

RAYMOND YIU

BEYOND THE GLASS

for Mixed Chorus
(2003)

Preview File Only

OPHELIA: You must sing 'A-down, a-down', and you call him a-down-a. O, how the wheel becomes it! It is the false steward, that stole his master's daughter.
LAERTES: This nothing's more than matter.
OPHELIA: There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray you, love, remember. And there is pansies, that's for thoughts.
LAERTES: A document in madness ...

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet IV.5*

Preview File Only

Duration: 15'00"

Texts

I.
The world is all but madness
Then why are we confined
To live by law, and lie in straw
With hunger almost pined ...

Take my locks take my bolts off,
Wee'le be as free as they be,
Who keep such state, that none dare prate
Yet are as mad as may be.

Thomas Jordan (1642)

II.
Hey diddle diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon;
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Anonymous

III.
I felt a Cleaving in my Mind -
As if my Brain had split -
I tried to match it - Seam by Seam -
But could not make them fit.

The thought behind, I strove to join
Unto the thought before -
But Sequence ravelled out of Sound
Like Balls - upon a Floor.

Emily Dickinson (c. 1864)

IV.
A miracle, my friends, come view,
A man, admit his own words true,
Who lives without a soul;
Nor liver, lungs, nor heart has he,
Yet, sometimes, can as cheerful be
As if he had the whole.

His head (take his own words along)
Now hard as iron, yet are long
Is soft as any jelly;
All burnt his sinews, and his lungs;
Of his complaints, not fifty tongues
Could find enough to tell ye.

Yet he who paints his likeness here,
Has just as much himself to fear,
He's wrong from top to toe;
Ah friends! pray help us, if you can,
And make us each again a man,
That we from hence may go.

Samuel Tuke (1813)

V.
Three wise men of Gotham
Went to sea in a bowl;
If the bowl had been stronger,
My story would have been longer.

Anonymous

VI.
The summer sun ray
shifts through a suspicious tree.
though I walk through the valley of the shadow
It sucks the air
and looks around for me.

The grass speaks.
I hear green chanting all day.
I will fear no evil, fear no evil
The blades extend
and reach my way.

The sky breaks.
It sags and breathes upon my face.
in the presence of mine enemies, mine enemies
The world is full of enemies.
There is no safe place.

Anne Sexton (1960)

VII.
When I was a little boy
I had but little wit;
'Tis a long time ago,
And I have no more yet;
Nor ever, ever shall,
Until that I die,
For the longer I live
The more fool am I.

Anonymous

Performance Note:

In movement II and III, singers are required to sing harmonics by closing their mouth. This is indicated by the notation + above the notes. Normal singing is resumed when the notation ? is encountered.

Texts

I. First Document

The world is all but madness
Then why are we confined
To live by law, and lie in straw
With hunger almost pined ...

Take my locks take my bolts off,
Wee'le be as free as they be,
Who keep such state, that none dare prate
Yet are as mad as may be.

Thomas Jordan (1642)

II. First Nonsense

Hey diddle diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon;
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Anonymous

III. Second Document

I felt a Cleaving in my Mind -
As if my Brain had split -
I tried to match it - Seam by Seam -
But could not make them fit.

The thought behind, I strove to join
Unto the thought before -
But Sequence ravelled out of Sound
Like Balls - upon a Floor.

Emily Dickinson (c.1864)

IV. Third Document

A miracle, my friends, come view,
A man, admit his own words true,
Who lives without a soul;
Nor liver, lungs, nor heart has he,
Yet, sometimes, can as cheerful be
As if he had the whole.

His head (take his own words along)
Now hard as iron, yet are long
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All burnt his sinews, and his lungs;
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Yet he who paints his likeness here,
Has just as much himself to fear,
He's wrong from top to toe;
Ah friends! pray help us, if you can,
And make us each again a man,
That we from hence may go.

Samuel Tuke (1813)

V. Second Nonsense
Three wise men of Gotham
Went to sea in a bowl;
If the bowl had been stronger,
My story would have been longer.

Anonymous

VI. Fourth Document
The summer sun ray
shifts through a suspicious tree.
though I walk through the valley of the shadow
It sucks the air
and looks around for me.

The grass speaks.
I hear green chanting all day.
I will fear no evil, fear no evil
The blades extend
and reach my way.

The sky breaks.
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in the presence of mine enemies, mine enemies
The world is full of enemies.
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Anne Sexton (1960)

VII. Fifth Document
When I was a little boy
I had but little wit;
'Tis a long time ago,
And I have no more yet;
Nor ever, ever shall,
Until that I die,
For the longer I live
The more fool am I.

Anonymous

To Michael Emery
BEYOND THE GLASS

for Mixed Chorus

Text: THOMAS JORDON

RAYMOND YIU
(2003)

q = 72, or slightly faster **I. THE WORLD IS ALL BUT MADNESS**

Soprano

The world The world

Alto

The world The world

Tenor

The world The world

Bass

The world The world

7

S.

world is all but

A.

The world is all but

T.

world is all but

B.

The world is all but

2 12 *p sub.* *pp whispering*

S. mad - ness. Then why are we con -

A. mad - ness. Then why are we con -

T. mad - ness. Then why are we con -

B. mad - ness. Then why are we con -

20 *p (sing)* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf*

S. - fined To live by law, and

A. - fined To live by law, and

T. - fined To live by law, and

B. - fined To live by law, and

25 3

S. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
lie in straw, hun - - ger

A. *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *dim.*
lie in straw, With hun - ger al -

T. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
lie in straw, hun - - ger

B. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
lie in straw, hun - - ger

mf *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *dim.*
lie in straw, With hun - ger al -

mf *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *dim.*
lie in straw, With hun - ger al -

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
lie in straw, hun - - ger

mf *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *dim.*
lie in straw, With hun - ger al -

30

S. *pp*
al - - most pined (p)ine(d)

A. *pp* *gliss.* *ff* *gliss.* *pp*
most pined (p)ine(d)

T. *pp* *gliss.* *ff* *gliss.* *pp*
al - - most pined (p)ine(d)

B. *pp* *gliss.* *ff* *gliss.* *pp*
al - - most pined (p)ine(d)

pp *gliss.* *ff* *gliss.* *pp*
most pined (p)ine(d)

4 35 *mp deliberato* *f* *mp*

S. locks my bolts off, be free be

S. *mp deliberato* *f* *mp*
Take my locks take my bolts off, Wee' - le be as free as

A. *p* *p* *p* *p* *mp deliberato*
my my my my be free be

A. *p* *p* *p* *p* *mp espress.*
my my my my free be free

T. *mp deliberato* *f* *mp*
locks my bolts off, be free be

T. *mp deliberato* *f* *mp*
Take my locks take my bolts off, Wee' - le be as free as

B. *p* *p* *p* *p* *mp deliberato*
my my my my be free be

B. *p* *p* *p* *p* *mp espress.*
my my my my free be free

41 *f - p* *f* *p*

S. free be. Who keep such state, that none

S. *pp* *p* *f - p*
they be. Who none

A. *f - p* *f* *p*
free be. Who keep such state, that none

A. *pp* *p* *f - p*
be free Who none

T. *f - p* *f* *p*
free be. Who keep such state, that none

T. *pp* *p* *f - p*
they be. Who none

B. *f - p* *f* *p*
free be. Who keep such state, that none

B. *pp* *p* *f - p*
be free Who none

