

Caroline Mallonée

I Saw a Peacock with a Fiery Tail



Ink to Paper
2012

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I Saw a Peacock with a Fiery Tail

for double choir

TEXT

I saw a peacock with a fiery tail,
I saw a blazing comet drop down hail,
I saw a cloud with ivy circled round,
I saw a sturdy oak creep on the ground,
I saw an ant swallow up a whale,
I saw a raging sea that was brimful of ale,
I saw a Venice glass fifteen feet deep,
I saw a well full of men's tears that weep,
I saw red eyes all in a flame of fire,
I saw a house as big as the moon and higher,
I saw the sun in the midst of night,
I saw the man that saw this wondrous sight.

PROGRAM NOTE

A 17th-century riddle poem, *I Saw a Peacock With a Fiery Tail* at first seems fantastical: A peacock with a fiery tail! I saw a comet drop down hail! Full of evocative text painting, this choral setting reveals the sense of the poem by dividing each line between the two choirs and then reordering the text. A *comet* with a fiery tail! I saw a *cloud* drop down hail! The music allows for this reordering by ending each phrase with a tendency chord that can be resolved in two ways. The piece returns to the magical imagery in an antiphonal setting for double choir at the end.

I Saw a Peacock With a Fiery Tail was premiered in St. Paul, Minnesota in 2013 by VocalEssence with Philip Brunelle conducting.

Duration: ca. 3 minutes.

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for double choir

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CHOIRS I AND II

Con energico ♩ = 120

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Con energico' with a quarter note equal to 120 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked as *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: 'I saw a pea-cock, with a fier - y tail, I saw a blaz - ing'. The piano part is labeled 'Piano (for rehearsal only)'. A large diagonal watermark 'FOR PERSUAL USE ONLY' is overlaid on the score.

Soprano
p I saw a pea-cock, with a fier - y tail, *mp* I saw a blaz - ing *mf*

Alto
p I saw a pea-cock, with a fier - y tail, *mp* I saw a blaz - ing *mf*

Tenor
p I saw a pea-cock, *mp* with a fier - y tail, *mf* I

Bass
p I saw a pea-cock, *mp* with a fier - y tail, *mf* I

Piano (for rehearsal only)

7 S com - et, drop down hail. I saw a cloud, with i - vy cir-cled

mp legato

A com - et, drop hail, I saw a cloud, with i - vy cir-cled

mp legato

T saw a blaz - ing com-et drop, drop down hail, a cloud with

mp legato

B saw a blaz - ing com-et drop, drop hail, a cloud, with

7 Pno.

14 S round, I saw a sturd-y oak, creep on the ground.

mp

A round, I saw an oak, creep on the ground,

mp

T i - vy cir-cled round, I saw an oak, creep, creep on the ground,

mp p mp

B i - vy cir-cled round, I saw an oak, creep, creep, creep on the

mp p mp

14 Pno.

21

S *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*
I saw an ant, swal-low up a whale, I saw a rag-ing sea, — that was

A *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*
on the ground, I saw an ant, swal - low a whale, I saw a rag-ing sea, — that was

T *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*
on the ground, I saw an ant, swal - low a whale, I saw a rag-ing sea, — that was

B *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*
ground, saw an ant, a whale, I saw, that was

21

Pno.

28

S *mp* *mf*
brim - ful of ale, I saw a Ven-ice glass, fif-teen feet deep, I saw a well, full of men's

A *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*
brim - ful of ale, Ah, deep, a well,

T *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*
brim - ful of ale, Ah, deep, a well,

B *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*
brim - ful of ale, Ah, deep, a well,

28

Pno.

36

S

mp *mf* *f*

tears that weep, I saw red eyes, all in a flame of fire, I saw a

A

mp *mf* *f*

full, I saw red eyes, all in a flame of fire, I saw a

T

mp *mf* *f*

full of tears that weep, I saw red eyes, all in a flame of fire, I saw a

B

mp *mf* *f*

full, I saw red eyes, all in a flame of fire, I saw a

36

Pno.

43

S

mp *f*

house, as big as the moon and higher, I saw the sun, in the midst of night, I saw the

A

mp *f*

house, as big as the moon and higher, I saw the sun, in the midst of night, I saw the

T

mp *f*

house, as big as the moon and higher, I saw the sun, midst of night, I saw the

B

mp *f*

house, as big and higher, I saw the sun, midst of night, I saw the

43

Pno.

51

S *p*
man that saw this_ won - drous sight. I saw a pea-cock,

A *p*
man that saw this_ won - drous sight. I saw a pea-cock,

T *p*
man that saw this_ won - drous sight. I saw a pea-cock,

B *p*
man that saw this_ won - drous sight. I saw a pea-cock,

51

CHOIR II

S *mp*
man that saw this_ won - drous sight. with a fier - y

A *mp*
man that saw this_ won - drous sight. with a fier - y

T *mp*
man that saw this_ won - drous sight. with a fier - y

B *mp*
man that saw this_ won - drous sight. with a fier - y

51

Pno.



59 S *mf* I saw a blaz - ing com-et, *mp* I saw a cloud,

A *mf* I saw a blaz - ing com-et, *mp* a cloud,

T *mf* I saw a blaz - ing com-et, *mp* saw a cloud,

B *mf* I saw a blaz - ing com-et, *mp* a cloud,

59 S *mf* tail, with a fier - y tail, *mp* drop down

A *mf* tail, with a fier - y tail, *mp* drop

T *mf* tail, a fier - y tail, *mp* drop,

B *mf* tail, fier - y tail, *mp* drop —

59 Pno.

67

mp *mp*

S I saw a sturd-y oak — I saw an

A saw an oak, I saw an

T I saw an oak, I saw an

B oak, I saw an

67

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

S hail, with i - vy cir-cled round,

A hail, with i - vy cir-cled round,

T drop down hail, Oh, cir-cled round,

B hail, Oh, with i - vy cir-cled round,

67

Pno.

74

S ant, I saw a rag-ing sea, — rag-ing sea

A ant, I saw a rag-ing sea, — rag-ing sea,

T ant, I saw a rag-ing sea, — rag-ing sea,

B ant,

mf *f* *mf* *f*

74

S creep on the ground.

A creep on the ground,

T creep, creep on the ground,

B creep, creep, creep on the ground, swal -

mp *p* *mp* *f*

74

Pno.

81

S *mp* I saw a Ven-ice glass, *p* I saw a well,

A *p* Ah, *p* I saw a well,

T *p* Ah, *p* a well,

B *p* Ah, *p* a well,

81

S *f* swal-low up a whale, *mp* that was brim - ful of ale.

A *f* swal - low a whale, *mp* brim - ful of ale,

T *f* swal - low a whale, *mp* brim - ful of ale,

B *p* low a whale, *mp* Ah, — brim - ful of ale,

81

Pno.

89

S *mp* *mf* *mf*
I saw red eyes, I saw a

A *mp* *mf* *mf*
I saw red eyes, I saw a

T *mp* *mf* *mf*
I saw red eyes, I saw a

B *mp* *mf* *mf*
I saw red eyes, I saw a

89

S *p* *mp* *p*
fif-teen feet deep, full of men's tears that weep,

A *p* *mp* *p*
Oh, deep, full,

T *p* *mp* *p*
Oh, deep, full of tears that weep,

B *p* *mp* *p*
Oh, deep, full,

89

Pno.

96

S house, I saw the sun, I *f* *mf*¹¹

A house, saw the sun, I *f* *mf*

T house, saw the sun, I *f* *mf*

B house, saw the sun, I *f* *mf*

96

S all in a flame of fire, as big as the moon and higher, *mf* *f* *f*

A a flame of fire, as big as the moon and higher, *mf* *f* *f*

T a flame of fire, as big as the moon and higher, *mf* *f* *f*

B a flame of fire, as big and higher, *mf* *f* *f*

96

Pno.

103

S saw the man I saw this — won - drous sight. — i

A saw the man I saw this — won-drous, won-drous sight. — i

T saw the man I saw this — won - drous sight. — i

B saw the man I saw this — won-drous, won-drous sight. — I

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

103

S in the midst of night, I saw this — won-drous, won-drous sight. —

A midst of night, I saw this — won-drous, won-drous sight. —

T midst of night, I saw this — won - won-drous sight. —

B midst of night, I saw this — won-drous, won-drous sight. —

mp *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf*

103

Pno.

111

S saw a pea-cock with a fier - y tail, I saw a blazing com-et

A saw a pea-cock with a fier - y tail, fier - y tail, saw a blazing com-et

T saw a pea-cock with a fier - y tail, fier - y tail, saw a blazing com-et

B saw a pea-cock with a tail, saw a blazing com-et

111

S I saw a pea-cock with a fier - y tail, I saw a blazing

A I saw a pea-cock with a fier - y tail, I saw a blazing

T I saw a pea-cock with a fier - y tail, I saw a blazing

B I saw a pea-cock with a fier - y tail, I saw a blazing

111

Pno.

118

S *mp* < > *p* *mp* < >

drop down hail, I saw a cloud with i - vy cir-cled round,

A *mp* < > *p* *mp* < >

drop hail, saw a cloud with i - vy round,

T *mp* < > *p* *mp* < >

drop hail, saw a cloud with i - vy round,

B *mp* < > *p* *mp* < >

drop hail, a cloud with i - vy round,

118

S *mp* < > *mp* < > *mp* < >

com-et drop down hail, saw a cloud with i - vy cir-cled

A *mp* < > *mp* < > *mp* < >

com-et drop down hail, saw a cloud with i - vy cir-cled

T *mp* < > *mp* < > *mp* < >

com-et drop hail, saw a cloud with

B *mp* < > *mp* < > *mp* < >

com-et drop hail, saw a cloud with

118

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for the first system, including treble and bass clefs.

126

S *p* I saw a sturd-y oak *mp* creep on the ground,

A *p* I saw an oak *mp* creep, creep

T *p* I saw an oak *mp* creep, creep on the

B *p* I saw a sturd - y oak

126

S *p* round, cir-cled round, *mp* a sturd-y oak *mp* creep on the

A *p* round, cir-cled round, *mp* a sturd-y oak *mp* creep

T *p* i - vy cir-cled round, *mp* a sturd-y oak,

B *p* i - vy round, *mp* a sturd-y oak

126

Pno.

Pno.

132

S *mp* *f*
I saw an ant swal - low up a whale,

A *mp* *f*
on the ground, I saw an ant swal - low a whale,

T *mp* *f*
ground, on the ground, saw an ant swal - low a whale,

B *mp* *mp* *f*
creep on the ground, saw an ant swal - low a whale,

132

S *mp* *f* *mf*
ground, I saw an ant swal - low a whale, I

A *mp* *f* *mf*
on the ground, I saw an ant swal - low a whale, I

T *mp* *mp* *f* *mf*
creep on the ground, I saw an ant swal - low a whale, I

B *mp* *mp* *f*
creep on the ground, I saw an ant swal - low a whale,

132

Pno.

138

mf rag-ing sea, *f* that was brim - ful of ale, *mp*¹⁷

S

mf rag-ing sea, *f* that was brim - ful of ale,

A

mf rag-ing sea, *f* that was brim - ful of ale,

T

mf rag-ing sea, *f* that was brim - ful of ale,

B

138

f saw a rag-ing sea — *f* rag-ing sea, *mf* that was brim - ful of ale,

S

f saw a rag-ing sea — *mf* rag-ing sea, *mf* that was brim - ful of ale,

A

f saw a rag-ing sea — *mf* rag-ing sea, *mf* that was brim - ful of ale,

T

f saw a rag-ing sea — *mf* rag-ing sea, *mf* that was brim - ful of ale,

B

brim - ful of ale,

138

Pno.

145

S saw a Ven-ice glass fif-teen feet deep, a

A *p* Ah, *mp* Ven-ice glass, *p* deep, *mp* a

T *p* Ah, *mp* deep, *mp* a

B *p* Ah, *mp* deep,

145

S fif-teen feet deep, I saw a well

A *p* Ah, *mp* fif-teen feet deep, I saw a well

T *p* Ah, *mp* fif-teen feet deep, a well

B *p* Ah, *mp* fif-teen feet deep, a well

145

Pno.

152

S well, full of tears that weep, I saw red

A well, tears that weep, I saw red

T well, full of tears that weep, I saw red

B tears that weep, I saw red

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

152

S full of men's tears that weep, I saw red

A full of tears that weep, I saw red

T full I saw red

B full I saw red

mp *p* *p* *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

152

Pno.

full

157

S eyes all in a flame, — flame of fire, I saw a house as big —

A eyes all in a flame of fire, flame of fire, saw a house,

T eyes, all in a flame of fire, saw a house,

B eyes, flame of fire, saw a house,

157

S eyes all in a flame — of fire, I saw a house as big as the moon and

A eyes all in a flame — of fire, I saw a house as big as the moon and

T eyes all in a flame of fire, I saw a house as big as the moon and

B eyes all in a flame — of fire, — I saw a house as big and

157

Pno.

163

S *f* — and higher, *mp* saw the sun, *p* midst of night, *f* I

A *f* and higher, *mp* saw the sun, *p* midst of night, *f* I

T *f* and higher, *mp* saw the sun, *p* midst of night, *f* I

B *f* and higher, *mp* saw the sun, *p* midst of night, *f* I

163

S *f* higher, *mp* I saw the sun *p* in the midst of night, *f* I saw the

A *f* higher, *mp* I saw the sun, *p* midst of night, *f* I saw the

T *f* higher, *mp* saw the sun, *p* midst of night, *f* I saw the

B *f* higher, *mp* saw the sun, *p* midst of night, *f* I saw the

163

Pno.

171

S
saw — this — won - drous sight.

A
saw the man that saw this won - drous, — won - drous sight.

T
saw the man that saw this won - drous, won - drous sight.

B
saw the man that saw this won - drous, — won - drous sight.

171

S
man that saw — this — won - drous sight, won - drous sight.

A
man that saw — this — won - drous, won - drous sight.

T
man that saw this — won - drous, won - drous sight.

B
man that saw — this — won - drous, won - drous sight.

171

Pno.