call. _____

f *mp*

Allegretto

141

DOG

Ta-ble-scraps? Wow! Bow - wow-wow-wow! Wow! I feel my ta-ble-scraps com - ing on! Ah -

p

rit.

Andante con moto

145

[The Dog begins to go towards the castle.]

STORYTELLER

While on his way to the north, _____ the

o-o-o! _____

mf

150

south-ern cas-tle's fan-fare cries a - loud... Its ban-quet feast is

155

set be-fore the south-ern crowd.

DOG

Tast-y mor-sels

160

to the north! Sav'-ry vic-tuals to the south! Now I must choose which one_ to lose?

165

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

mf

170

Allegro

molto rit.

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

mp

Allegretto

174

STORYTELLER

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

mf

178

'Tis thus our fur-ry co - me - di-an is caught up in this

mf

183

fa - ble.

DOG

Then, a-gain, the north-ern folk do dine quite well; 'tis

mf

189

rit.

Allegretto

there I'll heed their din-ner bell. Oh, Bow-wow-wow! Wow-wow-wow! Bow-wow-wow! Wow! Oh,

mp

Andante

STORYTELLER

a piacere

193

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

Allegretto

198

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

204

southern folk serve bet - ter, fresh - er fare. ___ My chance, per - haps, to snap ta - ble - scraps is

209

rit.

bet - ter o - ver there! Bow - wow - wow! Wow - wow - wow! Wow!

213 **Andante con moto**

STORYTELLER

These bright fan-fares al-ter-nate from ram-part walls in the north and the south.

mf

218

Ourse-cond guess-ing dog is all caught up with mere op-tions to fill its mouth.

222

[Many fanfares, beginning to fade away.]

— And so it goes. —

228

mp

rit.

232

DOG

Woof?

Musical score for measures 232-236. The vocal line consists of a single note on a whole note, with the lyrics "Woof?". The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. The tempo is marked "rit.".

237

Adagio

STORYTELLER

The fan-fare ends, as all things must, and thus a-mend our he-ro's lust.

Musical score for measures 237-240. The vocal line has the lyrics "The fan-fare ends, as all things must, and thus a-mend our he-ro's lust." The piano accompaniment is slow and features a melody in the right hand and chords in the left hand. The tempo is marked "Adagio".

241

For op-tions lost, like ri-vers ne ver crossed, in-sist up-on some cer-tain cost. _____

Musical score for measures 241-244. The vocal line has the lyrics "For op-tions lost, like ri-vers ne ver crossed, in-sist up-on some cer-tain cost. _____". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar slow, melodic style. The tempo remains "Adagio".

245

Allegretto

DOG

Ta-ble- scraps? Bow - wow-wow-wow. Some - how _____ no chow. Woof?

mp

Musical score for measures 245-248. The vocal line has the lyrics "Ta-ble- scraps? Bow - wow-wow-wow. Some - how _____ no chow. Woof?". The piano accompaniment is faster and more rhythmic. The tempo is marked "Allegretto" and the dynamic is "mp".

249

rit.

Adagietto

STORYTELLER

Ooo....

mf

We are com-pelled to see our -

252

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

254

rit.

A tempo

heart. His fool - ish flight of fan - cy

f

256

rit.

mf

f

might be our own. The farce and foll - y in our

258 **A tempo** **rit.**

lives. _____

mp

260 **Meno mosso**

Might we learn a les - son through such a mo - ral? _____

262

In such sim - ple sto - ries with which we can - not quar - rel? _____ That we might

265

see our-selves in them.

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

p

27 VI 1994
Laguna Hills

