

Emily DeWoolfsen



Songs from
Alice in
Wonderland

SSAA & Piano

VMW151

\$2.50

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Composer's Notes

The text of *Songs From Alice in Wonderland* is taken from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.

Beautiful Soup is the song of the Mock Turtle. In Victorian England, turtle meat was too expensive for the lower class. Mock turtle meat was used in its place, often as a soup ingredient. The Mock Turtle sings a bittersweet song. The soup is beautiful, but sacrifice was required for its making.

Jabberwocky, the folk tale of Wonderland, is sung a cappella. The modal setting invokes feelings of an epic story, such as what might be told around the fire and passed down from generation to generation.

The Tarts and the Crocodile is a portmanteau of two poems (Carroll, after all, loved his portmanteaus). The sopranos sing "Tarts," a text taken from the trial scene of the books. The altos counter with "How Doth the Little Crocodile," recited by the Caterpillar during his conversation with Alice. Cutting through this texture is the unnerving question, "who are you?" Text from the two scenes phases in and out, as in a dream, until the very moment when Alice is called to "wake up!"

About the Composer

Emily DeWoolfson (b. 1992) is a composer of vocal and instrumental music which is often inspired by literature and philosophy. She is working toward a Master's degree in Music Composition at the University of Delaware, studying under Dr. Jennifer Barker.

Songs From Alice in Wonderland

Beautiful Soup

Lewis Carroll

Emily DeWolfson

♩ = 45

Piano

mf

The piano accompaniment for the first system is written in 6/8 time. The right hand features a continuous eighth-note pattern, while the left hand plays a simpler eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic is marked *mf*.

4

Soprano 1 *mf*
Beau-ti - ful soup, so rich, so green, wait ing in a hot tur-reen.

Soprano 2 *mf*
Beau-ti - ful soup, so rich, so green, wait ing in a hot tur-reen.

Alto 1 *mf*
Beau-ti - ful soup, so rich, so green, wait ing in a hot tur-reen.

Alto 2 *mf*
Beau-ti - ful soup, so rich, so green, wait ing in a hot tur-reen.

Piano

The second system includes vocal parts for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, and Alto 2, along with the piano accompaniment. All vocal parts enter on the fourth measure and sing the lyrics: "Beau-ti - ful soup, so rich, so green, wait ing in a hot tur-reen." The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note patterns as in the first system. The dynamic is marked *mf*.

Jabberwocky

$\text{♩} = 120$ *p*

Soprano 1
'twas bri-llig, and the sli-thy toves did gyre and gim-ble in the

Soprano 2
'Twas Bri-llig, 'twas bri-llig, and the sli-thy toves did gyre and gim-ble in the

Alto 1
'Twas Bri - llig, and the sli-thy toves did gyre and gim-ble in the

Alto 2
'Twas Bri - llig, and the sli-thy toves did gyre and gim-ble in the

6

wabe, _____ all mim - sy were the bo-ro-goves, and the mome-raths out-grabe.

wabe, _____ all mim - sy were the bo-ro-goves, and the mome-raths out-grabe.

wabe, in thewabe, all mim - sy were the bo-ro-goves, and the mome-raths out grabe.

wabe, in thewabe, all mim - sy were the bo-ro-goves, and the mome - raths out - grabe.

The Tarts and the Crocodile

mp ♩ = 140

Piano

Measures 1-3 of the piano introduction. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 140. The dynamic is *mp*. The right hand features chords and arpeggiated figures, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

4

Pno.

Measures 4-7 of the piano accompaniment. The right hand continues with chords and arpeggiated patterns, and the left hand maintains the eighth-note accompaniment.

8

mp

S 1

The queen of hearts she made some tarts, all on a sum-mer day; the

mp

S 2

The queen of hearts, she made some tarts, all on a sum-mer day; the

Pno.

Measures 8-11 of the vocal and piano section. Two vocal parts, S 1 and S 2, enter with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. The dynamic is *mp*.