

Bessie Bobtail

To Edith and John Braun

James Stephens

Samuel Barber
Op.2 No.3 (1934)

Andante, un poco mosso (♩ = 96)
p

As down the road she wam - bled

pp
senza pedale

Detailed description: This system contains the first five measures of the piece. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a whole rest for two measures, then enters with a half note 'As', a quarter note 'down', a quarter note 'the', a quarter note 'road', a quarter note 'she', a quarter note 'wam', and a quarter note 'bled'. The piano accompaniment (bass clef) features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a similar eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand. The dynamic is *pp* and the instruction is *senza pedale*.

6 slow, She had not got a place to go; She had not

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6 through 11. The vocal line continues with a half note 'slow,', a quarter note 'She', a quarter note 'had', a quarter note 'not', a quarter note 'got', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'place', a quarter note 'to', a quarter note 'go;', a quarter note 'She', a quarter note 'had', and a quarter note 'not'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note accompaniment pattern.

12 got a place to fall And rest herself— no

rit.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 12 through 16. The vocal line continues with a quarter note 'got', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'place', a quarter note 'to', a quarter note 'fall', a quarter note 'And', a quarter note 'rest', a quarter note 'herself—', and a half note 'no'. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line and below the piano accompaniment in the final measure (measure 16).

17 *a tempo* *poco f [mp]*

place at all. She stumped a-long, and wagged her

poco f [mp]

a tempo marc.

22 *f* *p*

pate; And said a thing was des - perate. Her

f

8

27

face was screwed and wrinkled tight Just like a nut— and,

p

senza ped.

30

left and right, On either side she wagged her head And

33

cresc. poco a poco

said a thing; and what she said Was desperate as

cresc. poco a poco

36

an - y word That ev - er yet a person heard.

f

8

39 *poco allarg.* **mf** *a tempo with incr. intensity*

I walked behind her for awhile And

poco allarg. *a tempo* **mf** *cresc. poco a poco*

8

41 *f*

watched the peo - ple nudge and smile. But

42

ev - er, as she went she said, As

f

43 *poco allarg.* **ff** **Largamente** (♩ = 66)

left and right she swung her head,— «Oh, God He

45

knows,» and «God He knows;» And, sure - ly God Al -

poco f **Tempo primo** (♩ = 96)
mp

50

might-y knows. «Oh, God He knows,» and «God He

poco f [*mp*]

p

55

knows;» And, sure - ly God Almight - y knows. And God

dim. *pp*

Adagio (♩ = 60)
with eloquence

61

He knows.

f *p*