

Avner Finberg

---

# The Jabberwocky

By Lewis Carroll

---

for lyric soprano and piano



©2014 Avner Finberg/Finberg Publications

# JABBERWOCKY

Lewis Carroll

(from *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*, 1872)

`Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!  
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand:  
Long time the manxome foe he sought --  
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,  
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,  
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through  
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!  
He left it dead, and with its head  
He went galumphing back.

"And, has thou slain the Jabberwock?  
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!  
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"  
He chortled in his joy.

`Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

for Lyric Soprano  
Written for Deborah Lifton

# The Jabberwocky

by Lewis Carroll

dedicated to my family

Avner Finberg

allegro ma non troppo ♩ = 60

Piano

*p*

15<sup>ma</sup>

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 4/4 time. The right hand features a series of triplet eighth notes, with the first measure marked with an asterisk and '15<sup>ma</sup>'. The left hand has a simple accompaniment of quarter notes. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

S

3

*ppp*

Twa

5

Pno.

3

(15<sup>ma</sup>)

*mf*

*pp*

The vocal line (Soprano) begins with a rest for three measures, followed by the lyrics 'Twa' and a five-measure phrase. The piano accompaniment features triplet eighth notes in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. Dynamics range from *mf* to *ppp*.

rit. -----

Wild

♩ = 112

*mf* joyful

S

5

as

bril - lig, and the

(15<sup>ma</sup>)

5

loco

*f*

*mp*

Pno.

5

*ppp*

6

5

The second vocal entry begins with a ritardando (rit.) and the lyrics 'as bril - lig, and the'. The piano accompaniment includes a section marked 'loco' with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piece concludes with a six-measure phrase in the right hand and a five-measure phrase in the left hand.

\* Only the upper clef is to be played +15ma. The notes in the lower clef should be played *loco*

The Jabberwocky

4  
7

S *meno mosso* *p* (mysterious) *a tempo*

sli - thy toves Did gyre and gim - ble in the wabe:

Pno. *f* *pp* *f*

Red. \* Red. \* Red. \* Red. \*

10

S *allegro ma non troppo* ♩ = 60 *molto rit.*

All

Pno. *fzp*

Red.

Wild  
♩ = 112

12

S *mf* *p*

mim - sy were the bo - ro - goves, And the

Pno. *f* *mp* *sfz* *sfz*

\* *8va* - - - - -

The Jabberwocky

S 14 *mf* (getting excited) *f* 5

mome raths — out — grabe. out — grabe. — out —

Pno. *pp* *p* *mf* *f*

S 17

grabe!

Pno. *sfz* *p*

S 19 *mp* ominous, oracle-ish

loco "Be-ware Be-ware the

Pno. *f* *pp* (*pp*) *mf* *ffz*

The Jabberwocky

6  
23

S

*f* *mp*

Jab - ber - wock, my son! The jaws that bite, the claws that

Pno.

*pp* *f*

26

S

*f* *pp* *mf*

cat-ch! Be-ware the Jub - jub bird

Pno.

*pp* *8va*

30

S

the Jub - jub bird the Jub - jub - jub - jub

Pno.

*8va*

\* x shaped noteheads should be shouted

The Jabberwocky

33 *ff*

S  
bird, and shun The fru - mi - ous Ban - der - snatch!"

Pno.

36 *fzp* *f*

S

Pno.

*p* *f*

Red. \*

38 *mf*

S  
He took his vor - pal sword in

Pno.

*p*

# The Jabberwocky

8  
40

S  
hand: Long time the man - xome foe he

Pno.  
*p*  
*f*

42

S  
sought

Pno.  
*p*

44

S  
So res - ted he by the Tum - tum

Pno.  
*fzp*



The Jabberwocky

47 *f* *p* 9

S  
tree, And stood a while in

Pno.

50 *pp* *suspenseful*

S  
thought. And, as in

Pno.

53

S  
uf - fish - thought he stood, And, as in uf - fish - thought he

Pno.

The Jabberwocky

10  
56

S

stood, The Jab - ber - wock, with eyes of —

Pno.

*cresc.*

58

S

— flame, Came whif - fling whif - ling whif - ling through the tul - gey wood,

Pno.

*mf p*

61

S

And bur - bled as it came! One,

Pno.

*mf f*

The Jabberwocky

64

S

two! One, two! And through and

Pno.

*fzp* *f*

68

S

through The vor-pal blade went snic-ker - snack! sni-cker-

Pno.

*fzp* *f*

71

S

snack! sni-cker-sni-cker sni-cker-sni-cker-sni-cker snack! He left it

Pno.

*pp*

*gva*

The Jabberwocky

12  
74

S

dead, and with its head He

loco

Pno.

Andate, tranquillo

76

S

went ga - lum - phing back.

*8va* - - - - -

Pno.

*pp*

*8va* - - - - -

*Red.*

79

S

"And, has thou slain the Jab - ber - wock? Come to my arms, my beam-ish

*(8va)* - - - - -

Pno.

*(8va)* - - - - -

*8va* - - - - -

*Red.*

The Jabberwocky

82 *pp* *f*  
(suddenly, in bitter sorrow)

S  
boy! O frab<sup>3</sup>-jous day! Cal-looh! Cal-

loco

Pno.

85 *p*  
sweet

S  
lay! He chor-tled in his joy his joy his

Pno.

88 *allegro ma non troppo* ♩ = 60

S  
joy. ossia

15<sup>ma</sup>

Pno.



The Jabberwocky

Wild

♩=112

S

98 *mf* *p*

mim - sy were the bo - ro - goves, And the

Pno.

*f mp sfz sfz*

*8va*

S

100

mome raths out - grabe out -

*8va*

Pno.

*pp p*

S

102

grabe out - - - grabe.

*p < f*

Pno.

*mf f pp f sfz*

Leo. \*