

From the composer...

Jabberwocky first appeared in *Through the Looking Glass* (1871), the sequel to *Alice in Wonderland*. It was written by Charles Dodgson under his famous pseudonym, Lewis Carroll. The ultimate satire of heroic narrative poetry in English literature, it foreshadows a major trend in twentieth-century writing in its eerie and evocative use of nonsense words. This setting emphasizes the mock-heroic aspects of the poem, and it is a parody on the musical devices and attitudes of large, traditional choral works. It should be performed, however, with utmost seriousness and formality, exactly as if it were the sort of work that it imitates.

The optional percussion parts should be played by members of the chorus, again with deadpan seriousness and with visual choreographed precision. If possible, the instruments should remain hidden until their first appearance. Those indicated in the music are triangle, baby rattle, toy glockenspiel (or xylophone), tambourine, toy bass drum, toy cymbals, toy ratchet, and bird whistle. The keyboard part may be played by piano alone or with the addition of harpsichord (or electric piano) as noted in the score. The harpsichord generally should double the right hand of the keyboard part one octave higher.

Pronunciation Guide

brillig – brill as in *brilliant*, ig as in *igloo*

slithy – sly-thee

toves – rhymes with *stoves*

gyre – g as in *get*; rhymes with *fire*

gimble – g as in *get*; rhymes with *nimble*

wabe — rhymes with *babe*

mimsy – rhymes with *whimsy*

borogoves – bore-oh-goves (g as in *get*; rhymes with *toves*)

mome – rhymes with *home*

raths – rhymes with *baths*

outgrabe – rhymes with *babe*

frumious – fru as in *frugal*; *fru-mee-us*

vorpal – rhymes with *snorkel*

manxome – rhymes with *bank some*

uffish – uff as in *huff* (or *puff*)

tulgey – rhymes with *bulgy*; *bull-gee*

frabjous – like *fabulous* + *gorgeous*; *frab-jus*

calloo – like *duluth*

callay – like *delay*

Jabberwocky

SSA and Piano with Small Instruments*

Lewis Carroll

Sam Pottle

① SI, SII **Allegro maestoso** ♩ = 104

f

A 'Twas bril-lig — and the

f

Allegro maestoso ♩ = 104

f [+Hpc. 8va higher]

simile

4

sli-thy toves did gyre and gim-ble in the wabe:— All

Duration: approx. 4:15

*Also available: SATB (15/2088H); Performance/Accompaniment CD (99/1924H).

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4
7

mim - sy were the bo - ro - goves, — and the mome raths out -

[-Hpc.]

10

p sub. *f*

grabe, — and the mome raths out - grabe. —

p sub. *f* [+Hpc.]

13

② Triangle

f *mp*

Be-ware the Jab - ber - wock, my son! — The

mp *mp sub.* *f* [-Hpc.]

jaws that bite, the teeth that catch!— Be - ware the Jub - jub

mp [+Hpc.] *f* [-Hpc.] [+Hpc.]

bird, and shun— the fru - mious Ban - der - snatch, the

mf *legato* *mf* *mp*

the fru - mious Ban - der -

mf [-Hpc.] *legato* *mp*

fru - mious Ban - der - snatch, the fru - mious Ban - der - snatch, the

mp *p* *pp* *f sub.*

snatch, the fru - mious Ban - der - snatch, the

pp *p* *pp* *f sub.*



Triangle

Baby Rattle

sfz *f* *shivery (like a motorboat engine)*

fru - mious Ban - der - snatch! Brrr! *shivery (like a motorboat engine)* He

[+Hpc.]

29

took his vor - pal - sword in hand: Long time the manx-ome for he

simile

32 Toy Glockenspiel or Xylophone

mf *sweetly* *mf*

sought - so rest - ed he by the Tum - tum tree, and

mf

so rest - ed he by the

[Hpc. Solo]

mf *legato*

mp *rit. e molto dim.* *p*

stood a - while in thought.

Tum - tum tree, and thought.

mp *rit. e molto dim.*

pp *p* *freely*

He stood a - while in thought.

pp *p* *a cappella* *p*

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

Toy Bass Drum

Tamb.

And as in uf - fish

mf *simile* *cresc.*

mf *[+Hp.c.]*

45

thought he stood, the Jab - ber - wock, with

47

B. Drum *f* *f* >

eyes of flame, came whif - fling through the

49

B. Drum Tamb. Cym. Tamb.

tul - gey wood, — and bur - bled as it came, and

and bur - bled as it

[- Hpc.]

51

Cym. *Tamb.*

p

bur - bled as it came, and bur - bled, and

came, and bur - bled as it came, and bur - bled,

p

53

Tamb.

f

bur - bled, and bur - bled as it came!

f

55 *Cym.* *B. Drum*

6 *sfz*

allarg. molto (bloodcurdling!) *a tempo (very marked)* *f* *crisply*

Ah! _____ One, two! One, two! And

f *crisply*

a tempo (very marked)

allarg. molto *[+Hpc.] sfz* *f*

15/3315H-9

8va

Toy Ratchet *ff*

through and through the vor - pal blade went snick-er - snack!

The

ff

60

f

The vor - pal blade went snick-er-snack! Snick-er-snack!

vor - pal blade went snick - er - snack! Snick-er-snack! Snick-er -

f

62

Ratchet, B. Dr., Cym. *mf* *sfz* Tamb. *sfz* Tamb., B. Dr., Cym.

Snick - er, snick - er, snick - er, snick - er - snack!

snack! Snick - er, snick - er, snick - er - snack!

mf *sfz*