

# The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Robert Browning (1812 - 1889)  
(adapted by Jonathan Willcocks)

Music by  
Jonathan Willcocks

Majestically ♩ = 88

Piano

*f*

6

*mp*

Narrator: *Hamelin Town's in Brunswick, by famous Hanover city,  
The river Weser, deep and wide, washes its wall on the southern side;  
A pleasanter spot you never spied;  
But when begins my ditty, almost five hundred years ago,  
To see townsfolk suffer so from vermin, was a pity.*

7

Rhythmically ♩ = 120

*pp* (whispered) (gradually louder)

1 Rats, rats, rats, rats, \_\_\_\_\_ rats, rats, rats, rats, \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ *pp*(whispered) Rats, rats, rats, rats, \_\_\_\_\_

*pp*

13

1 *p* rats, rats, rats, rats, *cresc.* rats, rats, rats, rats,

2 (*gradually louder*) *p* rats, rats, rats, rats, *cresc.* rats, rats, rats, rats,

*p* *cresc.*

19

1 *mp* rats, rats, rats, *cresc.* rats, rats, rats, rats,

2 *mp* rats, rats, rats, rats, *cresc.* rats, rats, rats,

*mp* *cresc.* *mf*

24

1 *mf* They fought the dogs, and killed the cats, and bit the

2 *mf* They fought the dogs, and killed the cats,

*sim.* *mp*

27

1 ba - bies in the cra - dles, and ate the chee - ses out of the vats, and licked the

2 and bit the ba - bies in the cra - dles, and ate the chee - ses out of the

*mf*

31

1 soup, from the cooks' own lad - les. they fought the

2 vats, and licked the soup, from the cooks' own lad - les.

*f* *mf*

35

1 dogs, and killed the cats, and split

2 they fought the dogs, and killed the cats, and split

*mf* *mp*

37

1 op - en the kegs of sal - ted sprats, made

2 op - en the kegs of sal - ted sprats, made

*mf*

65

1 *pp* rats, rats, rats, rats,

2 *pp* rats, rats, rats, rats,

69 *pp* (whispered) rats, rats, rats, rats.

2 *pp* (whispered) rats, rats, rats, rats.

72 Majestically ♩ = 88 *f*

75

Narrator: At last the people in a body to the Town Hall came flocking.

With energy and excitement

77  $\text{♩} = 136$

1 *f* Rouse up, Sirs! give your brains a

2 *f* Rouse up, Sirs! give your brains a

81

1 rack-ing, to find the re - me - dy, to find the re - me - dy we're

2 rack-ing, to find the re - me - dy, to find the re - me - dy we're

84 *ff*

1 lack-ing, or, sure as fate, we'll send you pack-ing, pack-ing,

2 lack-ing, or, sure as fate, we'll send you pack-ing, pack-ing,

*ff*

1 pack - ing! To think we buy gowns lined with

2 pack - ing! To think we buy gowns lined with

*mf*

1 er - mine, for dolts that can't or won't de-

2 er - mine, for dolts that can't or won't de-

1 ter - mine, what's best to rid us of our ver - min!

2 ter - mine, what's best to rid us of our ver - mine!

*f*

*mf cresc.*

*f*

143 *mp*

Solo Ah Ah

1 queer long coat from heel to head was half of yel - low, half of red; and he him-self was

2 queer long coat from heel to head was half of yel - low, half of red; and he him-self was

148 *mp*

Solo Ah

1 tall and thin, with sharp blue eyes, each like a pin.

2 tall and thin, with sharp blue eyes, each like a pin.

155

Solo Ah

1 and light loose hair, yet swarthy skin, no tuft on cheek nor

2 and light loose hair and swarthy skin, no tuft on

160

1 beard on chin, and no-bo-dy could en-ough ad - mire, and no - bo-dy could en - ough ad - mire, en-

2 cheek nor beard on chin, and no - bo-dy could en - ough ad - mire, and no - bo-dy could en-

165

1 ough ad - mire the tall man, and his quaint at - tire.

2 ough ad - mire the tall man, and his quaint at - tire.

172

Solo Ah Ah

1 His queer long coat from heel to head was half of yel - low, half of red; and he him-self was

2 His queer long coat from heel to head was half of yel - low, half of red; and he him-self was

178

Solo

1

2

tall and thin, with sharp blue eyes, each like a

tall and thin, with sharp blue eyes, each like a

183 *mp*

Solo

1

2

Ah Ah

pin.

pin.

187  $\text{♩} = \text{c.}68$  *mf* (freely)

Solo

Please your hon-ours, — please your hon-ours,

*mf*

*mf*

232

1 and 2

brown rats, black rats, grey rats, taw-ny rats, grave old plod - ders, gay young fris - kers,

236

1 and 2

fath - ers, moth - ers, un - cles, cou - sins, cock - ing tails and prick - ing whisk - ers,

238

1

*f*

Rats! Gay young frisk - ers, Rats!

2

*f*

Grave old plod - ders, Rats! fath-ers, moth-ers, un-cles, cou-sins,

241

1

cock-ing tails and prick-ing whisk-ers,

2

Rats!

*f*

244

Solo *f* Fol-low me

1 *mf*

2 *mf* Grave old plod - ders,  
Grave old plod - ders,

248

1 *mf* gay young frisk - - ers, fath - ers, moth - ers, un - cles, cou - sins,

2 *mf* gay young frisk - - ers,

251

1 cock - ing tails and prick - ing whisk - ers,

2 fath - ers, moth - ers, un - cles, cou - sins,

253

1 *f* Rats! Gay young frisk - ers,

2 *f* cock-ing tails and prick-ing whisk-ers, grave old plod - ders, Rats!

Solo

*f*  
Fol - low me *mf*

1 Rats! cock-ing tails and prick-ing whisk-ers, fa - mi-lies by

2 fath-ers, moth-ers, un-cles, cou-sins, Rats! *mf* fa - mi-lies by

1 tens and do - zens, bro - thers, sis - ters, hus - bands, wives, fol lowed the Pi - per,

2 tens and do - zens, bro - thers, sis - ters, hus - bands, wives, fol lowed the

1 fol lowed the Pi - per, fol - lowed for their lives, *f* Great rats, small rats,

2 Pi - per, fol lowed the Pi - per for their lives, *f* grave old

1 lean rats, brow-ny rats, brown rats, black rats, grey rats, taw-ny rats,

2 plod - ders, *>* gay young fri - - skers,

With excitement  
♩ = 112

295

(bells) (sim)

299

1  
Go, go, go and get long poles, go, go,

2  
Go, go, go and get long poles, go, go,

302

1  
go and get long poles, go, go and get long poles,

2  
go and get long poles, go, go and get long poles,

304

1  
poke out the nests and block up the holes, clean out the vats and mens' Sun - day hats, and

2  
poke out the nests and block up the holes, clean out the vats and men's Sun - day hats, and

306

1 leave in our town not a trace, not a trace, in the vats, not a trace, in the hats, of the

2 leave in our town not a trace, not a trace, in the vats, not a trace, in the hats, of the

309

1 rats!

2 rats!

313

1 Go, *f* go, go and get long poles, go, go,

2 Go, go, go and get long poles, go, go,

316

1 go and get long poles, go, go and get long poles,

2 go and get long poles, go, go and

318

1 poke out the nests, and block up the holes, clean out the vats and mens' Sun - day hats, and

2 get long poles, poke out and block up the holes, clean out the vats and mens'

320

1 leave in our town not a trace, not a trace, in the vats, not a

2 Sun - day hats and leave in our town not a trace of the rats, or the hats,

322

1 trace, in the vats, not a trace of the rats, or the hats,

2 of the rats, or the hats, not a trace, in the vats, not a

324

1 of the rats, or the hats, not a trace of the rats in the vats or the hats, *cresc.*

2 trace, in the vats, not a trace of the rats in the vats or the hats, *cresc.*

358 *mf*

1 fowls in a farm - yard when bar - ley is scat - ter - ing, like fowls in a farm - yard when

2 fowls in a farm - yard when bar - ley is scat - ter - ing, like fowls in a farm - yard when

*mf*

361 *f*

1 bar - ley is scat - ter - ing and out came the child - ren,

2 bar - ley is scat - ter - ing and out came the child - ren,

*f*

364 *mf*

1 out came the child - ren run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning,

2 out came the child - ren, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning,

*mf*

367

1 *mf cresc.*  
run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning,

2 *mf cresc.*  
run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning,

369

1 run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning.

2 run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning, run - ning.

371

1 *p*  
There was a

2

*f* *pp*

Narrator: *All the little boys and girls, with rosy cheeks and flaxen curls,  
and sparkling eyes and teeth like pearls,  
tripping and skipping, ran merrily after the wonderful music  
with shouting and laughter.*

374 (repeat as often as necessary until narrator finishes)

1 *p*  
rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling, there was a

2 *p*  
There was a rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling,

376 *mf* 33

Solo

Fol - low me

1 rust-ling, that seemed like a bust-ling, of mer-ry crowds just-ling, at pitch-ing and

2 that seemed like a bust-ling, of mer-ry crowds just-ling, at pitch-ing and

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

379

Solo

Fol - low me

1 hust-ling, small feet were pat-ter-ing, wood-en shoes clat-ter-ing,

2 hust-ling, small feet and wood-en shoes clat-ter-ing,

*mf*

*mf*

382

Solo

Fol - low me

1 lit-tle hands clap-ping and lit-tle tongues chat-ter-ing like fowls in a farm-yard when

2 hands clap-ping, lit-tle tongues chat-ter-ing, fowls in a

*f*

*f*

*f*

408 (Pied Piper leaves stage)

1 lit - tle hands clapp - ing and lit - tle tongues chatt - er - ing and

2 hands clapp - ing, lit - tle tongues\_ chatt - er - ing,

Narrator: *However he turned from South to West and to Koppelberg Hill his steps addressed, and after him the children pressed; great was the joy in every breast. "He never can cross that mighty top! He's forced to let the piping drop, and we shall see our children stop!" When, lo, as they reached the mountain's side, a wondrous portal opened wide, as if a cavern was suddenly hollowed; and the Piper advanced and the children followed, and when all were in to the very last, the doo in the mountain side shut fast.*

410 *pp*

1 rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling, there was a  
(repeat as often as necessary until narrator finishes)

2 *pp* There was a rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling,

412 *p* (off-stage)

Solo Fol - low me

1 rust - ling, that seemed\_ like a bust - ling, of mer - ry crowds\_

2 that seemed\_ like a bust - ling, of mer - ry crowds\_

*always p*

414

Solo *p* Fol - low me *always pp*

1 just-ling, at pitch - ing and hust-ling, small feet were patt - er - ing, — *always pp*

2 just-ling, at pitch - ing and hust-ling, small feet and

417

1 wood en shoes clatt - er - ing, — lit - tle hands clapp - ing and lit - tle tongues chatt - er - ing and

2 wood en shoes clatt - er - ing, hands clapp - ing, lit - tle tongues chatt - er - ing,

420

1 rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling, there was a  
(repeat several times, always getting quieter)

2 There was a rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling,

422 (whispered)

1 rust-ling, there was a rust-ling, there was a rust-ling.

(whispered)

2 there was a rust-ling, there was a rust-ling,

Narrator: *Did I say all? No! One was lame, and could not dance the whole way. And in after years, if you would blame his sadness, he was used to say.*

426 Gently ♩ = 84

(solo voice from chorus) *mp*

Solo It's

430

Solo dull in our town since my play mates left, I can't for-get that\_ I'm be - reft of all the

434

Solo plea - sant sights they see, which the Pi-per al-so pro - mised me,

486

1  
strange and new; and ev-ry-thing was strange and

2  
new; and ev-ry-thing was strange and

*p.*

490

1  
new.

2  
new.

Gently

Narrator: *But when they saw twas a lost endeavour, and Piper and dancers were gone forever  
the place of the children's last retreat, they called it, the Pied Piper's Street -  
where anyone playing on pipe or tabor was sure for the future to lose his labour.  
Nor suffered they hostelry or tavern to shock with mirth a street so solemn;  
but opposite the place of the cavern they wrote the story on a column.*

495

1  
*p*  
There was a

2

Original tempo

*pp*

Narrator: *And on the great church window painted the same, to make the world acquainted how their children were stolen away. And there it stands to this very day.*

497

1 rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling, there was a  
*(repeat as often as necessary until narrator finishes)*

2 *p* There was a rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling,

499 *(offstage)* *p* Fol - low me

1 rust-ling, that seemed like a bust-ling, of mer-ry crowds just-ling, at pitch - ing and

2 that seemed like a bust-ling, of mer-ry crowds just-ling, at pitch - ing and

502

Solo Fol - low me

1 hust-ling, small feet were pat - ter - ing,— wood-en shoes clat - ter - ing,—

2 hust-ling, small feet and wood-en shoes\_ clat - ter - ing,

505

1 lit - tle hands clap - ping and lit - tle tongues chat - ter - ing and

2 hands clap - ping, lit - tle tongues chat - ter - ing,

507

1 rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling, there was a

*pp*

*(repeat several times, always getting quieter)*

2 There was a rust - ling, of crowds\_ just - ling,

*pp*

509

1 rust - ling, there was a rust - ling, there was a rust - ling.

*(whispering)*

2 there was a rust - ling, there was a rust - ling,

*(whispering)*