

14 Canons

for 4 more-or-less equal voices

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Equation

Text by Leigh Mercer

1 2 3

A do - zen, a gross and a score, plus three times the square root of four, di -

5 4

- vi - ded by se - ven plus five times e - le - ven is nine squared and not a bit more!

The musical score for 'Equation' is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, and the second staff contains measures 5 through 8. The lyrics are: 'A do - zen, a gross and a score, plus three times the square root of four, di -' on the first staff and '- vi - ded by se - ven plus five times e - le - ven is nine squared and not a bit more!' on the second staff. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 are indicated above the notes.

Answer to Pope's Epitaph for Sir Isaac Newton

Text by Alexander Pope and John Collings Squire

1 2

Na-ture and na - ture's laws lay hid in night; God said "Let New-ton be!" and all was light! It

5 3 4

did not last, the De - vil shou-ting "Ho! Let Ein - stein be!" re - stored the sta - tus quo.

The musical score for 'Answer to Pope's Epitaph for Sir Isaac Newton' is written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a time signature of 4/4. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, and the second staff contains measures 5 through 8. The lyrics are: 'Na-ture and na - ture's laws lay hid in night; God said "Let New-ton be!" and all was light! It' on the first staff and 'did not last, the De - vil shou-ting "Ho! Let Ein - stein be!" re - stored the sta - tus quo.' on the second staff. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the notes.

Inexperto Crede

Text by John Collings Squire

1 2

You may be ac - cu - rate when you say that ha - bi - tual ho - ne - sty

6 3

does not pay, but there's still one point which leaves room for

11 4

doubt, which is: How the De - vil did you find out?

The musical score for 'Inexperto Crede' is written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a time signature of 6/8. It consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, the second staff contains measures 5 through 8, and the third staff contains measures 9 through 11. The lyrics are: 'You may be ac - cu - rate when you say that ha - bi - tual ho - ne - sty' on the first staff, 'does not pay, but there's still one point which leaves room for' on the second staff, and 'doubt, which is: How the De - vil did you find out?' on the third staff. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, and 4 are indicated above the notes.

Brevity is the Soul of Wit

Text by William Shakespeare

1 2 3 4

Bre - vi - ty is the soul of wit.

The musical score for 'Brevity is the Soul of Wit' is written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a time signature of 3/8. It consists of a single staff with four measures. The lyrics are: 'Bre - vi - ty is the soul of wit.' Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated above the notes.

The Termite

Text by Ogden Nash

1 Some pri - mal ter - mite knocked on wood, and tas - ted it, and found it good. And

5 that is why your Cou - sin May fell through the par - lor floor to - day!

4

Forgive, O Lord

Text by Robert Frost

1 For - give, O Lord, my lit - tle jokes on Thee,

7 and I'll for - give the great big one on me!

4

The Pelican

Text by Dixon Lanier Merritt

1 A won-der-ful bird is the pe-li-can! His beak can hold more than his bel-ly can! He can

5 hold in his beak e-nough food for a week, but I'll be darned if I know how the hell he can!

4 (fine)

Ending: three voices finish together on fine. The remaining voice has a slightly embarrassing solo until the last fine.

The Flea and the Fly

Text by Ogden Nash

1 A flea and a fly in a flue were im - pri-soned so what could they do? Said the

5 fly, "let us flee!" "Let us fly!" said the flea, so they flew through a flaw in the flue.

4

The Ant

Text by Ogden Nash

1 2 3

The ant has made him-self il-lus-tri-ous, through con-stant in-dus-try in-dus-tri-

8 4 (fine) (fine)

-ous! So what? Would you be calm and pla-cid, if you were full of for-mic a-cid?

Ending: One voice finishes with the final phrase, on the words "formic acid", then the other three voices finish at the next fermata or fine.

The Dilemma

Text by John Collings Squire

1 2

God heard the em-bat-tled na-tions sing and shout: "Gott

7

stra-fe Eng-land!" and "God save the King!" God this, God that, and God, the

14 4

o-ther thing, "Good God!" thought God, "I've got my work cut out!"

God's Plan

Text by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Senior

1 2 3 4

God's Plan made a hope-ful be-gin-ning. But man spo-iled his chan-ces by sin-ning. We

5 (fine)

trust that the sto-ry will end in God's glo-ry, but at pre-sent the o-ther side's win-ning.

There was a Young Lady from Niger

Text by Edward Lear

1 2 3

There was a young la-dy from Ni-ger who smiled as she rode on a ti-ger; They re-

5 4

-turned from the ride with the la-dy in-side and the smile on the face of the ti-ger!

Resumé

Text by Dorothy Parker

1 Ra - zors pain you; Ri - vers are damp; A -

5 -cids stain you and drugs cause cramp. Guns aren't law - ful;

9 (fine) Noo - ses give; Gas smells aw - ful; You might as well live. (fine)

Ending: One voice ends on the text "Razors pain you", then all other voices end at the next fermata or fine. The held notes should end abruptly together with the last voice's "You might as well live".

There's Something About a Martini

Text by Ogden Nash

1 There is some-thing a - bout a mar - ti - ni, a tin - gle re - mark - ab - ly (fine)

7 plea-sant; A yel - low, a mel - low mar - ti - ni, I do wish I

13 (fine) had one at pre-sent! There's some - thing a - bout a mar - ti - ni, (fine)

18 Ere the di - ning and dan - cing be - gin! And to tell you the truth, (fine)

25 (fine) it is not the ver - mouth, I think, per - haps, it's the gin! (fine)

Ending: One voice finishes with the fifth line ("There's something about a martini"), then all other voices finish at the next fine. One voice will have a short solo at the end ("I do wish I had one at present!").