

The Mysterious Fruit

Mezzo-Soprano & Piano

Karl Henning
Opus 124a

arranged for Sara Richardson Crigger

The Mysterious Fruit

Leo Schulte

Karl Henning
Opus 124a

Andante con moto ♩ = 80 **G.P.** *f*

Mezzo-soprano

Piano

Once I knew a far-mer With

fruit trees of all kinds, Like cher-ries and ap-ples and pump-kins!

7

11

A

Now don't be a bumpkin Of lit-tle i - ma - gi - na - tion! A tree with

tr **A** *tr*

17

pump-kins, I will glad-ly ad mit, Is rare these days, But be pa-tient and sit, be

21

pa-tient and sit, For in this ve-ry odd, ve-ry odd tree Hangs a

25

pump-kin__ un-ripe, Re-fus-ing to o-range or fall, Be-cause this

29

pump-kin heard a call To turn it-self, turn it-self in - to a pro-per

34

house for a strange and sleep-ing mouse. One

38 **Poco meno mosso** ♩ = 68

year in the spring the far-mer did see A high-ly ec - cen-tric sprout,

42

high - ly ec - cen-tric sprout In the midst of his or - chard.

47 **D** (come prima) ♩ = 68 *f*



A sprout so_pied, so_ pied that the far-mer did shout: All the trees in my

[illegible]

52

or-chard Are mak-ing a rain-bow tree, — Are mak-ing a rain-bow tree! With

tr

tr

tr

57

all the fla-vors and joys_ From the fruits_____ in my or-chard Like

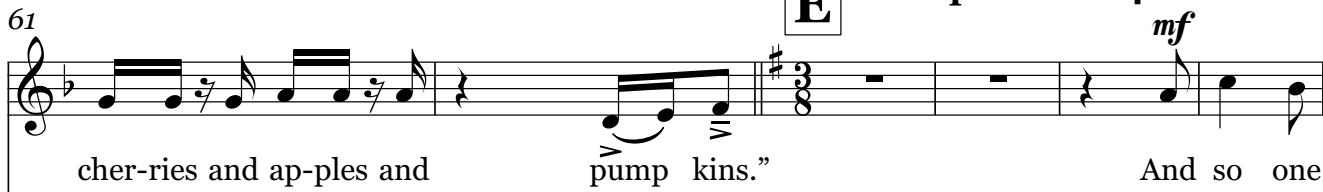

mp

tr

mp

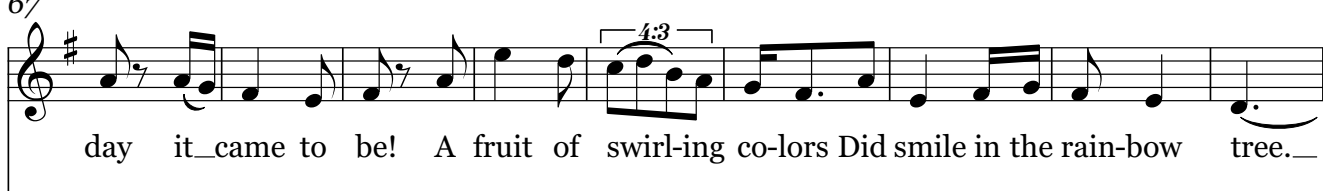

61 **E** **Tranquillo** $\text{♩} = 40$ *mf*

cher-ries and ap-ples and pump kins." And so one

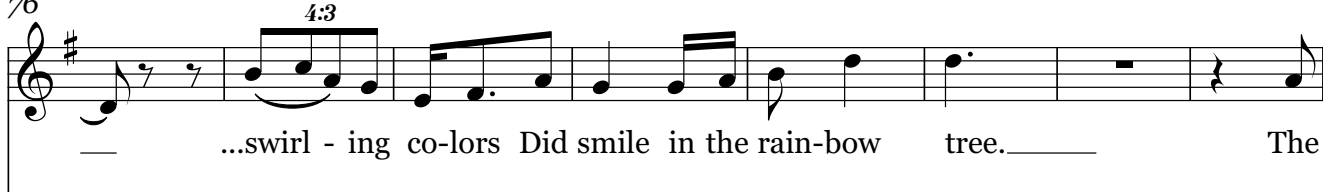

67 **E** **Tranquillo** $\text{♩} = 40$

day it came to be! A fruit of swirl-ing co-lors Did smile in the rain-bow tree.

76 **E** **Tranquillo** $\text{♩} = 40$

...swirl - ing co-lors Did smile in the rain-bow tree. The

84 **F**

far-mer was tempt-ed, was tempt ed By the fruit's en - tic - ing call, And

92

wait - ed for that ripe-filled day When he could eat it all.____

99 **G** Tempo primo ♩ = 80

But the call____ of the rain-bow tree

G Tempo primo ♩ = 80

104

Poco meno mosso ♩ = 72

Spread through-out the land To the king, A

Poco meno mosso ♩ = 72

107

man with the power, the power To tax and take and lash and bake Whom

111

e-ver and what-e-ver he want-ed!

H ♩ = 72

H ♩ = 72

115

f “The rain - bow tree be longs to me!” The king did de-clare, and **mp**

119 9

no one would dare To tell the king that the great de light And the

122

ve-ry di-vine right To have the first bite Did not be-long to him.

126

f **I**
 "Up-root that tree and bring it to me! Its

I

131

rain - bow fruit I want to see In my or- chard!"

135 **J** Tempo primo ♩ = 80

J Tempo primo ♩ = 80

f This Marx-ist king of con fis - ca - tion

140 **Meno mosso** ♩ = 60

mp Soon had a taste of wise fru-stra - tion From the far-mer, Who found two

Meno mosso ♩ = 60

145

stags de-ceased With ant-lers en- twined, Which there-fore in creased his won-d'ring

p

149

mind With i-deas for escap-ing The king's plan for tak-ing The far-mer's or- chard.

rall..

K Poco adagio ♩ = 54

153

The dead deer he placed At the base of the

mp

K Poco adagio ♩ = 54

p

5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4

172

When the king's men ar - rived To steal the

178

far - mer's tree, *mf* The man cried and la-

182

ment-ed quite a-loud: **Tranquillo** $\text{♩} = 40$ *f* "Be-hold the fruit of these

f assai

189

beau-ti-ful limbs Has poi - soned the beau ti ful limbs, Has poi soned the

196

beau ti-ful limbs Of these two deer!"

204 **M** Poco adagio ♩ = 54
mp

Then did the king_ la - ment The loss of the won - drous

M Poco adagio ♩ = 54
5:4

209

scent Of the rain - bow fruit:___

213

Nobilmente ♩ = 88*mf*

“O how I want-ed to taste and tax the fruit_ of the

Nobilmente ♩ = 88

219

N

mi - ra-cle tree, To share its seeds with ev-'ry-one, And

N

224

tax their fu - ture fruit For the good of our ___ poor na - tion!

230

But to tax poi - son is a temp - ta - tion Un - wor - thy

poco rit.

5:4

234

(corta) **O** Grazioso ♩. = 60

of a king." So the

(corta) **O** Grazioso ♩. = 60

mf

238

far-mer kept his tree, And refused to cut it down, And

241

poco rit. . . . Poco meno mosso ♩ = 54

wait-ed for the fruit to rip-en, Which it ne-ver did!

poco rit. . . . Poco meno mosso ♩ = 54

244

247

4:3

250

5:6

4:3

5:6

253

256

p

The

P 259 **Lo stesso tempo (ma poco liberamente)**

mf

neigh-bors were un hap-py And feared the poi-son's spread, And asked the king to

P **Lo stesso tempo (ma poco liberamente)**

p

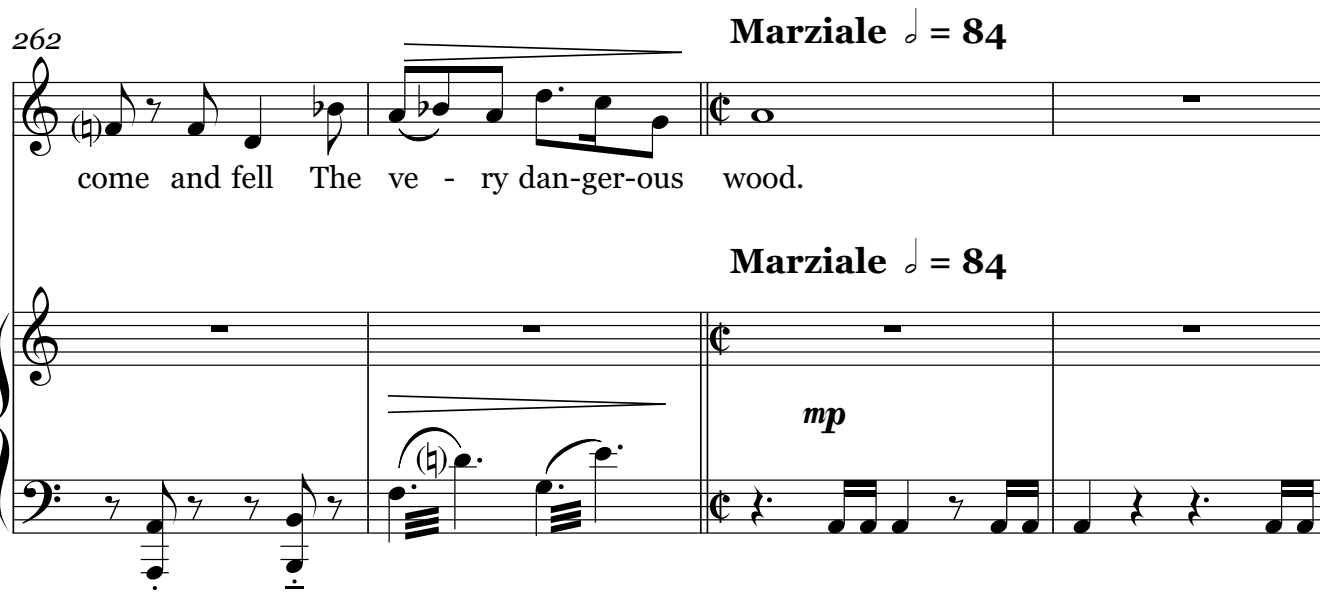
mf

262 **Marziale** ♩ = 84

come and fell The ve - ry dan-ger-ous wood.

Marziale ♩ = 84

mp



266

Q *mp*

Then came

Q



270

sol-diers with ax-es And



274

men with sharp saws Who failed to

278

sun - der the bark Of the ter-ri-ble rain-bow tree.

282

R

R

5:4

286

p assai

And on-ly a ham-mer could shat-ter The

p

291

musical score for measures 291-295. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are "taste - less steel - hard globes". The piano accompaniment is in bass clef with the same key signature. It features a steady eighth-note bass line and a treble line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 293. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line in measure 295.

taste - less steel - hard globes

296

musical score for measures 296-300. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "Hang - ing oh so beau - ti - fully From_ the my -". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and treble line patterns. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line in measure 300.

Hang - ing oh so beau - ti - fully From_ the my -

300

musical score for measures 301-304. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "ste - - - ri - ous rain - bow tree.____". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and treble line patterns. A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal line in measure 304.

ste - - - ri - ous rain - bow tree.____

304

S

p

"A poi-son-ous tree that blunts all blades And

309

mf

f

laughs and sneers at axes and saws! A tree so migh-ty and so ti-ta-nic, We

313

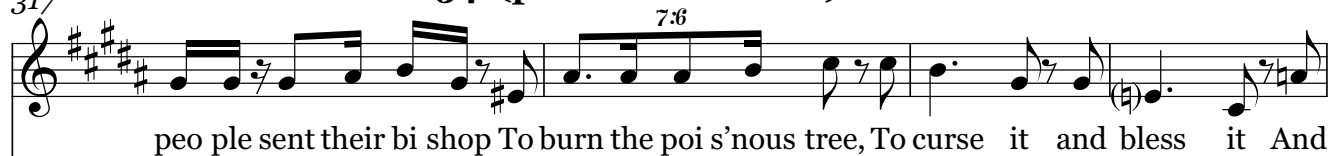
rit. . . .

know such a tree must be Sa-ta-nic!" So the

rit. . . .

f

317 **Meno mosso** ♩ = 54 (poco liberamente)



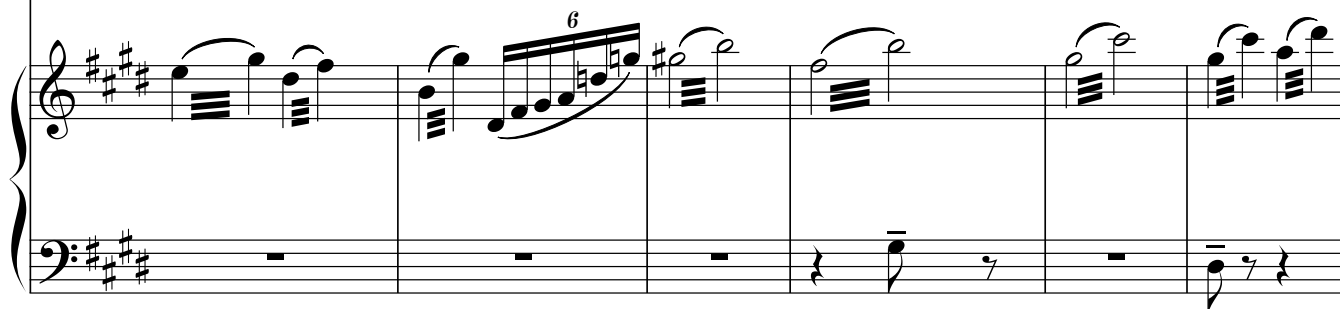
Meno mosso ♩ = 54 (poco liberamente)



321 **T Andante ma intenso** ♩ = 80



T Andante ma intenso ♩ = 80



333

So the king and bi-shop did a-gree To

339

build a cha-pel round the tree And en - case its

344

trunk and limbs and leaves with ho - li - ness. The far-mer, how

U Lo stesso tempo *p*

U Lo stesso tempo

350

e-ver, did find On this day, this day of high de-ci-sion, The far-mer did

pp

357

find ripe fruit on the ground Quite rea-dy for in-ci-sion!

363

V **Poco meno mosso** ♩ = 72

And yet, and be hold, The far-mer ate the my-ste-rious fruit, With

V **Poco meno mosso** ♩ = 72

poco p sempre

372

peel and seeds and pulp, And af - ter a mighty bite and de light ed_gulp, He fell

W**Andante ma intenso** ♩ = 80

381

dead to the floor.

W **Andante ma intenso** ♩ = 80


mp

p

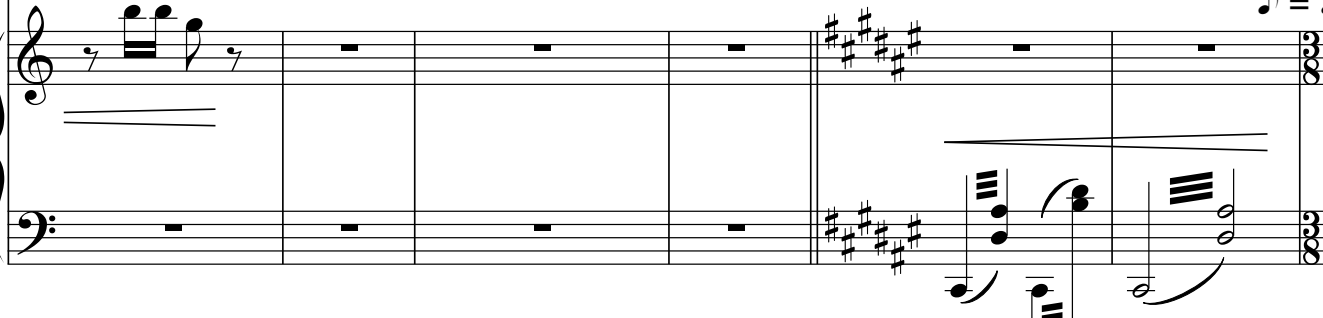
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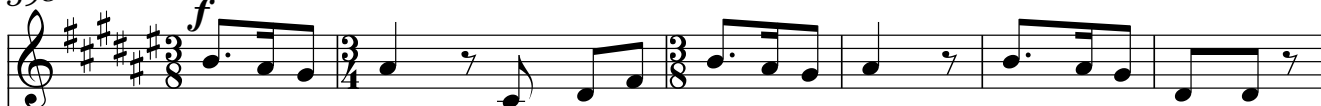
387

sol-dier found the bo - dy, And saw how the far-mer had


392 **Poco adagio** ♩ = 60 *mf* 


died, And a thought plagued the man: Can such

Poco adagio ♩ = 60 


398 *f* 

beau-ti-ful fruit from such a beau-ti-ful tree Real-ly be spite-ful,

mf 

404 

poi-son-ous, and dead-ly? Per-haps the peel, thought the sol-dier, Will

pp 

409 **poco rit.**

cause a fi-nal breath, But the pulp a-lone brings joy and not death!

poco rit.

414 **X Poco meno mosso** ♩ = 54

417

Andante con moto ♩ = 80

420

424 *f*

So the man ate the skin-less fruit, ate the skin-less fruit, And was

429

filled with the high-est de - light, And lived in won-drous ec-sta

433 **Y** **Poco maestoso** ♩ = 72

sy! So the king de-clared with

Y **Poco maestoso** ♩ = 72

438

joy and might That all in his land must plant the seeds, To be

442

Tranquillo ♩ = 40 *mp*

hap-py, glad, and taxed. But— a strange e-

Tranquillo ♩ = 40

449

vent did oc - cur, For it soon was dis - co-vered that the skin of the fruit Did

456 *poco accel.* 31

not harm, did not poi - son, Did not kill.

f

poco accel.

Poco più mosso ♩ = 54

463 *f*

My sto - ry is done, but what does it mean? The mouse still

Poco più mosso ♩ = 54

mf

470 *mp*

sleeps, and re - mains un - seen.

p *poco mf* *pp*