

# An Old Man

(SSMMAA version)

Edward Lear (1812-1888)

Cheryl Lynn Helm

(almost too) Sweetly =♩00

Soprano 1  
Soprano 2  
Mezzo 1  
Mezzo 2  
Alto 1  
Alto 2

S 1  
S 2  
M 1  
M 2  
A 1  
A 2

Note: This is a whimsical song. Much fun should be had in the first two onomatopaeic sections (mm. 14-19 and mm. 29-34). Measures 19 and 34 may be repeated ad nauseum; individual singers may alter their own tempos and/or pitches—if desired—for a cacophonous, disorderly effect. HOWEVER: the last such section (mm. 52-57) should be sung as written, without improvisation. The sounds made in the onomatopaeic measures are imitations of chickens, owls (and other birds), bees buzzing, and finally soft la-las as one would use to soothe a baby (thank you Joh. Brahms).

S 1 *mf*  
Two Owls and a Henfour Larks and a Wren, Have

S 2 *mp*  
said "It is just as I feared! Two Owls and a Hen, four Larks and a Wren, Have—

M 1 *mp*  
Two Owls and a Henfour Larks and a Wren, Have—

M 2 *mp*  
Two Owls and a Henfour Larks and a Wren, Have—

A 1

A 2

S 1 *rit.* *sfz*  
all built their nests in my beard!" Ah

S 2 *rit.* *sfz*  
all built their nests in my beard!" Ah

M 1 *rit.* *sfz*  
all built their nests in my beard!" Ah

M 2 *rit.* *sfz*  
all built their nests in my beard!" Ah

A 1 *pp*  
hoo hoo

A 2 *pp*  
hoo hoo hoo hoo

16 *p* *mp* *mf*

S 1 dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet dee - deet

S 2 *p* *mp* *mf*

loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo loo - loo

M 1 *mf*

buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk,

M 2 *mp* *mf*

buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk,

A 1 *p* *mp* *mf*

hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

A 2 *p* *mp* *mf*

hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

(mm 19 may be repeated and improvised)

19 *f* *cresc.* *mf*

S 1 dee - deet dee - deet (pitch pipe) "Have all built their nests in my beard!"

S 2 *f* *cresc.* *mf*

loo - loo loo - loo "Have all built their nests in my beard!"

M 1 *f* *cresc.* *mf* *mf*

buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk, buk, buk "Have all built their nests in my beard!" — There

M 2 *f* *cresc.* *mf*

buk, buk buk, buk, buk buk, buk "Have all built their nests in my beard!"

A 1 *f* *cresc.*

hoo hoo Ooo

A 2 *f* *cresc.*

hoo hoo Ooo

22 *p* *legato* *mf*

S 1 Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they

S 2 *p* *legato* *mf*  
Ooo Ooo Ooo Ooo When they

M 1 was an old man in a tree, Who was hor - rib - ly bored by a bee. When they *mp*

M 2 *mp* *legato* *mp*  
Ooo Ooo was hor - rib - ly bored by a bee. When they

A 1 *mp*  
Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Doo - Doo Ooo

A 2 *mp*  
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Ooo

24 *sfz*

S 1 said, "Does it buzz?" he re-plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u - lar brute of a Bee!" Ah *sfz*

S 2 said, "Does it buzz?" he re-plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u - lar brute of a Bee!" Ah *sfz*

M 1 said, "Does it buzz?" he re - plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u - lar brute of a Bee!" Ah *sfz*

M 2 said, "Does it buzz?" he re - plied, "Yes, it does! It's a reg - u - lar brute of a Bee!" Ah *sfz*

A 1 *mp*  
Ooo Ooo Doo Doo Doo Ah *sfz*

A 2 *mp*  
Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo Ah *sfz*

26 *mf* What a buzz, *cresc.* that bee did, that bee did buzz!

S 1

26 *mf* *cresc.*

S 2

26 *mp* Buzz it does. *cresc.* that bee did, that bee did buzz!

M 1

26 *mf* *cresc.*

M 2

26 *mf* said he, be - cuz that bee did, that bee did buzz!

A 1

26 *mp* Miff'd he was, that bee did, — that bee did buzz!

A 2

Does it buzz? that bee did, — that bee did buzz!

29 *mp* zzz zzz

S 1

29 *mf* zzz zzz

S 2

29

M 1

29

M 2

29 *mp* *mf* zzz zzz zzz zzz

A 1

29 *p* *mp* *mf* zzz zzz zzz zzz

A 2

Musical score for measures 32-35. The score is arranged in six staves: S1, S2, M1, M2, A1, and A2. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The music features piano markings *mf* and *f*. The staves contain rhythmic patterns with notes and rests, and are accompanied by 'zzz' sound effects. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Musical score for measures 35-38. The score is arranged in six staves: S1, S2, M1, M2, A1, and A2. The key signature is B-flat major. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 12/8 at measure 35. The music includes lyrics and piano markings *mf* and *p*. The lyrics are: "It's a reg - u - lar brute of a Bee!" and "Ooo" or "Ah". The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. The tempo marking "Tempo I" is present above the S1 staff.

Musical score for six vocal parts (S1, S2, M1, M2, A1, A2) from measure 39 to 45. The score includes lyrics "Ooo" and "There" and dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, and *pp*. The music is in a 12/8 time signature and a key signature of two flats. The vocal parts are arranged in a choir setting, with S1 and S2 having lyrics, and M1, M2, A1, and A2 providing harmonic support with "Ah" vocalizations.

Musical score for six vocal parts (S1, S2, M1, M2, A1, A2) from measure 46 to 50. The score includes lyrics "was an old man who sup-pos'd That the street door was par-tial-ly clos'd But some" and dynamic markings *mp* and *p*. The music is in a 12/8 time signature and a key signature of two flats. The vocal parts are arranged in a choir setting, with S1 having lyrics, and S2, M1, M2, A1, and A2 providing harmonic support with "Ooo" and "Ah" vocalizations.

48

S 1 *mf*  
ve - ry large rats, ate his coats and his hats, While that fu - tile old gen - tle - man doz'd. While that

S 2 *mf*  
While that

M 1 *mf*  
While that

M 2 *mf*  
While that

A 1 *mf*  
Ooo Ooo Ooo While that

A 2 *mf*  
Ooo Ooo Ooo While that

50 *sfp*  
S 1 fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah

S 2 *sfp*  
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah

M 1 *sfp*  
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah

M 2 *sfp*  
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah

A 1 *sfp* *pp*  
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah la la la la

A 2 *sfp* *pp*  
fu - tile — old gen - tle - man doz'd. Ah la la la la



54 *p* *mp*

S 1 la— la la— la la— la la— la— la la— la

S 2 la la— la la— la la— la la— la la—

M 1 *mp* la-la la la-la la

M 2 *p* *mp* la la-la la la-la la la-la la la-la

A 1 *p* *mp* la— la— la— la— la— la—

A 2 *p* *mp* la— la— la— la— la— la—

57 *mf* *mp* *p rit.*

S 1 la— la la— la (pitch pipe) La la la, La la la, La la la...

S 2 *mf* *mp* *p rit.* la - la— la la - La la la, La la la, La la la...

M 1 *mf* *mp* *p rit.* la-la la la-la la La la la, La la la, La la la...

M 2 *mf* *mp* *p rit.* la la-la la la-la La la la, La la la, La la la...

A 1 *mf* *mp* *p rit.* la— la— La la la, La la la, La la la...

A 2 *mf* *mp* *p rit.* la— la— La la la, La la la, La la la...