

An Old Man

(SSAATB version)

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

Cheryl Lynn Helm

(almost too) *Sweetly* ♩ = 100

1
Soprano 1
mp *mp* *p*
Ooo Ooo Ooo

1
Soprano 2
mp *mp* *p*
Ah Ah Ah

1
Alto 1
mp *mp* *p*
Ah Ah Ah

1
Alto 2
mp *mp* *p*
Ah Ah Ah

1
Tenor
mp *mp* *p*
Ah Ah Ah

1
Bass
mp stagger breaths *p*
Ah

7
S 1
Ah (sigh) *mp*
Who

7
S 2
Ah (sigh) *mp*
Who

7
A 1
Ah (sigh) *mp*
There was an Old Man with a beard,

7
A 2
Ah (sigh)

7
T
Ah (sigh)

7
B
Ah (sigh)

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

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

11 *mf*
A 1 Two Owls and— a— Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have

11 *mf*
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 *sfz*

13 *rit.* *sfz*
S 2 all built their nests in my beard!" Ah *sfz*

13 *rit.* *sfz*
A 1 all built their nests in my beard!" Ah *sfz*

13 *rit.* *sfz*
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

16 *p*

S 2 loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo

16 *mp*

A 1 buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk,

16

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

16 *p*

T hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

16 *p*

B hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

(* mm. 19 may be repeated and improvised)

19* *f*

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

19* *f*

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

19* *f*

A 1 buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, "Have all built their nests in my beard!" There

19* *f*

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

19* *f*

T hoo hoo Ooo

19* *f*

B hoo hoo Ooo

22 *p legato* *mf*

S 1 Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they

22 *p legato* *mf*

S 2 Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they

22 *mp*

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

22 *mp legato* *mp*

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

22 *mp*

T 8 Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Ooo

22 *mp*

B 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 Beel!" Ah

24 *sfz*

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

24 *sfz*

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

24 *sfz*

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

24 *mp*

T 8 Ooo Ooo Doo Doo Doo

24 *mp*

B Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo

26 *mf* *cresc.*
S 1 What a buzz, that bee did, that bee did buzz!

26 *mf* *cresc.*
S 2 that it does! that bee did, that bee did buzz!

26 *mp* *cresc.*
A 1 Buzz it does. that bee did, that bee did buzz!

26 *mf* *cresc.*
A 2 said he, be-cuz that bee did,— that bee did buzz!

26 *mf* *cresc.*
T Miff'd he was, that bee did,— that bee did buzz!

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

29 *mp*
S 1 zzz zzz

29 *mf*
S 2 zzz zzz

29
A 1

29
A 2

29 *mp* *mf*
T zzz zzz zzz zzz

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

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*

A 1 Ah Ah Ah

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

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 *mp*

A 1 Ooo Ooo

46 *mp*

A 2 Ooo Ooo

46 *mp*

T Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo

46 *mp*

B Ooo

48

S 1 *mf*
ve - ry large rats, ate his coats and his hats, While that fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. While that

S 2 *mf*
While that

A 1 *mf*
While that

A 2 *mf*
While that

T *mf*
Ooo While that

B *mf*
Ooo While that

50

S 1 *sfp*
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah *sfp*

S 2 *sfp*
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah *sfp*

A 1 *sfp*
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah *sfp*

A 2 *sfp*
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah *sfp*

T *pp*
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. la — la —

B *pp*
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah la — la — la — la —

54 *p* *mp*

S 1 la— 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*
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...

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

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

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

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

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