



J. & W. CHESTER
LONDON & BRIGHTON.





JOHN IRELAND SONGS

FOR A MEDIUM VOICE

THE RAT. ∴ THE ADORATION.

FROM POEMS BY ·

ARTHUR SYMONS.



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LONDON :

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THE RAT.

PAIN gnaws at my heart like a rat that gnaws at a beam
In the dusty dark of a ghost-frequented house ;
And I dream of the days forgotten, of love the dream,
The desire of her eyes unappeased, and the peace of her brows.

I can hear the old rat gnaw in the dark by night,
In the deep overshadowing dust that the years have cast ;
He gnaws at my heart that is empty of all delight,
He stirs the dust where the feet of my dreams had passed.

ARTHUR SYMONS.

THE RAT

Poem by
Arthur Symons

Music by
John Ireland

Lento (♩ = 48.)

VOICE

PIANO

mf poco pesante

p

Pain gnaws at my heart— like a rat that gnaws at a beam In the dust - y

cresc.

mf

dark— of a ghost-frequent-ed house; And I

p

cresc.

dream of the days for-got-ten, of love the dream, The de - sire of her eyes_ un-ap -

mf *dim.*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The top line is a vocal melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features several triplet markings over groups of three notes. The lyrics are "dream of the days for-got-ten, of love the dream, The de - sire of her eyes_ un-ap -". The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The right hand plays chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a harmonic base. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *dim.* (diminuendo).

- peased, and the peace of her brows.

p *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains the second two lines of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "- peased, and the peace of her brows." and includes triplet markings. The piano accompaniment features a change in time signature from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

I can hear the old rat gnaw in the dark by night, In the

mf *p cresc. e poco accel.*

Detailed description: This system contains the final two lines of music. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "I can hear the old rat gnaw in the dark by night, In the" and includes triplet markings. The piano accompaniment features a change in time signature from 4/4 to 3/4. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p cresc. e poco accel.* (piano, crescendo, and a little acceleration).

f

deep o - ver - shad - ow - ing dust that the years have cast; He

f largamente *dim.* *p*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of music. The vocal line (top) begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a melodic line with several triplet markings. The piano accompaniment (bottom) is marked *f largamente* and consists of block chords in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The dynamics shift to *dim.* and then *p* towards the end of the system.

gnaws at my heart that is emp - ty of all de - light, He

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth lines of music. The vocal line continues with triplet markings and ends with a quarter note. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with block chords and some melodic movement in the bass line.

stirs the dust where the feet of my dreams had passed.

mp *pp* *pp*

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth lines of music. The vocal line features triplet markings and ends with a half note. The piano accompaniment is marked *mp* and *pp*, with a change in tempo and meter indicated by a 2/4 time signature. The piano part includes complex chordal textures and melodic lines in both hands.