

An Old Man

(SSAATB version)

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

Cheryl Lynn Helm

(almost too) *Sweetly* ♩ = 100

Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Alto 1
Alto 2
Tenor
Bass

Ooo
Ah
Ah
Ah
Ah
stagger breaths

mp *mp* *p*

S 1
S 2
A 1
A 2
T
B

Ah (sigh) (sigh) Who
Ah (sigh) *mp* There was an Old Man with a beard,
Ah (sigh) (sigh) (sigh)

mp

Note: This is a whimsical song. Much fun should be had in the first two onomatopaeic sections (mm. 14-19 and mm. 29-34). Measures 19 and 34 may be repeated ad nauseum; individual singers may alter their own tempos and/or pitches—if desired—for a cacophonous, disorderly effect. HOWEVER: the last such section (mm. 52-57) should be sung as written, without improvisation. The sounds made in the onomatopaeic measures are imitations of chickens, owls (and other birds), bees buzzing, and finally soft la-las as one would use to soothe a baby (thank you Joh. Brahms).

11 *mf*

S 1 Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have

S 2 said "It is just as I feared! Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have—

A 1 Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have

A 2 Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have

T

B

13 *rit.* *sfz*

S 1 all built their nests in my beard!" Ah

S 2 all built their nests in my beard!" Ah

A 1 all built their nests in my beard!" Ah

A 2 all built their nests in my beard!" Ah

T *pp* hoo hoo

B *pp* hoo hoo hoo hoo

16 *p*

S 1 dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet

S 2 *p* loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo

A 1 *mp* buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk,

A 2 buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk,

T *p* hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

B *p* hoo hoo hoo hoo *mp* hoo hoo

(* mm. 19 may be repeated and improvised)

19 *f* *mf*

S 1 dee - deet dee - deet (pitch pipe) "Have all built their nests in my beard!"

S 2 *f* *mf* loo - loo loo - loo Have all built their nests in my beard!"

A 1 *f* *mf* buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, "Have all built their nests in my beard!" — There

A 2 *f* *mf* buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, Have all built their nests in my beard!"

T *f* *mf* hoo hoo Ooo

B *f* *mf* hoo hoo Ooo

22 *p legato* *mf*

S 1 Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they

S 2 *p legato* *mf*
Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they

A 1 was an old man in a tree, Who was hor - rib - ly bored by a bee. When they

A 2 *mp legato* *mp*
Ooo Ooo was hor - rib - ly bored by a bee. When they

T *mp*
8 Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Ooo

B *mp*
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Ooo

24 *sfz*

S 1 said, "Does it buzz?" he re-plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u - lar brute of a Bee!" Ah

S 2 *sfz*
said, "Does it buzz?" he re-plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u - lar brute of a Bee!"

A 1 *sfz*
said, "Does it buzz?" he re - plied, "Yes, it does! It's reg - lar brute of Bee!" Ah

A 2 *sfz*
said, "Does it buzz?" he re - plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - lar brute of Bee!" Ah

T *mp*
8 Ooo Ooo Doo Doo Doo

B *mp*
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo

26 *mf* What a buzz, *cresc.* that bee did, that bee did buzz!

26 *mf* that it does! *cresc.* that bee did, that bee did buzz!

26 *mp* Buzz it does. *cresc.* that bee did, that bee did buzz!

26 *mf* said he, be-cuz that bee did, — *cresc.* that bee did buzz!

26 *mf* Miff'd he was, that bee did, — *cresc.* that bee did buzz!

26 *mp* Does it buzz? *cresc.* that bee did, — that bee did buzz!

29 *mp* zzz zzz

29 *mf* zzz zzz

29 *mp* zzz zzz *mf* zzz zzz

29 *p* *mp* *mf* zzz zzz zzz zzz zzz zzz

(* mm. 34 may be repeated and improvised)

32 *mf* *f* *

S 1 *zzz* *zzz* *zzz* *zzz* *zzz* *zzz*

S 2 *zzz zzz* *zzz zzz* *zzz zzz* *zzz zzz* *zzz zzz* *zzz zzz*

A 1 *f* *

A 2 *mf* *f* *

T *f* *

B *f* *

zzz *zzz* *zzz* *zzz* *zzz* *zzz*

35 *mf* *p* Tempo I

S 1 (pitch pipe) "It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Beel" Ooo

S 2 "It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Beel" Ah

A 1 "It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Beel" Ah

A 2 "It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Beel" Ah

T "It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Beel" Ah

B "It's a reg - u-lar brute of a Beel" Ah

39 *mp* *mf* *mp* *pp*, *mf*

S 1 Ooo Ooo Ooo There

39 *mp* *mf* *mp* *pp*

S 2 Ah Ah Ah

39 *mp* *mf* *mp* *pp* *mp*

A 1 Ah Ah Ah

39 *mp* *mf* *mp* *pp* *mp*

A 2 Ah Ah Ah

39 *mp* *mf* *mp* *pp*

T Ah Ah

39 *mp* *mf* *mp* *pp*

B Ah

46

S 1 was an old man who pos'd That the street door was par - tial - ly clos'd But some

46 *mp*

S 2 Ooo Ooo

46

A 1 Ooo Ooo

46

A 2 Ooo Ooo

46 *mp*

T Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo

46 *p*

B Ooo

48 *mf*
 S 1 ve - ry large rats, ate his coats and his hats, While that fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. While that
 S 2 While that
 A 1 While that
 A 2 While that
 T 8 Ooo Ooo While that
 B Ooo Ooo While that

50 *sfp*
 S 1 fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
 S 2 fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
 A 1 fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
 A 2 fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah
 T 8 fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah *pp* la — la —
 B fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah *sfp* *pp* la — la — la — la —

54 *p* *mp*

S 1 la la la la la la la la la la

S 2 *p* *mp*
la la la la la la la la la la

A 1 *mp*
la-la la la-la la

A 2 *p* *mp*
la la-la la la-la la la-la la la-la

T *p* *mp*
8 la la la la la la

B *p* *mp*
la la la la la la

57 *mf* *mp* *p* *ppp*

S 1 la la la la (pitch pipe) La la la, La la la, La la la...
mf *mp* *p* *ppp*

S 2 la la la la La la la, La la la, La la la...
mf *mp* *p* *ppp*

A 1 la-la la la-la la La la la, La la la, La la la...
mf *mp* *p* *ppp*

A 2 la la-la la la-la La la la, La la la, La la la...
mf *mp* *p* *ppp*

T *mf* *mp* *p* *ppp*
8 la la La la la, La la la, La la la...
mf *mp* *p* *ppp*

B *mf* *mp* *p* *ppp*
la la La la la, La la la, La la la...