Robinsongs

for Mezzo-Soprano,
Oboe, and Piano

Vocal Part

Bill Robinson

Some Hallucinations

He thought he saw an Elephant,
  That practiced on a fife:
He looked again, and found it was
  A letter from his wife.
"At length I realize," he said,
  "The bitterness of life."

He thought he saw a Buffalo
  Upon the chimneypiece:
He looked again, and found it was
  His Sister's Husband's Niece.
"Unless you leave this house," he said,
  "I'll send for the Police!"

He thought he saw a Rattlesnake
  That questioned him in Greek:
He looked again, and found it was
  The Middle of Next Week.
"The one thing I regret," he said,
  "Is that it cannot speak!"

He thought he saw a Banker's Clerk
  Descending from the 'bus:
He looked again, and found it was
  A Hippopotamus.
"If this should stay to dine," he said,
  "There won't be much for us!"

–Lewis Carroll

The Purist

I give you now Professor Twist,
A conscientious scientist,
Trustees exclaimed, "He never bungles!"
And sent him off to distant jungles.
Camped on a tropic riverside,
One day he missed his loving bride.
She had, the guide informed him later,
Been eaten by an alligator.
Professor Twist could not but smile.
"You mean," he said, "a crocodile."

--Ogden Nash

You Are Old, Father William

"You are old, father William," the young man said,
"And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your head--
Do you think, at your age, it is right?"

"In my youth," father William replied to his son,
"I feared it might injure the brain;
But now that I'm perfectly sure I have none,
Why, I do it again and again."

"You are old," said the youth, "as I mentioned before,
And have grown most uncommonly fat;
Yet you turned a back-somersault in at the door--
Pray what is the reason of that?"

"In my youth," said the sage, as he shook his grey locks,
"I kept all my limbs very supple
By the use of this ointment--one shilling the box--
Allow me to sell you a couple?"

"You are old," said the youth, "and your jaws are to weak
For anything tougher than suet;
Yet you finished the goose, with the bones and the beak--
Pray, how did you manage to do it?"

"In my youth," said his father, "I took to the law,
And argued each case with my wife;
And the muscular strength, which it gave to my jaw,
Has lasted the rest of my life."

"You are old," said the youth, "one would hardly suppose
That your eye was as steady as ever;
Yet you balanced an eel on the end of your nose--
What made you so awfully clever?"

"I have answered three questions and that is enough,"
Said the father. "Don't give yourself airs!
Do you think I can listen all day to such stuff?
Be off, or I'll kick you down stairs!"

---Lewis Carroll

Voice
(Mezzo-Soprano)

Robinsongs

1. Some Hallucinations [5:20]

lyrics by Lewis Carroll
music by Bill Robinson

A perfectly sane tempo (♩ = 60)

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24
V.
Ob.
p
He thought he saw a Buf-fa-lo Up-
ff
p
29
cresc. p. a p.
(mp)
(mf)
on the chim-ney-piece: He looked a-gain, and found it was His Sis-ter's Hus-band's Niece. "Un-
mp
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
32
(f)
ff
less you leave this house," he said, "I'll send for the Po-lice!"
(f)
ff
p
cresc.
38
f
He thought he saw a Rat-tle-snake That ques-tioned him in
(mp)
(mf)
f
42
cresc.
Greek:
He looked a-gain, and
cresc.
47
ff
found it was The Mid-dle of Next Week.
ff
mf
mp

52
mp cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
V.
Ob.
"The one thing I re - gret," he said, "Is that it can - not
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
57
f
V.
Ob.
speak!"
(f)
ff
2
2
p
64
mp
V.
Ob.
He thought he saw a Ban - ker's Clerk De - scen-ding from the 'bus: He
mp
67
f
V.
Ob.
looked a-gain, and found it was A Hip-po-pot-a - mus.
f
p
73
mf
V.
Ob.
"If this should stay to
mp
mf
77
f
ff
V.
Ob.
dine," he said, "There won't be much for us!"
f
ff
pp

11. The Purist [3']

lyrics by Ogden Nash
music by Bill Robinson

Allegro academia (♩ = 120)

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40
V.
Ob.
One day he missed his lov - ing bride. She had, the guide in-formed him
43
la - ter, Been eat - en by an al - li - ga - tor.
ff
dim. p. a p.
47
sf
mf
mp
p
52
mp
61
69
f
Pro - fes - sor Twist could not but
73
ff
f
rit.
mf
mp
p
smile but smile but smile but smile but smile but smile but smile but smile.
78
a tempo
"You mean," he said, "a cro - - - co - - - dile."

III. You Are Old, Father William [5:40]

lyrics by Lewis Carroll
music by Bill Robinson

Guano ma non troppo (♩ = 65)

Voice

3

mp *mf*

"You are old, fa - ther Wil - liam," the young man said, "And your

6

V.

Ob.

f

hair has be-come ve-ry white; And yet you in-ces-sant-ly stand on your head - - - Do you

12

V.

Ob.

f

think, at your age, it is right? Do you think, at your age, it is right?"

2

mp *p*

18

V.

Ob.

mp *f*

"In my youth," fa-ther Wil - liam re-plied to his son, "I feared it might in - jure the brain; But

21

V.

Ob.

ff

now that I'm per-fect-ly sure I have none, Why, I do it a-gain and a-gain. Why, I do it a-gain and a-gain. Why, I

24

V.

Ob.

do it a-gain and a - gain. Why, I do it a - gain and a-gain."

26
2
mp
mf
V.
"You are old," said the youth, "as I men-tioned be-fore, And have grown most un-com-mon-ly fat;
Ob.
32
f
Yet you turned a back-som - er-sault in at the door
36
Pray what is the rea-son of that?"
mf
40
p
cresc. p. a p.
"In my youth," said the sage, as he
45
(mp)
(mf)
(f)
shook his grey locks, "I kept all my limbs ve-ry sup-ple By the use of this oint-ment-one shil-ling the box-Al-
49
ff
3
mf
low me to sell you a cou-ple?"
"You are

55
V.
old," said the youth, "and your jaws are too weak For an - y - thing tough - er than su - et; Yet you
Ob.
57
dim.
p
f
fin-ished the goose, with the bones and the beak-Pray, how did you man-age to do it?" "In my
61
youth," said his fa - ther, "I took to the law, And ar - gued each case with my wife; And the
64
ff
mus-cu-lar strength, which it gave to my jaw, Has las-ted the rest of my
68
life." "You are
mf
73
old," said the youth, "one would hard-ly sup-pose That your eye was as stea-dy as ev-er ev-er ev-er ev-er;

77
V.
Yet you ba-lanced an eel on the end of your nose-What made you so aw-ful-ly cle-ver?"
Ob.
81
ff
"I have
f
ff
86
an-swered three ques-tions, and that is e-nough," Said the fa-ther. "Don't give your-self airs! Do you
88
think I can list-en all day to such stuff? Be off, or I'll kick you down stairs! Be
90
off, or I'll kick you down stairs! Be off, or I'll kick you down stairs! Be
92
off, or I'll kick you down stairs!"
f
mp
pp

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Oboe, and Piano

Oboe Part

Bill Robinson

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43
cresc.
47
ff
mf
mp
52
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
57
(f)
ff
2
63
p
mp
f
70
p
74
mp
mf
f
ff
78
pp

11. The Purist [3']

lyrics by Ogden Nash
music by Bill Robinson

Allegro academia (♩ = 120)

Oboe

© 2012

44
ff
ff
dim. p. a p.
47
(f)
(mf)
(mp)
50
p
57
mp
64
69
73
f
ff
f
76
rit.
a tempo
mf
mp
p
4

III. You Are Old, Father William [5:40]

lyrics by Lewis Carroll
music by Bill Robinson

Guano ma non troppo (♩ = 65)

Oboe

53
p
2
p
60
2
f
tr
ff
66
mf
71
p
p
78
83
f
ff
87
90
92
f
mp
pp