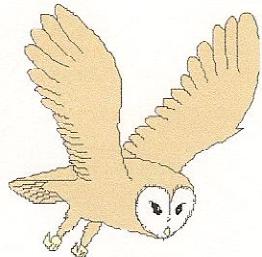


# 'There was' Stories.



Lyrics by Edward Lear

Music by Sonja Grossner

For two singers and piano



**There was' Stories.**  
For two singers and piano.

Lyrics by Edward Lear

I had the urge to write something comical, something to laugh about, something happy and jolly. For this I chose five limericks from 'A book of Nonsense'. These five ; There was stories are about three men and two women, and all have something to do with birds. When I started to write these duets I thought nothing more than to write something humoresque. But this changed after occupying myself with these poems.

I suddenly had the feeling and vision that after writing the last note to the last song 'There was an young lady whose bonnet' that there is more than meets the eye to these simple nonsense poems. They have a deeper meaning, especially this last song, is more of a serious nature and has a slight melancholic character. This work is about five people who are different, eccentric, creative and unusual. It is about people that are not always understood and accepted. They are made fun off and laughed at. It is like a clown in costume, hiding his more serious side behind a mask and exaggerating things. The man with the over large beard, the man with the too long nose could resemble people that look different but are happy in themselves and do not bother too much what others think.

The old man of Dumbree is an eccentric person who is convinced he can tame his owls and the lady of France is obsessed with her ducks. The young lady who loves to wear an oversized bonnet does not care what others think. Perhaps there is a lesson to learn here. Lets take each other for what we are and accept each other's looks and talents.

The two singers could combine these five songs with some comments, short discussions and acting between each song and so create a whole story. I have left the actual discussions and acting to the individual performers.

There was an Old Man with a beard,  
Who said, ' It's just as I feared!'-  
Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren,  
Have all built their nests in my beard!"

There was an old man of Dumbree,  
Who taught little owls to drink tea;  
For he said, 'To eat mice, is not proper or nice'  
That amiable man of Dumbree.

There was an old lady of France,  
Who taught little ducklings to dance;  
When she said, 'Tick-a-tack!'-They only said Quack!'  
Which grieved that old lady of France.

There was an Old Man, on whose nose,  
Most birds of the air could repose;  
But they all flew away, at the closing of day,  
Which relieved that Old Man and his nose.

There was a Young Lady whose bonnet,  
Came untied when the birds sate upon it;  
But she said, 'I don't care! all the birds in the air  
Are welcome to sit on my bonnet!"

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# There was an Old Man with a beard.

**Allegro assai  
humoresque** (♩ = c. 132)

Sonja Grossner

Soprano

Bass

Piano

Allegro assai  
humoresque (♩ = c. 132)

mf

There was an Old

Soprano

Bass

f

Man with a beard, an Old Man who

Bass

f

There was an Old Man with a beard,

f

sfz p f sfz p f p sfz

f

Soprano

Bass

12

said, who said, Two Owls, a Hen, four Larks, a Wren, Two Owls

Bass

Who said it is just as I feared, Two Owls and a

f ff subito p f

f

18

Soprano

*decrescendo*  
*molto ritendando*

Bass

*mf*

a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, — Have all built their nests —

*mf*

Hen, — four — Larks — and a Wren, — Have

*molto ritendando*

*decrescendo*

*subito mp*

23

Soprano

*p*

in — your — beard. — four — Larks — and a

Bass

*p*

all — built — their — nests, — their — nests — in my

*mf*

*mf*

*p*

*crescendo* *poco a poco*

27

Soprano

Wren, Two Owls and a Hen,

Bass

beard,

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

Soprano

Bass

Piano

Have

ff

sfz mf

all built their nests in your beard!

all built their nests in my beard!

Have all built their nests in my beard!

Hu \_\_\_\_\_ Ha \_\_\_\_\_

beard! Hu \_\_\_\_\_ Ha \_\_\_\_\_

ff

mf

ff

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

47

was an Old Man — with a beard! their

was an Old Man — with a beard! their

*ff*

*ff*

*f*

*subito p*

nests! a Hen, a Wren, Ha <sup>3</sup>

nests! Two Owls, — four Larks, — Hu - Hu

*ff*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

52

Ha <sup>3</sup> la la la la la la, — la la la la la

Hu - Hu Hu na na na na na,

57

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

60

na na na na na na na, There

Hu - Hu - - - Hu, \_\_\_\_\_ There

65

was an Old Man with a beard, \_\_\_\_\_

was an Old Man with a beard, \_\_\_\_\_

71

a beard. \_\_\_\_\_

a beard. \_\_\_\_\_

*ff*

*ff*

*sfz* 3 3

*sfz* 3 3

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

76

79

83

*molto ritendando*

*subito pp*

*a tempo*

*sff*

*vivace*

*subito pp*

*fff*

*8va*

*8va*

# There was an old man of Dumbree.

9

Moderato - amabile (♩ = c. 88)

Soprano

Bass

Moderato - amabile (♩ = c. 88)

*p*      *crescendo*      *mf* *crescendo*

Soprano

Bass

*f*

9      *mf*

There was an old man of Dum - bree, \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

Bass

*decrescendo*      *p*      *crescendo*      *mf*      *decrescendo*

Soprano      Bass

*molto ritendando*      *accellerando*

**14** *p*  
 An old man, \_\_\_\_\_  
*molto ritendando*      of Dum - bree, \_\_\_\_\_  
*accellerando* *f*

*a tempo*  
**18** *mf*      *f decrescendo*  
 Who taught lit - tle owls to drink  
*f decrescendo*  
*a tempo*      Who taught lit - tle owls  
*p*      *crescendo*      *mf*      *f decrescendo*

*ritendando*      *a tempo*  
**22** tea: \_\_\_\_\_ Who  
 — to drink tea; \_\_\_\_\_  
*ritendando*      *a tempo*      Who  
*p*

11

Soprano      Bass

*crescendo*      *mf*      *f*

taught lit - tle owls to drink tea; \_\_\_\_\_

*crescendo*      *mf*      *f*      *p*

taught lit - tle owls to drink tea; to drink tea; \_\_\_\_\_

*crescendo*      *mf*      *f decrescendo*      *mp*

*subito p*

Soprano      Bass

*mp*

Hoo — Hoo Hoo Hoo, — Hoo — Hoo —

*mp*

Hoo — Hoo Hoo Hoo, — Hoo Hoo —

*pp*

Soprano      Bass

*mp*

Hoo — Hoo Hoo Hoo, —

*mp*

Hoo, Hoo Hoo Hoo, —

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

41

*f*

For he said,  
To eat

For he said, for he said,

*crescendo*

*f*

46

mice, is not pro - per or nice,' —

To eat mice, is not pro - per or nice,'

3

That am - ia - ble man of Dum - bree.

That am - ia - ble man of Dum - bree.

That am - ia - ble man of Dum -

Soprano

Bass

Piano

55

*mf*

There was an old man of Dum - bree,

bree.

*mf*

There was an old man of Dum -

*mp*

60

*molto ritendando*

*mp*

An old man, \_\_\_\_\_ of Dum -

*f*

bree, An old man, \_\_\_\_\_ of Dum -

*decrescendo*

*p*

64

*a tempo*

*6*

bree. \_\_\_\_\_

*6*

*bree. \_\_\_\_\_*

*a tempo*

*>f*

*p*

*crescendo*

68

Soprano

Bass

*mf crescendo*

71

Soprano

Bass

*f*

75

Soprano

Bass

*p*

*8va*

# **There was an old lady of France.**

15

### Walz -grotesque

(♩ = c. 112 - 116)

### Soprano

Bass

A blank musical staff consisting of five horizontal lines and four spaces. A treble clef is positioned at the top left. Above the staff, the number '3' is written above a '4', indicating a time signature of three over four. There are five vertical bar lines dividing the staff into six measures. The first measure is empty, while the subsequent five measures are also empty, representing a section of silence or a break in the music.

W-1—2004 EDITION

## Walz -grotesque

mf

f

## Soprano

Musical score for piano, page 6, measures 1-2. The score consists of two staves. The top staff shows a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The bottom staff shows a bass clef and a common time signature. Measure 1 starts with a rest followed by six eighth-note rests. Measure 2 begins with a sixteenth-note rest, followed by a sixteenth note tied to an eighth note, which has a fermata above it. This is followed by a series of eighth notes: B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B.

There was an old la - dy of

Bass

The musical score shows the bassoon part for measures 1 and 2. The bassoon plays a sustained note on the first beat of measure 1. Measures 2 and 3 begin with eighth-note patterns. Measure 4 starts with a sixteenth-note pattern. Measures 5 and 6 show eighth-note patterns. Measures 7 and 8 feature sixteenth-note patterns. Measures 9 and 10 conclude with eighth-note patterns.

There was an old lady down of

1

1

## Soprano

A musical score for piano, page 13, featuring ten measures of music. The score consists of two staves. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Measure 1: Treble staff has a dotted half note followed by a fermata; Bass staff has a half note. Measure 2: Both staves have a half note. Measure 3: Both staves have a half note. Measure 4: Both staves have a half note. Measures 5-10: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (two pairs per measure); Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (one pair per measure). Measures 11-12: Treble staff has eighth-note pairs (one pair per measure); Bass staff has eighth-note pairs (one pair per measure).

France, \_\_\_\_\_

There is an old

Bass

A musical score for bassoon, showing two measures. The key signature is one sharp. Measure 11 starts with a half note (F#), followed by a quarter note (E), another quarter note (E), a half note (D), a quarter note (C), a quarter note (B), a half note (A), a half note (G), and a half note (F#). Measure 12 starts with a half note (E), followed by a half note (D), a half note (C), a half note (B), and a half note (A).

France, of France, of France, There \_\_

n

22

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

19

la - dy of France, — Who taught little  
la - dy of France, of France, of France, — Who - taught little

*crescendo*

*mf*

26

duck - lings to dance, to dance; to dance; Ha ha

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*subito p*

*f subito mp*

*f p*

*crescendo*

32

ha, Ha - a ha ha, Oh oh — Oh duck - lings to dance;

*mf*

*f*

*ff*

Ha - a - a - a, Ha ha ha ha, Oh duck - lings to dance;

*f p*

*pp*

*mp*

*decrescendo*

*p pp*

3

38

Soprano

Bass

Piano (3 staves)

*crescendo* < *mp* *p* *crescendo* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

44

Soprano

Bass

When she said, 'tick a tack!' *mp* *crescendo*

When she said, 'tick a tack!'

*decresc* *mp* *mf* > *mp* *mp* *crescendo*

51

Soprano

Bass

*accellerando* *mf* *f* *f*

tick tack,' tick tack, tick tack, tick a tack, tick a tack, tick a tack,'

tick tack, tick tack, tick tack tick tack tick a tack, tick a tack, tick a tack,'

*accellerando* *mf*

*f*

Slower tempo, - Moderato

*vivace*

Soprano

Bass

*vivace* *crescendo*

*ff* *3* They on - ly said, 'Quack!' *ff*

Slower tempo, - Moderato

They on - ly

*subito mp* *accellerando crescendo*

*mf* (speak more than sing) *f*

Soprano

'Quack!' *subito mp* 'Quack!' *crescendo* 'Quack' *mf* (speak more than sing) 'Quack!' 'Qua qua qua' *f*

Bass

said, 'Quack!' 'Ouack!' *accellerando* *mf* 'Quack' Quack Quack! 'Quack' qua-ack

*subito mp* *mp* *mf* *f*

*accellerando free independent tempos* repeat ad. lib.

Soprano

Qua qua qua-ack quack quack quack quack quack' soprano and bass stop immediately after first piano chord

(ca 3'') (ca 2'')

Bass

qua-quack, quack quack quack quack quack' free independent tempos (ca 3'') (ca 2'')

*f* (ca 3'') *mp* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *subito p*

pedal hold. *8vb*-----

78 Slower tempo, - Moderato

Soprano *pp* Which grieved — that old — la - dy of France. \_\_\_\_\_

Bass *pp* Which grieved — that old — la - dy of France. \_\_\_\_\_

Bass Slower tempo, - Moderato

*pp* *p crescendo* *mp* *mf crescendo*

83 *a tempo Walz* *f*

Soprano When she said, 'Tick tack!' \_\_\_\_\_ They — on - ly said \_\_\_\_\_ 'Quack'

Bass *a tempo Walz* Ha — ha, Ha a Ha - a Ha ha 'Quack'

*f* *mf* *3* *3* *mp*

89 *molto ritendando* *f decrescendo*

Soprano Quack Quack! Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, Oh oh oh —

Bass Quack! Ha a a ha, Ha a a ha, Ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha, Oh — oh oh -

*f decrescendo* *molto ritendando*

*p* *mf* *mp*

Soprano

Bass

Piano

95 **p** *a tempo*  
Quack! —

101 *a tempo* **mp** *crescendo* **mf** *subito p*

Soprano  
There was an old la - dy of

Bass  
There was an old la - dy of

108 **mf**  
France, — Who - taught lit - tle duck - lings to

Bass  
France, of France, of France, — Who - taught lit - tle duck - lings to

114 *subito pp*

Soprano: dance, to dance, There - was an old la - dy of France. \_\_\_\_\_

Bass: dance, to dance, to dance, There — was an old la - dy of France. \_\_\_\_\_

*subito pp*

*pp* *crescendo*

121

Soprano: — — — — —

Bass: — — — — —

*mp* *mf*

127

Soprano: — — — — —

Bass: — — — — —

*crescendo* *p* *f* *p* *pp*

*8va* *8vb* *pedal hold.*

# There was an Old Man, on whose nose.

Andantino - grazioso - delicato

(♩ = c. 69)

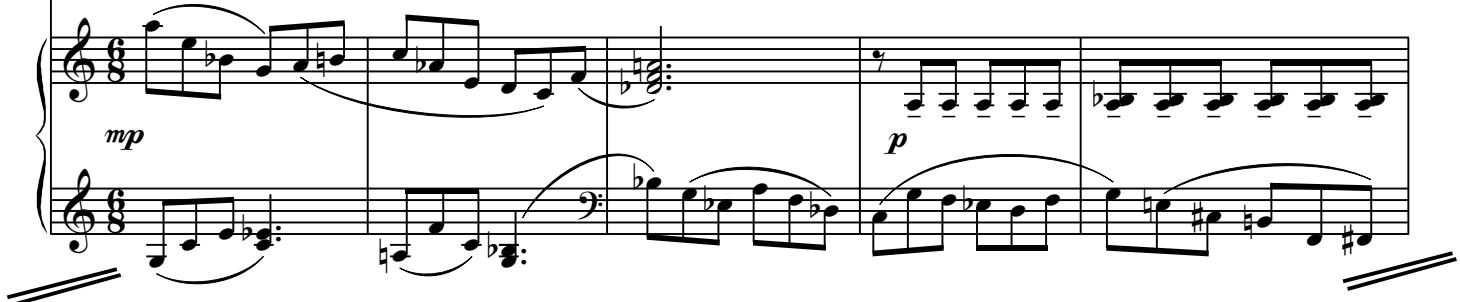
Soprano



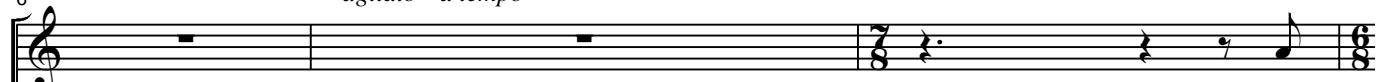
Bass



Andantino - grazioso - delicato (♩ = c. 69)

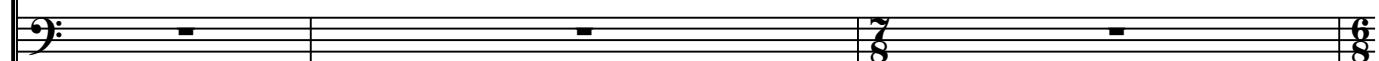


Soprano



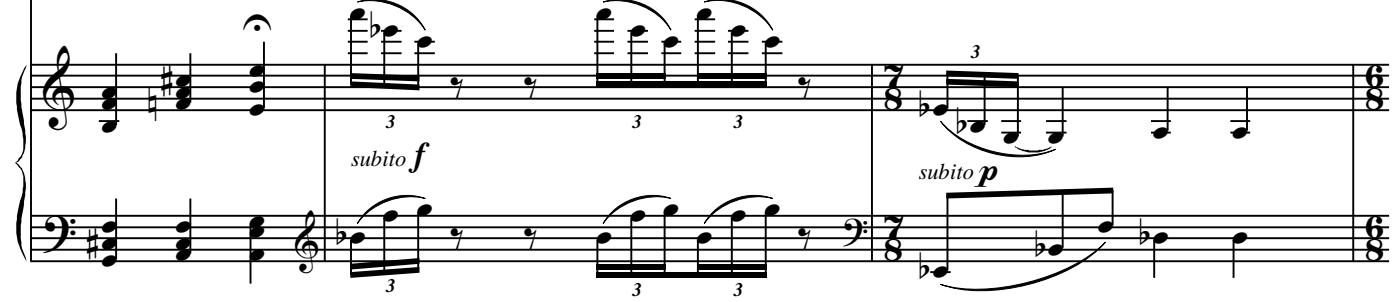
There

Bass



*molto ritendando*

*agitato - a tempo*



Soprano



was an Old Man, on whose nose, \_\_\_\_\_

Most birds of the air could re - pose;

Bass



Aa \_\_\_\_\_

Aa \_\_\_\_\_



Soprano      *mf*

Bass

14      But they all flew a - way, —

Bass      *mf*

Soprano      *crescendo*

Bass      *f*

17      *subito p*

Soprano      flew a - way, — at the clos - ing of *p* day,

Bass      way,      flew a - way, — Ah \_\_\_\_\_ Ah

Soprano      *f decrescendo*

Bass      *p*

19      *mf*

Soprano      Which re - lieved that Old Man and his

Bass      Ah \_\_\_\_\_ Ah, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh my poor

Soprano      *crescendo*

Bass      *f*

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

nose, and his nose. \_\_\_\_\_

nose. \_\_\_\_\_

(8va) -

*mp*

*molto ritendando*

*p crescendo*

*mf*

*molto ritendando*

*8va* -

*mf*

Poor Man, \_\_\_\_\_

*subito p*

*3*

*mf*

I am an Old Man, on whose nose, \_\_\_\_\_ Most

*mp*

Soprano

Bass

Piano

34

*f*

Ah— poor man, flew a - way,

*mf*

birds of the air could re - pose; But they all few a - way, —

*crescendo*

*mf*

38

*f*

flew a - way, Oh poor man,

*f*

flew a - way, at the closing of day,

*ff*

*decrescendo*

41

Soprano

Bass

Piano

*p*

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

Soprano

Bass

This musical score page contains three systems of music for soprano and bass voices with piano accompaniment.

**System 1 (Measures 44-47):**

- Soprano:** Treble clef, 3/8 time. Dynamics: **p**. Vocal parts: "Ha\_\_\_ Ha\_\_\_ Ha\_\_\_ ha\_\_\_ Ha Ha".
- Bass:** Bass clef, 3/8 time. Dynamics: **p**. Vocal part: "Which re - lieves me and my nose, <sup>8va</sup> and".
- Piano:** Measures 44-47 show various chords and rests corresponding to the vocal parts.

**System 2 (Measures 48-51):**

- Soprano:** Treble clef, 3/8 time. Vocal parts: "Ha Ha Ha\_\_\_ his nose.\_\_\_\_\_".
- Bass:** Bass clef, 3/8 time. Vocal part: "my nose, my nose.\_\_\_\_\_ nose.\_\_\_\_\_".
- Piano:** Measures 48-51 show eighth-note patterns and dynamics: **p**, **p**, **crescendo**, **crescendo poco a poco**.

**System 3 (Measures 51-54):**

- Soprano:** Treble clef, 6/8 time. Dynamics: **p**.
- Bass:** Bass clef, 6/8 time. Dynamics: **p**.
- Piano:** Measures 51-54 show eighth-note patterns and dynamics: **p**, **p**, **mp**.

Soprano

Bass

*molto ritendando*

54

*agitato - a tempo*

*accellerando*

Soprano

Bass

*agitato - a tempo*

58

*subito f*

*accellerando*

*8va*

60

*crescendo*

*ff*

*pp*

# There was a Young Lady whose bonnet.

Allegretto - leggiero ( $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 108$ )

Soprano

Bass

Allegretto - leggiero ( $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 108$ )

*subito p*

*mf*  $\longrightarrow$  *p*

*sfz* *mp*

*decrescendo*

*sfb* *sfz*

Soprano

Bass

*f*

There was a Young La-dy —

*p*

*sfz*

*p*

*crescendo*

*f*

*p crescendo*

Soprano

Bass

*f*

A Young — La-dy — Young La-dy, young La-dy,

A Young La-dy, whose

*mp crescendo*

*mf*

*subito p*

*crescendo*

14

Soprano

Bass

Came un - tied, My bon - net,

bon - net, Came un - tied un - tied

*f*

*subito p*

18

Soprano

*molto ritendando* **Moderato** ( $\text{♩} = \text{c. 84}$ ) *mp*

when the birds sate u - pon it;

Bass

*molto ritendando* **Moderato** ( $\text{♩} = \text{c. 84}$ ) when the birds sate u - pon it;

*subito mf*

*crescendo f*

*mp*

*subito p*

22

Soprano

*accellerando* *a tempo Allegretto - leggiero* ( $\text{♩} = \text{c. 108}$ ) *mf*

There was a

Bass

*accellerando* *a tempo Allegretto - leggiero* ( $\text{♩} = \text{c. 108}$ )

*sfz*

*subito p*

*mf*

*sfz*

*mf*

*sfz*

*sfz*

26

Soprano

Young La - dy — whose — bon - net — came —

Bass

La — dy, un - tied,

*pedal hold.*

30

Soprano

un - tied, — untied, my bon-net, — Oh my

Bass

— un - tied, — her bonnet, Came un - tied when the birds —

*mf*

*sfz decrescendo*

*mp*

34

Soprano

bon - net, — Oh — my — bon - net, —

Bass

sate — u - pon it;

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*8vb*

*sfz*

39

Soprano

Bass

But she said,

*mf*

*sfs*

*mf* *p* *p* *p*

*f*

Soprano

Bass

I don't, \_\_\_\_\_ I don't \_\_\_\_\_ care! \_\_\_\_\_ I don't \_\_\_\_\_ care!

*f*

*p*

I don't \_\_\_\_\_ care! \_\_\_\_\_ She does not care! Oh \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

*crescendo mp*

*p*

Soprano

Bass

don't care! \_\_\_\_\_ all the birds \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

Oh \_\_\_\_\_ all the birds \_\_\_\_\_ in the

*mp* *subito mp*

*p* *8va* *mp*

*p* *crescendo*

54

Soprano

Bass

*f*

— in the air, — Ha ha-a ha, Ha ha-a ha, Ha ha a ha, Ha ha,

*mp*

*f*

air — in the air Are wel - come to sit on her

*mf*

*f*

*subito p*

60

Soprano

Bass

*f*

Ha, Ha ha — Are wel - come to sit on my

*mf*

*f*

bon - net! Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh,

*mf*

*decrescendo*

*mp* *mf*

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

65

Soprano

Bass

bon - net!' — 'Are wel - come to

Oh, — Are wel - come to

*decrescendo*

*p*

71

Soprano

sit \_\_\_\_ on my bon - net! \_\_\_\_

Bass

sit \_\_\_\_ on her bon - net! \_\_\_\_

*subito p*

*mf*  $\nearrow$  *p*

*sfz* 8<sup>vb</sup> - - - - -

75

Soprano

- | 3 - | 4 - | -

Bass

- | 3 - | 4 - | -

*mp*

*p*

*sfz*

*p*

*crescendo*

79

Soprano

- | 3 - | 3 - | -

Bass

- | 3 - | 3 - | -

*> mf*

*mp*

*8va* - - - - -

*p*

*8vb* - - - - -



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