



2005

What a Beast Art Thou!

Eric Malmquist
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/music_compositions



Part of the [Composition Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Malmquist, Eric, "What a Beast Art Thou!" (2005). *Compositions*. 17.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/music_compositions/17

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

What a Beast Art Thou!

Three Shakespeare Songs

For Bass Voice and Piano

Eric Malmquist

Program Notes:

“What a Beast Art Thou! – Three Shakespeare Songs,” for bass voice and piano, explores the depths of the darker side of human nature. Using texts from *Titus Andronicus* Act 5, *Timon of Athens* Act 4, and *Titus Andronicus* Act 5 respectively, the three songs intend to express emotions of hate and anger, while conveying the drama unfolding during each particular scene. “What a Beast Art Thou!” was commissioned by William Roberts III and premiered by him in December 2005. Duration: approximately 10 minutes.

Three Shakespeare Songs

Eric Malmquist (2005)

Musical score for "The Old Folks at Home" in 2/4 time. The score includes a vocal line (Soprano) and a piano accompaniment (Right and Left Hand). The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "of the past a coffin in I will rear, And make two pasties". The piano accompaniment features a right hand with a treble clef and a left hand with a bass clef. The key signature for the piano is one flat (B-flat). The score includes a forte (f) dynamic marking and a crescendo hairpin. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Hark, villains, I will grind your bones to dust...

mp

B

of your shame - ful heads,

Pno.

mp *f*

8vb

p

B

And bid that strum-pet your un - hal - lowed dam,

Pno.

p_{sub.}

8vb

f *rit.* *mp*

B

Like to the earth, swal - low her own in - crease.

Pno.

mf

8vb

23

B

Pno.

23 *allegretto****ff****mp sub.*8^{vb}28 ***mf***

B

Pno.

28

This is the feast that I have bid her to, And this the ban -

8^{vb}

32

B

Pno.

mp

quet she shall sur - feit on: For worse than Phil - o - mel you used my

32

p

37

B

Pno.

daugh - ter, And worse than Prog - ne I will be re - venged.

37

p

41 *mp*

B

And now pre - pare your

Pno.

44 *p*

B

throats.

Pno.

II. A beastly ambition...

$\text{♩} = 50$ *f*
spoken

Bass

A beast - ly am - bi - tion which the gods grant thee t'att-ain to.

Piano

f

4 *mp*

B

If thou wert the li - on, the fox would be - guile thee; if

Pno.

mp

7 *molto rit.* *a tempo*

B

thou wert the lamb the fox would eat thee; if thou wert the fox the

Pno.

6 10 A beastly ambition... *mf*

B

li - on would sus - pect thee when per - ad - ven - ture thou wert acc - used by the

Pno.

B

ass; if thou wert the ass, thy dull - ness would tor - ment thee, and

Pno.

f *mp*

B

still thou livedst but as a break - fast to the wolf; if thou wert the wolf thy

Pno.

pp *pp*

19 *mf*

B

greed - i - ness would aff - lict thee and oft thou shouldst haz - ard thy life for thy din - ner;

Pno.

22 *mp*

B

wert thou the un - i - corn pride and wrath would con - found thee and

Pno.

26 *f*

B

make thine own self the con - quest of thy fu - ry;

Pno.

26 *f* *mp* RH

mp

29

B

wert thou a bear, thou wouldst be killed by the horse;

Pno.

32

B

wert thou a horse, thou wouldst be seized by the leo - pard;

Pno.

35

B

wert thou a leo - pard, thou wert ger - man to the li - on, and the

Pno.

35

37 *p*

B

spots of thy kin - dred were jur - ors on thy life. All thy

Pno.

39

B

safe - ty were re - mo - tion and they de - fence ab - sence. What

Pno.

41

B

beast couldst thou be that were not sub - ject to a beast? And

Pno.

44

B

what a beast art thou al - read - y, that seest not thy loss in

Pno.

mp

48

B

trans - form a - tion!

Pno.

ff

III. Even now I curse the day...

Piano

♩ = 60

p *mf sub.* *mp*

p *8^{vb}* *molto rit.* *8^{vb}* *8^{vb}*

Pno.

8 *f sub.* *mp* *sfz* *sfz*

f sub. *p* *8^{vb}* *8^{vb}* *8^{vb}* *8^{vb}* *8^{vb}*

B

a tempo *mp* *spoken*

Ev - en now, I curse the day, -and yet, I think few
come within the compass
of my curse-

Pno.

14

B

17 *f*

Where-in I did not some no - tor - i - ous ill, As

Pno.

17

20

B

kill a man or else de - vise his death, Rav - ish a maid or

Pno.

sfz *p* *pp*

8^{vb} 8^{vb} 8^{vb}

23

B

plot the way to do it, Ac - cuse some in - no-cent and for -

Pno.

f *mp* *sfz* *pp* *mp* *sfz*

8^{vb} 8^{vb} 8^{vb} 8^{vb} 8^{vb} 8^{vb}

25

B

swear my-self, Set dead - ly en - mit - y be - tween two friends, Make

Pno.

8va

8^{vb}

B 28

poor men's cat-tle break their necks, Set fire on barns and hay-stacks

Pno. 28

B 30

mp *rit.*

in the night And bid the own-ers quench them with their tears.

Pno. 30

Pno. 33

a tempo

B 40

a tempo *poco rit.*

Oft have I digged up dead men from their graves

Pno. 40

45

B

And set them up - right at their dear friends' door,

Pno.

49

B

Ev - en when their sor - rows al - most was for - got,

Pno.

53 *mf*

B

And on their skins, as on the bark of trees, Have with my knife

Pno.

58

B

carved in Ro-man let-ters, 'Let not your sor-row die though I am

Pno.

B

ff

64

dead'.

rit.

ff

p

Pno.

B

mp
spoken

68

Tut, I have

a tempo

p

pp *Sub*

Pno.

B

73

done a thou-sand dread-ful things As wil-ling-ly as one would kill a fly,

3

3

73

Pno.

76

B

And no - thing grieves me heart - il - y in - deed

Pno.

76

80

B

But that I can - not do ten thou - sand more.

Pno.

80

86

Pno.

86

pp