

HE GOT DICTATORS

Soprano, Piano, and Bass

Lyrics by Stevie Smith

Duration: circa 4 minutes

Lyrics from Stevie Smith's "Novel on Yellow Paper"
Used by permission of Virago Press and the Stevie Smith Estate

Commissioned by The Bermuda Triangle



MARY JANE LEACH

Ariadne Press 93020

Vocal range:



Now when a people has dictators, that is a symptom that they are running mad. They should then be watched. I think they should be watched very closely. And later they should be prevented. Now think it is not a nation but an individual, now see, this is like he had a disease.

Why see, what is the matter with that poor Mr. Brown that has been looking so funny, he certainly looks queer, he looks a sick man? Oh yes, where is that Mr. Brown that we don't see now, it is a long time, that was sick? Oh yes he was sick. Oh yes he got dictators, it turned out afterwards. That's what he got. Oh certainly he was bad, very phony very queer, but he got dictators like the doctor said. Ya, that's what he got, he been put away mister this long time now. Put away, locked up and prevented.

Lyrics by Stevie Smith from *Novel on Yellow Paper*
Used with permission

The bass part should be plucked - with the image of a beating heart in mind, alternating between emulating a heartbeat and cardiac arrest, until m. 42.

The piano alternates between smooth and propulsive to martial.

Both the bass and piano parts mirror sickness musically when it is sung in the text.

Lyrics by
Stevie Smith

HE GOT DICTATORS

Music by
Mary Jane Leach
(1993)

Score 1 (Measures 1-6):

- Tempo:** Quarter note = 52
- Voice:** *p* Oo... Oo...
- Piano:** *p* *cresc.*
- Bass:** emulate a heartbeat *p* *cresc.*

Score 2 (Measures 7-10):

- Measures 7-8:** *mf* Now when a peo - ple has dic - ta - tors, that is a
- Measures 9-10:** martial
- Piano:** *mf*
- Bass:** *mf*

Score 3 (Measures 11-14):

- Measures 11-12:** symp - tom that they are run - ning mad.
- Measures 13-14:** They should then be watched.
- Piano:** *mf*
- Bass:** *mf*

15

V I think they should be watched — ver - y close - ly. — And la - ter

P

B

18

V they should be pre - vent - ed. — Now think — it is — not a na - tion

P

B

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

22

V but an in - di - vid - u - al, now see, this is like he had a dis - ease.

P

B

f

f

decresc.

decresc.

26

V Why see, — what is the mat - ter with that poor Mis - ter Brown that has been look - ing so

P

B

mf

mf

29

V fun-ny, he cer-tain-ly looks queer , he looks a sick man? Oh yes, where is that Mis-ter Brown that we don't

P

B

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

32

V see now, it is a long time, that was sick? Oh yes he got dic - ta - tors,

P

B

f

f

35

V it turned out af-ter-wards. That's what he got. Oh cer-tain-ly he was bad, ver-y pho - ny ver - y queer,—

P

B

38

V — but he got dic - ta-tors like the doc-tor said. Ya, that's

P

B

41

V what he got, he been put a - way mis - ter — this long time now.

P

B martial

43

V Put a - way, locked up and pre - vent - ed. —

P

B

45

V

P *decresc.* *rit.* *mf*

B *decresc.* *rit.* *mf*