

# If I Were the Smartest man on Earth

from MAYO

Tom Cipullo (2018)

If desired, this aria might begin at measure 23 on page 3.

Mayo Buckner, was sent by his parents to live at the Iowa Home for Feeble-Minded Children at the age of eight. He lived at the home for virtually his entire life, though tests taken in his 50s revealed an IQ of 120. In this aria, he sings what he would do if he were the smartest man alive.

**Gently moving** (♩ = 112) *(gently, with surprising tenderness)*

Mayo *p*  
Pe-ter, as you may have no-ticed,

Piano *pp* *p*



6 *mp* *poco f*

Mayo *mp* *f*  
My ve-ry pres-ence here at the I - o - wa Home for Fee - ble

Pno. *mp* *poco f*

10 *mp*

Mayo Mind-ed Child-ren en-sures that I won't be count-ed a-mong the

Pno. *mp*



*rit.* . . . . .

14 *p*

Mayo smart-est of cur-rent U. S. res-i-dents.

Pno. *p* *pp*



**Suddenly fast** **free**

19 *p* *pp*

Mayo but if I were..... but if I were...

Pno. *poco f*

Fast again

Very fast, accented (♩ = 156)

23

Mayo

*pp*

If I were the smart-est man on

Pno.

*poco f*

27

Mayo

*p*

Earth, and by some ac - ci - dent of

Pno.

*pp*

*8va*

31

Mayo

*mp*

birth, I was sent to a home or an in-sti-tution or

Pno.

*p* *mp*

*8va*

36 *poco* *f* 4:3

Mayo  
some such place. I would es - cape, I

Pno.



41

Mayo  
think... Van - ish with-out a

Pno.



45 *f* 4:3 4:3

Mayo  
trace. My face ne-ver to be seen a -

Pno.

50

Mayo

gain, \_\_\_\_\_ in a home, in an in - sti - tu - tion in a shel - ter

Pno.

*poco f*

4:3



54

Mayo

in a work house, or \_\_\_\_\_ in an - y such place.

Pno.

*mp*



59

Mayo

Pno.

*f*

*p*

64 *mp*

Mayo

If I were the wis - est man in the world,

Pno.



68 *poco f*

Mayo

I'd fly this coop, I'd dis - ap - pear in - to thin

Pno.



72 *f*

Mayo

air. And let them look.

Pno.

77

Mayo

Let them look both far\_\_ and near. They'll find nei-ther hide\_\_ nor hair.

Pno.



81

Mayo

Yes, I'd be off\_\_ in a heart-beat,

Pno.



84

Mayo

in\_\_ a sec-ond, in\_\_ a wink,

Pno.

87 *ff* *fff*

Mayo

and they might think I'm gone for on - ly a mo ment,

Pno.

91

Mayo

But if I were the wis - est man in the world. They'd ne - ver find me

Pno.

95

Mayo

when I ran a - way.

Pno.

*mp*



98 *mp*

Mayo

And where might I go, you ask? Well,

Pno.

102

Mayo

I would have to think. No rash de - cis - ions,

Pno.

105

Mayo

I would have to think.

Pno.

109

*poco f*  $\frac{4:3}{8}$   $\frac{4:3}{8}$   $\frac{4:3}{8}$

Mayo

Though\_ off the top of my head I think

Pno.

*mp*

*vi*  $\phi$   $\parallel$   $b$ .

113

Mayo

Lind- bergh\_ was right, to fly o - ver an o - cean for

Pno.

116

Mayo

all of a day and a night. But I won't be fly - ing a -

Pno.

*mf*

119

Mayo

lone on my plane; I'll take all of you with me to France,

Pno.



122

Mayo

or bet - ter to Eng - land, \_\_\_\_\_ ev - en

Pno.



126

Mayo

bet - ter to Spain. \_\_\_\_\_ If

Pno.

(Don't worry about falling behind here!)

130

Mayo

I were the wis - est, wil - i - est, wit - ti - est, clev - er - est, craft - i - est,

Pno.

135

Mayo

smart - est man in the

Pno.

139

Mayo

world. \_\_\_\_\_ the sharp - est of pen - cils, the most as -

*poco*  
*f*

Pno.

(Intimate!)

143

Mayo

tute, a con-sum-mate egg-head be- yond dis-pute. Im-

Pno.

*poco f*

*pp*



147

Mayo

a-gine this e - nor mous brain il - lum-ing this dark -

Pno.

*p*

*mp*



154

Mayo

- - ling I - o - wa plain. But I'm tak-ing my gi-ant brain to Spain.

Pno.

*mp*

*poco f* (or spoken, in time)

160

Mayo

I'll be gone as quick as a whip,

Pno.

*poco f*



(Serious now)

165

Mayo

on a coach or a trol-ley, se - dan chair or ship. I'd van-ish from this aw-ful place, I'd

Pno.

*mp*



170

Mayo

dis - ap - pear with - out a trace, My face \_\_\_\_\_ ne - ver to be

Pno.

*poco f*

174 *ff*

Mayo  
seen a - gain in a home, in an in - sti - tu - tion in a shel - ter

Pno.



179

Mayo  
in a work - house, in a poor - house, in re - form school, in a

Pno.



182

Mayo  
ju - ven - ile ward, in a half - way house, at the I - o - wa Home for Fee - ble Mind - ed Child ren,

Pno.

186

Mayo

or \_\_\_\_\_ in an - y such place. That's what I'd

Pno.

*mp*

*poco*

*f*



190

Mayo

do. You'd do it too, would-n't you?

Pno.

*f*



194

Mayo

If you were the smart-est man

Pno.

*mp*

*p*

*p*



198

Mayo

*pp*  $\flat\bar{e}.$   $\flat\bar{e}.$

on Earth.

Pno.

*ppp*

The musical score is for a voice and piano piece. The voice part, labeled 'Mayo', is in bass clef and 6/8 time. It begins with a rest in the first measure, followed by a melodic line in the second measure with the lyrics 'on Earth.' and a dynamic marking of *pp*. The piano part, labeled 'Pno.', consists of two staves. The right hand has a melodic line starting in the first measure with a dynamic marking of *ppp*, followed by a rest in the second measure. The left hand has a bass line starting in the first measure with a dynamic marking of *ppp*, followed by a rest in the second measure. The piano part features various articulations, including slurs and accents, and a dynamic marking of *ppp* in the third measure.