

# HE GOT DICTATORS

Soprano, Piano, and Bass

Lyrics by Stevie Smith

Duration: circa 4 minutes

Lyrics from Stevie Smith's "Novel on Yellow Paper"  
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Commissioned by The Bermuda Triangle



## MARY JANE LEACH

Ariadne Press 93020

**Vocal range:**



Now when a people has dictators, that is a symptom that they are running mad. They should then be watched. I think they should be watched very closely. And later they should be prevented. Now think it is not a nation but an individual, now see, this is like he had a disease.

Why see, what is the matter with that poor Mr. Brown that has been looking so funny, he certainly looks queer, he looks a sick man? Oh yes, where is that Mr. Brown that we don't see now, it is a long time, that was sick? Oh yes he was sick. Oh yes he got dictators, it turned out afterwards. That's what he got. Oh certainly he was bad, very phony very queer, but he got dictators like the doctor said. Ya, that's what he got, he been put away mister this long time now. Put away, locked up and prevented.

Lyrics by Stevie Smith from *Novel on Yellow Paper*  
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The bass part should be plucked - with the image of a beating heart in mind, alternating between emulating a heartbeat and cardiac arrest, until m. 42.

The piano alternates between smooth and propulsive to martial.

Both the bass and piano parts mirror sickness musically when it is sung in the text.

Lyrics by  
Stevie Smith

# HE GOT DICTATORS

Music by  
Mary Jane Leach  
(1993)

Music notation for the first system, measures 1-4. The system includes staves for Voice, Piano, and Bass. The tempo is marked  $\text{♩} = 52$ . The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is common time (C). The music is in a 4/4 meter. The Voice part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "Oo..." in measures 3 and 4. The Piano part begins with a rest, followed by a melody in measures 3 and 4. The Bass part begins with a rest, followed by a bass line in measures 3 and 4. Dynamics include *p* and *cresc.*. The instruction "emulate a heartbeat" is written above the Bass staff.

Music notation for the second system, measures 5-8. The system includes staves for Voice (V), Piano (P), and Bass (B). The music is in a 4/4 meter. The Voice part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "Now when a peo - ple has dic - ta-tors, that is a" in measures 5-8. The Piano part begins with a rest, followed by a melody in measures 5-8. The Bass part begins with a rest, followed by a bass line in measures 5-8. Dynamics include *mf* and *martial*.

Music notation for the third system, measures 9-12. The system includes staves for Voice (V), Piano (P), and Bass (B). The music is in a 4/4 meter. The Voice part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics "symp - tom that they are run - ning mad. They should then be watched." in measures 9-12. The Piano part begins with a rest, followed by a melody in measures 9-12. The Bass part begins with a rest, followed by a bass line in measures 9-12. Dynamics include *mf*.

15

V I think they should be watched — ver - y close - ly. — And la - ter

P

B

18

V they should be pre - vent - ed. — Now think — it is — not a na - tion

P

B

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

22

V but an in - di - vid - u - al, now see, this is like he had a dis - ease.

P

B

*f*

*decresc.*

*f*

*decresc.*

26

V Why see, — what is the mat - ter with that poor Mis - ter Brown that has been look - ing so

P

B

*mf*

*mf*

29

V fun-ny, he cer-tain-ly looks queer, he looks a sick man? Oh yes, where is that Mis-ter Brown that we don't

P

B

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

32

V see now, it is a long time, that was sick? Oh yes he got dic - ta - tors,

P

B

*f*

*f*

35

V it turned out af-ter-wards. That's what he got. Oh cer-tain-ly he was bad, ver-y pho - ny ver - y queer,—

P

B

38

V — but he got dic - ta-tors like the doc-tor said. Ya, that's

P

B

41

V what he got, he been put a - way mis - ter — this long time now.

P

B martial

43

V Put a - way, locked up and pre - vent - ed. —

P

B

45

V

P *decresc.* *rit.* *mf*

B *decresc.* *rit.* *mf*