

Gwyneth Walker

Prayers from the Ark

*Songs of Noah and his animals
for Vocal Quartet and String Quartet*

Program Notes

*The poems for "Songs of Noah and his animals" are taken from **Prayers from the Ark** by Carmen Bernos de Gasztold (translated by Rumer Godden). This collection was begun during the Second World War, at the time of the German occupation of France. After the war, the poet, in poor health, took refuge at the Benedictine Abbaye Saint Louis du Temple. It is here that the poems were completed and published.*

These are short sacred texts, perhaps best described as lamentations, celebrations, self-portraits and offerings. Each creature has a unique voice and a unique request in prayer: a worm for the bird, water for the ducks, a saucer of milk for the cat. Noah's request is the most general – less noise from the animals!

The musical setting takes the form of a mini-opera, with ten short scenes. Each creature (solo voice, or, occasionally an ensemble) takes center stage to present a message. The music is often in free meter, in recitative style. The more established rhythmical sections are created to allow the animals to dance!

The poems selected for these songs were chosen for their charm, humor, wit and sincerity. The variety of expression from one creature to the next is appealing for dramatic presentation. Yet, the underlying spirit of prayer unites the individual scenes. As Noah releases the dove as a gesture of hope, so too do all of the creatures lift up their prayers for salvation. Amen!

Duration: 23 minutes

Performance Notes

The singers should be prepared to move and act, as specified in the score. Singers who are not comfortable acting (portraying animals) or moving on the stage would not be well-suited to this dramatic work. The staging instructions are carefully notated within the musical score. Therefore, a Stage Director is not necessary for a performance of this work.

The Scenes

1. *Noah's Prayer*
2. *Prayer of the Dog*
3. *Prayer of the Little Bird*
4. *Prayer of the Little Ducks*
5. *Prayer of the Donkey*
6. *Prayer of the Butterfly*
7. *Prayer of the Cat*
8. *Prayer of the Elephant*
9. *Prayer of the Dove*
10. *recap: Noah's Prayer*

Costumes and Props

Baritone: portraying Noah, Donkey (1/2) and Elephant (1/4)
gray outfit (suit or warm-ups)
a brown robe over the outfit for Noah, ears for Donkey, a tail for the Elephant (!)

props: a bucket (for bailing the Ark), an oar (for paddling), umbrella,
a small white dove (stuffed animal) which may rest on the piano (Ark) until released into flight

Tenor: portraying a Dog, Donkey (1/2) and Elephant (1/4)
gray outfit (suit or warm-ups) for Donkey and Elephant, ears for Donkey
a brown-and-white (or similar) "doggie sweater" for Dog (optional tail = belt, doggie ears)
white scarf/kerchief (for Dove)

props: a large rubber doggie bone

Alto: portraying Duck, Cat, Elephant (1/4) and Dove
gray outfit (warm-ups) for Elephant
yellow rain slicker, rain hat and rain boots (for Duck)
tail (for Cat)
white scarf/kerchief (for Dove)

props: saucer of milk

Soprano: portraying Little Bird, Duck, Butterfly, Elephant (1/4)
gray outfit (warm-up suit) for Elephant
Bird – feathers
yellow rain slicker, rain hat and rain boots (for Duck)
light-colored cape or shawl (for Butterfly)
white scarf/kerchief (for Dove)

Stage Design

To the side of the stage is something resembling an Ark. The string players' music stands or area might be transformed into an Ark, with a pseudo-mast protruding. On the other side of the stage can be a tree (fake or real). Near the end of the play, the characters portray a Dove and reach over to take a twig from the tree.

Prayers from the Ark

for SATB Soli and String Quartet

Carmen Bernos de Gasztold
Rumer Godden, trans.

Gwyneth Walker

Introduction (animal sounds)

[Singers off stage]

A raucous “symphony” of animal noises (vocal sounds) is produced by the singers (animals) *ad libitum*. This includes “caw-caw” (RAVEN), “woof” (DOG), “peep-peep” (BIRD), “hee-haw” (DONKEY), and any other animal sounds which come to mind. Footstomps (as heavy animals moving in the Ark) may be added. These sounds start before the strings begin to play, and continue during the playing.

(circa 30”)

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, and Viola/Violoncello parts. Violin 1 and 2 play raucous sounds, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and continuing in alternating octaves. The Viola/Violoncello part features an "insistent" bird sound and a donkey "hee-haw" sound, both starting *ad libitum* and repeated. The second system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello parts. All string parts are marked with *accel.* and a dynamic range from *sfp* to *ff*. The Viola and Violoncello parts have specific performance markings at the end of the system.

Selections from *Prayers from the Ark* are used with permission of Curtis Brown Group Ltd.

(circa 45”)

9 (dizzy)

Noah: When will the ground cease to rock un - der my feet?

Vln. 1: arco p

Vln. 2: arco p

11

Noah: The days are long. Mas - ter Ra - ven has not come back.

Vln. 1: f p

Vln. 2: f p

Vla.: f p

Vlc.: f p

mf cantabile

14 holds dove

Noah: Here is your dove. Will she find us a twig of hope? The days are long, Lord.

Vln. 1: rolled pizz. mf

Vln. 2: rolled pizz. mf

Vla.: rolled pizz. mf

Vlc.: pizz. mf

17

Noah

Guide your Ark to safe - ty, some zen - ith of rest, — where we can es -

Vln. 1 *arco*

Vln. 2 *arco*

Vla. *arco*

Vlc. *arco*

20

Noah

cape at last from this brute sla - ver - y. — The days are long, Lord.

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

rit. *Slowly, emphatically*

22

Noah

Lead me un - til I reach the shore of Your cov - en - ant. —

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

poco accel.

bailing out the Ark in time to the music

rit.

25 **Slightly faster**

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

p *p* *p* *p*

Hands held up
(as if releasing a dove into flight)

rit.

[NOAH remains on stage]

28 **Slowly**

p

A - - - men. A - - - - - men.

rit.

(2'15")
short pause

2. The Prayer of the Dog

At a frisky tempo ♩ = 100

as a dog wagging his tail

rit.

patting the dog on his head

mf *mf* *mf*

as a dog wagging his tail *as a dog wagging his tail* *patting the dog on his head*

lovingly pat instrument as if patting a dog on his head *lovingly pat instrument as if patting a dog on his head*

mf *mf* *mf*

5 $\text{♩} = 72$ *recitativo style*
mf

Dog Lord, I keep watch! If I am not here who will guard their

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *pizz.*

8

Dog house? Watch o - ver their sheep? Be faith - ful?

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *arco*

11 *f* **More quickly** *rit.*

Dog No one but you and I un - der - stand what faith - ful - ness is. _____

Vln. 1 *f* *p* (frisky "tail-wagging" motive) *f*

Vln. 2 *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vlc. *f* *p*

13 *a tempo* (♩ = 72)

Dog 13 *mf* They call me "Good dog! Nice dog!" Words... *p* *falsetto* DOG looks at NOAH

Vln. 1 *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *mf* *rolled pizz.*

15 *Slightly faster* ♩ = 88

Dog 15 *mf* I take their pats and the old bones they throw me and I seem pleased. *[look down]* *[look up]*

Vln. 1 *mf* *p* *rolled pizz.* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p* *rolled pizz.* *mf*

Vla. *arco* *(mf)* *p* *rolled pizz.* *mf*

Vlc. *arco* *(mf)* *p* *rolled pizz.* *mf*

Free measure

19 [as an aside]

Dog *f* *mf*

They really believe they make me hap-py I take kicks too when they come my way.

Vln. 1 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *f* *arco*

Vlc. *f* *arco*

Original tempo (♩ = 72)

20 *f heroically*

Dog None of this mat - ters. _ I keep watch! Lord, do not let me die un -

Vln. 1 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vlc. *f*

DOG patrols the stage

Faster ♩ = 100

24 *p*

Dog til, for them, all dan - ger is driv - en a - way. _____

Vln. 1 ["wagging tail" motive] *mf*

Vln. 2 ["wagging tail" motive] *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Kneeling front and center,
he wags his tail.

♩ = 72

27 *rit.* *mf*

Dog *A - - - - men.*

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *as if patting a dog's head* *mf* *rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *as if patting a dog's head* *mf* *rolled pizz.*

30 *mp* *p* **Faster** *rit.*

Dog *A - men. A - men.*

Vln. 1 *lovingly pat instrument* *mp* *p* *final pat*

Vln. 2 *lovingly pat instrument* *mp* *p* *final pat*

Vla. *lovingly pat instrument* *mp* *p* *final pat*

Vlc. *lovingly pat instrument* *mp* *p* *final pat*

(2'00")
short pause

Interlude 1

NOAH walks off stage, followed obediently by a trotting DOG.

a tempo ♩ = 100

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc. *pizz.*

BIRD comes on stage, hopping.

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

p
p
p
p

lightly knock knuckle on instrument
[to simulate a bird hopping]

lightly knock knuckle on instrument
[to simulate a bird hopping]

p

(20")
attaca

3. The Prayer of the Little Bird

A small BIRD (Soprano) is hopping about while looking for seeds (or worms!).

Lightly ♩ = 100
as a small bird hopping on the ground

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

(p)
(p)
(p)
(p)

arco
arco

wings flapping

4 *poco rit.* *p* (light voice)

Bird

wings flapping

Dear

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vlc. *mp*

7 **Slightly slower** *at a comfortable recitative tempo* **With motion** ♩ = 72

Bird

God, I don't know how to pray by my-self ver-y well, but will You please pro-

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

10 *espr.*

Bird

tect my lit-tle nest from wind and rain?

gentle, light tremolo, at the tip

Vln. 1 *gentle, light tremolo, at the tip*

Vln. 2 *gentle, light tremolo, at the tip*

Vla. *gentle, light tremolo, at the tip*

Vlc. 6

12 rit.

Bird *Put a great deal of dew on the flow'rs, — man - y seeds in my way.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *gentle, light tremolo, at the tip*

Slower
more reflectively

14 rit. $\text{♩} = 72$

Bird *Make your blue ver - y high, — Your branch - es lis - som; — let Your*

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *p* *pp barely audible*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f* *p* *pp barely audible*

Vla. *mf* *f* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *f* *p*

17 rit.

Bird *kind light stay late in the sky — and set my heart brim - ming with such mu - sic — that I must*

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *pp barely audible* *mf*

Vlc. *pp barely audible* *mf*

19

Bird *f imploring*

sing, sing, sing... sing- Please, Lord.

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

BIRD resumes hopping about looking for seeds.

22

Original tempo (♩ = 100)

wings flapping

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

25

Bird *rit. mp*

A - A - A - A - - - A - men.

p

knock knuckle on instrument

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

BIRD holds up a nice seed or worm!

p (1'30'')
short pause

Interlude 2

BIRD hops off stage. [change into DUCK costume for next scene]

a tempo ♩ = 100

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vlc.



NOAH re-enters carrying an umbrella.
He is discouraged.

Slowly

Noah
Vlc.

The days are long, Lord. All this wa - ter makes my heart sink.



NOAH bails out the Ark.

Slightly faster

"bailing out the ark" motive

rit.

He gives up and shakes his head in frustration.

He wrings out a corner of his robe, which is soaked. Then he leaves the stage.

slow tremolo
"wringing out robe" motive

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

(45")

4. The Prayer of the Little Ducks

DUCK 1 (Soprano) and DUCK 2 (Alto) enter arm in arm, dressed in yellow rain slickers (see costumes listing). They walk lightly, or dance, in time to the music. [Dance when not singing]

Bouncy tempo ♩ = 120
suitable for jumping in puddles

Dk 1

Dk 2 **DUCK 2** *mf*
Dear

Bouncy tempo ♩ = 120
suitable for jumping in puddles
(all upbows) as ducks dancing

Vln. 1 *mf* *simile*

Vln. 2 *mf* *simile*

Vla. *mf* *simile*

Vlc. *mf* *simile*



5

Dk 1 **DUCK 1** *mf*
Dear God,

Dk 2 *mf*
God, give us a flood of wa - ter,

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

9

Dk 1
wa - ter, wa - ter, wa... *mf*

Dk 2
wa - ter, wa - ter, wa... *mf*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.



12

Dk 1
la la la la la la la wa wa wa wa wa wa wa wa wa wa wa - ter *mf*

Dk 2
la la la la la la la wa wa wa wa wa wa wa wa wa wa wa - ter *mf*

Vln. 1
p *mf*

Vln. 2
p *mf*

Vla.
p *mf*

Vlc.
p *mf*

15 The DUCKS dance.

Dk 1
Dk 2

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

Let it

19

Dk 1
Dk 2

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

rain to - mor - row and al - ways, al - ways, al - ways.

p. *f*

p *f*

p *f*

f

23

More dancing

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

rolled pizz. *arco*

26 *poco rit.* **Slightly slower** *mf*

Dk 1 *mf* and oth - er lus - cious things to

Dk 2 *mf* Give us plen - ty of lit - tle slugs,

Vln. 1 *poco rit.* **Slightly slower** *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*



30 *joyfully* *p* *f*

Dk 1 eat.

Dk 2

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *accel.*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *rolled pizz.* *f* *arco*

The DUCKS drop (imaginary) slugs down their throats. *accel.*

33 *a tempo* (♩ = 120) *rit.* **Freely, slower**
recitative style *mf*

Dk 1

Dk 2 *mf* and
Pro - tect all folk who quack

Vln. 1 *a tempo* (♩ = 120) *rit.* **Freely, slower**
recitative style *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

37 *p* *accel.* *f*

Dk 1 *ev - 'ry - one who knows how to swim.*

Dk 2

Vln. 1 *accel.* *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

More dancing

a tempo (♩ = 120)

40

celebratory p

la la la la la la la wa wa wa wa wa wa wa

celebratory p

la la la la la la la wa wa wa wa wa wa wa

a tempo (♩ = 120)

p

p

p

p

p

p



43

f

A - A - A - - - men.

f

A - A - A - - - men.

rit.

rit.

snap pizz.

snap pizz.

snap pizz.

rolled pizz.

arco

snap pizz.

The DUCKS join hands and jump in a puddle of water. (both feet).....

The DUCKS exit the stage, hand in hand, dancing gleefully.

47 *a tempo* (♩ = 120)

Vln. 1 *arco* *mf*

Vln. 2 *arco* *mf*

Vla. *arco* *mf*

Vlc. *arco* *mf*

(10'')
short pause

During the pause, a few "hee-haws" (vocal sounds) come from off stage, *ad libitum*. These sounds introduce the next scene. [10'']

5. The Prayer of the Donkey

Baritone and Tenor come on stage dressed in gray DONKEY outfits. They walk in tandem, with the Baritone leading, and the Tenor, bent at the waist, following (as the back of the DONKEY). Tenor stands and faces audience when singing, then returns to bent position. Heads nod up and down with "braying" patterns, *ad lib*.

Tempo *ad lib.*

*high gliss. *ad lib.* [HEE]

*low gliss. *ad lib.* [HAW]

many glissandi *ad lib.*

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

(*f*)

*Violins play a high, quick, upward glissando, *ad lib.*, which is answered by Viola and Cello low, quick, downward glissando *ad lib.* to simulate the "hee-haw" sounds of a donkey

sung with exhaustion

Both singers Nod

[up] [down]

5

Dky 1 *mf* sung with exhaustion al - ways,

Dky 2 *mf* O God, who made me to trudge along the road al - ways, to carry heavy loads

Vln. 1 *mf* > *p*

Vln. 2 *mf* > *p*

Vla. *mf* > *p* col Tenor

Vlc. *p* *sfp*



9

Dky 1 Nod again [up] [down] *f* > Nod at each other [up] [down] al - ways, al - ways!

Dky 2 al - ways, and to be beaten al - ways!

Vln. 1 *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p*

Vln. 2 *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p*

Vla. *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p*

Vlc. *sfp* *f*

14

Dky 1

Dky 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

bravely

p

mf cantabile

Give me great cour - age and gen - tle - ness. One day let some - bod - y un - der -

"Hee-Haw" sounds (see m. 1)

f *p* (*p*) *f* *p* (*p*) *f* *p* (*p*) *mf*

18

Dky 1

Dky 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf

be - cause I can ne - ver say what I stand me - that I may no long - er want to weep —

mf

21 [stammers] *f* *impassioned*

Dky 1 m - m - m - m - mean and they make fun of me. — Let me find a jui - cy

Vln. 1 *pizz.* *p* *f impassioned arco*

Vln. 2 *pizz.* *p* *f impassioned arco*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *snap pizz.* *f*

24 *mf*

Dky 1 this - tle - — and make them give me time to pick it. And,

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

27 *rit.*

Dky 1 Lord, one day let me find a - gain my lit - tle broth - er of the Christ - mas crib.

Dky 2 *mf* And, Lord, one day, let me find a - gain my lit - tle broth - er of the Christ - mas crib.

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *arco* *mf* *p*

Nod heads

[up] [down]

f roughly, as a "hee-haw"

30 Quickly

Dky 1

Dky 2

A - men.

A - men.

Quickly

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

p 3 3 *f*

pizz. *arco*

p 3 *f*

pizz. *arco*

p 3 *f*

A bit faster (like the opening)

"Hee-Haw" sounds (see m. 1)

rit.

33

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

(f)

(f)

(f)

(f)

(2'00")
short pause

6. The Prayer of the Butterfly

BUTTERFLY (Soprano) darts back and forth across the stage. She is entirely distracted, and does not know where she is!

Lightly $\text{♩} = 72$

as a butterfly in flight

con sord.

Vla.

Vlc.

p 3 *con sord.* 3 6 6

p

6

Bfly *mf* Lord! Where

Vln. 1 *con sord.* *mf* *p*

Vln. 2 *con sord.* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vlc. *mf* *p*

10

Bfly *p* was I? *mf excited* Oh yes! This flow'r, this sun, —

Vln. 1 *p* *mf excited*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf excited*

Vla. *p* *mf excited*

Vlc. *p* *mf excited*

14

Bfly *poco rit.* *Slightly slower* *f* thank You! Your world is beau - ti - ful!

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

BUTTERFLY enjoys the scent of roses.

She realizes that she is lost.

18 **Slower**
p as a remembrance *a tempo* (♩ = 72) *recited on pitch*

Bfly: This scent of ros - es... Where was I?

Vln. 1: *p* *(p)* *pizz.*

Vln. 2: *p* *(p)* *pizz.*

Vla.: *p* *(p)* *pizz.*

Vlc.: *p* *(p)* *pizz.*

23 *a tempo*
mf espr. another distraction...

Bfly: A drop of dew rolls to spar - kle in a lil - y's heart. —

Vln. 1: *p* *arco, gentle tremolo, at the tip*

Vln. 2: *p* *arco, gentle tremolo, at the tip*

Vla.: *p* *arco, gentle tremolo, at the tip*

26 *recited on pitch* , ...again realizes that she is lost. She darts around the stage.

Bfly: I have to go... Where? I do not know!

Vln. 1: *arco, ord.* *p* — *mf*

Vln. 2: *arco, ord.* *p* — *mf*

Vla.: *ord.* *p* — *mf*

Vlc.: *arco* *p* — *mf*

30 *mf* enraptured

Bfly The wind has paint - ed fan - cies on my

Vln. 1 *p* *mf*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf* 6

Vlc. *mf* 6

33

Bfly wings. Fan - - - - - cies...

Vln. 1 *p* *mf* (*mf*)

Vln. 2 *p* *mf* (*mf*)

Vla. 6

Vlc. 6

36 *rit.*

Bfly Ah

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. 6

Vlc. 6

Free measure
lost again

she forgets and
darts off again.

recited on pitch

39

Bfly

Where was I? Oh yes! Lord, I had something to tell you:

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

pizz.

p

pizz.

p



40

a tempo (♩ = 72)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

p

arco

p

p

p



43

rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

p

p

p

p

and pokes her head back on stage,
as she remembers to end her prayer.

46 (rit.) *p* (with raised index finger, as if to say, "Oh yes, now I remember!")

Bfly A - men.

Vln. 1 *pp* *via sord.*

Vln. 2 *pp* *via sord.*

Vla. *pp* *via sord.*

Vlc. *pp* *via sord.*

(1'45")
short pause

7. The Prayer of the Cat

NOAH walks onto the stage carrying a saucer of milk for the CAT. He places the saucer on the floor at center stage, then gestures to it, as if to say, "Here you are, cat!"

*short, random, glissandi, on any string, in different ranges, to simulate a cat exploring the barn
senza sord.*

Vlc. *simile*

f



A graceful tempo ♩. = 72
senza sord.
rolled pizz.

2 *mf* *senza sord.* *arco*

Vln. 1 *mf* *senza sord.*

Vln. 2 *mf* *senza sord.*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

7

Cat *mf* importantly *p* echo
 Lord, I am the cat, the

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

12

Cat *mf* *grandly* embraces herself
 cat, the cat. Ah, ah, prrr (roll "r")

Vln. 1 *p* *mf*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf*

Vla. random pitches (but in rhythm) *mf*

Vlc. random pitches (but in rhythm) *(mf)* pizz. arco

17

Cat *rit.* *recitative style* *(mf)*
 It is not, exactly, that I have something to ask of You!

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vlc. *p*

19 *proudly*

Cat *p*

No - I ask nothing of a - ny - one - but, if You have by some chance, in some ce - les - tial

Vln. 1 *pizz.*

Vln. 2 *mf pizz.*

Vla. *mf pizz.*

Vlc. *mf*

(20)

Cat

barn, a little white mouse, or a saucer of milk,

Vln. 1 *arco*

Vln. 2 *pp* barely audible

Vln. 2 *(pizz.)*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vln. 2 *(pizz.)*

Vla. *p*

Vla. *pizz.*

Vlc. *p*

21 *mf*

Cat *rit.*

I know someone who would rel - ish them, rel - ish them, rel - ish them. —

Vln. 1

CAT picks up the saucer and holds it lovingly.

25 Original tempo ♩ = 72

Cat *(mf)* *p*
prrr

Vln. 1 *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *gentle trem. gliss.* *p*

Vln. 2 *arco* *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *gentle trem. gliss.* *p*

Vla. *arco* *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *gentle trem. gliss.* *p*

Vlc. *arco* *mf* *p*



29 *sub. f determined*

Cat *3*
Would - n't You like some - day_ to put a curse on the whole race of dogs?

Vln. 1 *sfp determined* [cut off] *roughly, as noisy barking* *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *sfp determined* *roughly, as noisy barking* *p* *f*

Vla. *sfp determined* *roughly, as noisy barking* *p* *f*

Vlc. *sfp determined*

[Repeat as long as necessary for Alto to change into ELEPHANT costume for next scene.] Some heavy footsteps (as an Elephant) start to be heard in time with the music.

Lumbering tempo $\text{♩} = 60$

Vlc. 

(30'')

8. The Prayer of the Elephant

All four singers come on stage dressed as an ELEPHANT. Each person has their hands on the hips of the performer in front of them in Conga-line style. The order, from front to back, is Baritone (has a trunk), Tenor, Alto, and Soprano (wearing a tail).

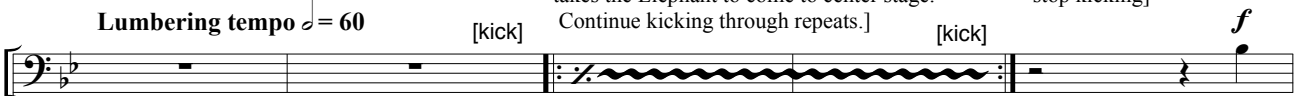
ELEPHANT dances (sways) in time to the music, gently kicking to the side, as a group, when indicated.

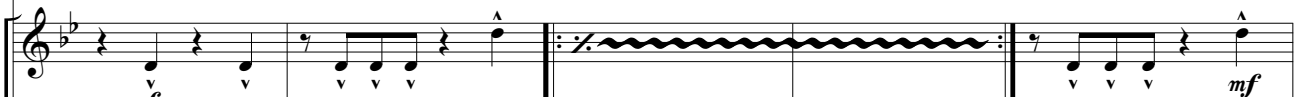
dancing continues

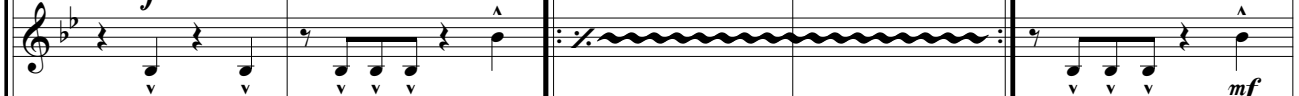
[repeat the previous 2 measures for as long as it takes the Elephant to come to center stage. Continue kicking through repeats.]

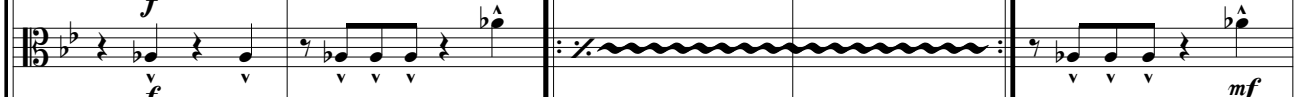
[final measure, stop kicking]

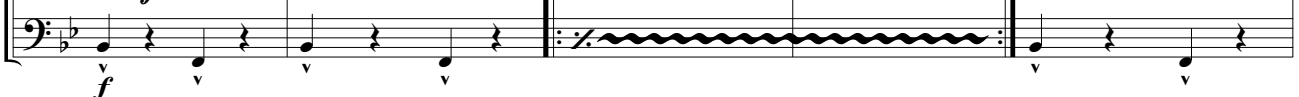
Lumbering tempo $\text{♩} = 60$

B 

Vln. 1 

Vln. 2 

Vla. 

Vlc. 

Dear

mf

mf

mf



6 dancing continues

A 

T 

B 

Vln. 1 

Vln. 2 

Vla. 

Vlc. 

el - e - phant

Dear God,

el - e - phant,

God,

it is I, the el - e - phant

dancing continues

10 *mf* lightly, playfully

S
la la la la la la la la la la

A
la la la la la la la la la la

T
la la la la la la la la la la

B
Your crea - ture, who is talk - ing to You. _____

Vln. 1 *pizz., lightly* *arco*

Vln. 2 *pizz., lightly* *arco*

Vla. *pizz., lightly* *arco*

Vlc. *pizz., lightly* *arco*

STOP dancing
Slower, more freely

14

S
la la la la la la la la la la

A
la la la la la la la la la la

T
la la la la la la la la la la

B
I am so em - bar - rased by my great self,

Vln. 1 *pizz., lightly*

Vln. 2 *pizz., lightly*

Vla. *pizz., lightly*

Vlc. *pizz., lightly*

(f)
Slower, more freely

in wonderment at their great size

rit.

18

S
A

T

B

and tru-ly it is not my fault if I spoil Your jun - gle a lit - tle with my

knock knuckle on body of instrument rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.



Dance again

STOP dancing

22 *(rit.)*

a tempo (♩ = 60)

Slower, more freely

f

T

B

Let me be care-ful and be - have wise - ly, —

big — feet.

(rit.)

a tempo (♩ = 60)

Slower, more freely

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

ELEPHANT struggles to keep its balance... ...and regains it. [at end of trill]

rit. *f*

27

T
8
al - ways keep - ing my dig - ni - ty and poise.

p

rit.
*thumb vs. fingers tremolo on body of instrument

f

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

f

32 **Slower**

S
mf
that I can re - joice ev - 'ry - where I

A
mf reflectively
Give me such phil - o - soph - ic thoughts

Slower (a philosophic thought)

Vln. 1
pizz.
mf

Vln. 2
pizz.
mf

Vla.
pizz.
mf

Vlc.
pizz.
mf

mf

*To suggest the precariousness of the situation.

36

S go in the lov - a - ble odd - i - ty of things.

Vln. 1 *arco* *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *arco* *mf* *f*

Vla. *arco* *mf* *f*

Vlc. *arco* *mf* *f*



Dancing (swaying) resumes

40 *a tempo* (♩ = 60)

S [all kick] [kick] *f* la la

A *f* la la

T *f* la la

B *f* la la la la la la la la la

Vln. 1 *a tempo* (♩ = 60) *f* *pizz.*

Vln. 2 *f* *pizz.*

Vla. *f* *pizz.*

Vlc. *f* *pizz.*

[kick] BARITONE raises trunk as indicated.

45

S
A
T
B

la la

[raise trunk] [trunk] [trunk]

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

arco pizz. short high gliss. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco



STOP dancing

rit.

Dance a bit
a tempo

They kick to the side
and hold the pose.

rit.

49

S
A
T
B

A - men. A - men. A - men.

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

rit. *a tempo* *rit.*

arco *(f)* arco *(f)* arco *(f)* arco *(f)*

Raise bow in air as
Elephant kicks and
hold pose.

SOPRANO, ALTO, and TENOR leave the ELEPHANT group, one by one. As they do, they tie a white scarf (kerchief) around the neck and then begin to fly around the stage as the DOVE. As they fly, each singer stops and picks a twig from the tree, TENOR first, followed by ALTO, then SOPRANO.

In the meantime, BARITONE slowly walks over to the Ark and puts on his brown NOAH robe from the opening scene. He takes up his bailing bucket (for later), and stands still in the background.

$\text{♩} = 60$ or slightly faster
as a bird in flight
con sord.

Vln. 1

p

9. The Prayer of the Dove

The players continue to fly around the stage until their time comes to sing. TENOR flies to center stage first and stops while the others continue to fly. Holding the twig up at face level with one hand, he begins the scene. The ALTO follows in similar manner, then the SOPRANO. Eventually all three are united at center stage for the end of the scene.

Same tempo ($\text{♩} = 60$) or slightly faster
with excitement of anticipation

TENOR at stage center, twig held up.
mf with excitement of anticipation

T

The Ark waits, Lord, the Ark

Vln. 1

(p)
con sord.

Vln. 2

p
con sord.
mf
rolled pizz.

Vla.

p
con sord.
mf
rolled pizz.

Vlc.

p
con sord.
mf
rolled pizz.

hand without twig, held up,
palm towards audience in
"gesture of peace"

6
T
8
waits on Your will, and the sign of Your peace.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2
arco
gentle gliss.

Vla.
arco, gentle gliss.
(in harmonics, Sul C)

Vlc.
arco, gentle gliss.
(in harmonics, Sul C)

p



ALTO joins TENOR,
raising twig to face level.

10
A
mf with excitement of anticipation
The Ark waits, Lord, the Ark waits on Your will, and the

Vln. 1
rolled pizz.
mf

Vln. 2

Vla.
rolled pizz.
mf

Vlc.
rolled pizz.
mf

ALTO lifts other hand in "gesture of peace"

SOPRANO joins the group, raising twig to face level.

mf with excitement of anticipation

14

S

A

sign of Your peace.

The Ark

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

gentle gliss.

p

arco

p

p

18

S

A

waits, Lord, the Ark waits on Your will, and the sign of Your

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

rolled pizz.

mf

rolled pizz.

mf

rolled pizz.

mf

lift other hand in
"gesture of peace"

22

S
peace. I am the dove, *(mf) cantabile rit.*

A
(mf) cantabile
I am the dove,

T
(mf) cantabile
I am the dove, *rit.*

Vln. 1
arco
gentle gliss. *mf*

Vln. 2
p arco *mf*

Vla.
p arco *mf*

Vlc.
p *mf*



Slower
p sub.

26

S
sim - ple as the sweet - ness that comes from You.

A
p sub.
sim - ple as the sweet - ness that comes from You.

T
p sub.
sim - ple as the sweet - ness that comes from You.

Vln. 1
pizz. via sord.

Vln. 2
p pizz. via sord.

Vla.
p pizz. via sord.

Vlc.
p pizz. via sord. *arco, senza sord. slight accent*

p *p* *p*

a tempo (♩ = 60)
with building energy

30

S

A

T

p

The Ark waits, Lord;

mf

it has en -

a tempo (♩ = 60)
with building energy

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

arco, senza sord.

p

f

mf



33

S

A

T

mf

Let me car - ry it a sprig of hope and joy,

dured.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

arco, senza sord.

mf

6 6

6 6

36 *f*

S and put, at the heart of its for - sak - en - ness,

A and put, at the heart of its for - sak - en - ness,

T and put, at the heart of its for - sak - en - ness,

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

39 *p echo* **Slightly slower**

S this, in which Your love clothes me, this, in which Your love clothes me,

A this, in which Your love clothes me, this, in which Your love clothes me,

T this, in which Your love clothes me, this, in which Your love clothes me,

Vln. 1 *p* *pizz.* *rolled pizz.*

Vln. 2 *p* *pizz.* *rolled pizz.*

Vla. *p* *pizz.* *rolled pizz.*

Vlc. *p* *pizz.* *rolled pizz.*

Slower

43

S
A

this, in which Your love clothes me,

Grace im -

T

this, in which your love clothes me,

Grace im -

Slower

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

S

mac - u - late.

A - men.

A

mac - u - late.

A - men.

T

mac - u - late.

A - men.

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

Each singer (DOVE) sings a quick "Amen" and then darts to the edge of the stage, still holding the twig.

(2'00")
short pause

10. Noah and the Dove

an epilogue

NOAH stands by the Ark holding his bailing bucket. He taps his foot on the ground wearily (one tap per measure), as he bails out the Ark (one gesture per measure).

Slowly $\text{♩} = 56$

[tap] [empty bucket]

Noah

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

[Strings join Noah's foot taps]

pp almost inaudible (to suggest weariness)

pp almost inaudible (to suggest weariness)

pp almost inaudible (to suggest weariness)

pp almost inaudible (to suggest weariness)

pp almost inaudible (to suggest weariness)

6

NOAH stops foot taps, but continues bailing.

mf wearily

Noah

The days are long, Lord.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

11

Noah

All this wa - ter makes my heart sink.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

15

Noah

When will the ground cease to rock un - der my feet?

poco rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

arco

arco

arco

19

Slightly slower

a tempo (♩ = 56)

Noah

The days are long. Mas - ter Ra - ven has not come back.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

mf

mf

mf

arco

mf

23

holds dove

mp

Noah

Here is Your dove. _____ Here is Your dove. _____

as a dove in flight

Vln. 1

as a dove in flight

mp

Vln. 2

as a dove in flight

mp

Vla.

as a dove in flight

mp

Vlc.



27

rit. to end

p

NOAH releases the dove to flight,
hands held up.

Noah

Here is Your dove. _____

finger trem. on body of instrument, fading as a dove flying away.

Vln. 1

p

(p) ————— pp

Vln. 2

p

(p) ————— pp

Vla.

p

(p) ————— pp

Vlc.

p ————— *pp*

(1'30'')

Total: 23'00"
 This version completed: May 9, 2014
 Braintree, Vermont