

Commissioned by Mahogany Opera Group as part of 'Snappy Operas'

# The Feast That Went Off With A Bang

Based on the Grimm Brothers' tale *The Mouse, the Bird and the Sausage*

PETER CANT (Libretto)

ED HUGHES (Music)

**Birds**  $\text{♩} = 116$   
1. The Feast is announced.

**Sausages**

**Mice**

**All**

**Clarinet in Bb**  $\text{♩} = 116$   
*ff* *p*

**Horn in F** *ff*

**Piano** *ff*

5

Birds. \_\_\_\_\_

Saus. \_\_\_\_\_

Mice. \_\_\_\_\_

All. *f*  
 Now it is our chance to eat, We'll work to -ge-ther to make the feast,

Cl. \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

Hn. \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

Pno. *f* \_\_\_\_\_ *p* \_\_\_\_\_

*Ed.*

Version 09.

10

All. We want each mouth-ful to taste good.

Cl. *mf* \_\_\_\_\_ *f*

Hn. \_\_\_\_\_ *p* \_\_\_\_\_ *f* \_\_\_\_\_ *ff* \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

Pno. \_\_\_\_\_

*Ed.*



All the saus. react ecstatically to this announcement, as if they have won a prize. **B**

22

Birds. *Hiss - pop!* *Hiss - pop!*

Saus. *cook, We sau-sa-ges will cook, We sau-sa-ges will cook, We sau-sa-ges will cook.*

Mice. *Hiss - pop!* *Hiss - pop!*

Cl. *f*

Hn. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Pno. *f*



27

Mice. *f* [div. mice in two groups] 1.:2.: 1.: 2.:  
*We mice will lay the ta-ble, We mice will lay the ta-ble, We mice will lay the ta-ble, We mice will lay the ta-ble,*

Cl.

Hn.

Pno.

32 1.: 2.: 1.: 2.:

Mice. We mice will lay the ta - ble, We mice will lay the ta - ble, We mice will lay the ta - ble, We mice will lay the ta - ble,

Cl.

Hn.

Pno.

**C**

36 *f* [With Knives and Forks - sounds]

Birds. Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter

Saus. *f* [With Knives and Forks - sounds]

Saus. Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter Cla - tter

Mice. 1.: 2.: 1.: 2.:

Mice. *ff* We mice will lay the ta - ble, We mice will lay the ta - ble, We mice will lay the ta - ble, We mice will lay the ta - ble,

All. *f* [Optionally, mice 3.:]

All. We mice will lay the ta - ble,

Cl. *p* *mp*

Hn. nat. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Pno.

40

Birds. *Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter*

Saus. *Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter Cla-tter*

Mice. 1.: We mice will lay the ta-ble, 2.: We mice will lay the ta-ble, 1.: We mice will lay the ta-ble, 2.: We mice will lay the ta-ble.

All. We mice will lay the ta-ble.

Cl. *mf f*

Hn. *mf f mf*

Pno. *mf*

*Ped.*

The mice all politely murmur that  
laying the table is an agreeable task.

44 **D** ♩ = 76

Birds. *p mf*  
We birds co-lect the wood, We

Cl. *p mf*

Hn.

Pno. *p mf*

*Ped.*

57 7

**Birds.** *f* **E** *ff*  
 birds co - llect the wood, We\_ birds co - llect the wood, we\_

**Saus.** *f* *ff*  
 Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah!

**Mice.** *f* *Mice double Saus. if easier* *ff*  
 Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah!

**Cl.** *f* *ff*

**Hn.** *f* *ff*  
 mute (stopped horn)

**Pno.** *f* *ff*

Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red.

69 ♩ = 116

**Birds.** **F** 2. The Speeches are Given  
 birds co - llect the wood.

**Saus.** *p* *f* *p*  
 Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah! Sau-sa-ges must, more - of-ten than not,

**Mice.** Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah!

**Cl.** *p* *f* *p*  
 ♩ = 116

**Hn.**

**Pno.** *p* *f* *p*

Red. Red. Red. Red.

79 *mp*

Saus. *wri-ggle and wi-ggle to sea-son the pot. Sau-sa-ges must, more - of-ten than not, wri-ggle and wi-ggle to sea-son the pot.*

Cl.

Hn. *nat. p*

Pno. *mp*

85 *mf* **G**

Mice. *Mice are nice andtwice as a-ble As sau-sa ges... at lay-ing a ta-ble, Mice are nice andtwice as a-ble As sau-sa ges... at*

Cl.

Hn.

Pno. *mf*

*Ped.*



92 **H** *f* *ff*

Birds. We're in a huff, we'll break our beaks Co - llect - ing wood to fire the feast. We're a - fraid we'll

Micc. *p*  
lay-ing the ta-ble,

Cl. *f* *ff*

Hn. *f*

Pno. *p* *f* *ff*

Red. Red. Red. Red. Red. Red.



98 **I** ♩ = 168

Birds. break our beaks Co - llect - ing wood to fire the feast.

Cl. *f*

Hn. *ff*

Pno. *f*

Red. Red. Red.

104

Saus. *f*  
There'll be no food for bird or beast with-out the wood to fire the feast.

Mice. *f*  
We must have food to fill our dish-es with

Cl. *ff* *f*

Hn.

Pno. *f*

111

Birds. *f* **J**  
But we're not ha-ppy no we're not. We'd ra ther lay di shes or sea-son the pot.

Saus. *ff*  
There'll

Mice. (ossia) *ff*  
soup, bread, lamb, beans, clams and fish-es. We

Cl.

Hn. *mf*

Pno.

**L** The war is a ritual dance.  
Mice and Sausages team up to  
vanquish the Birds.

117 **K**

**Birds.** *ff* We're not ha-ppy No we're not We'd ra-ther lay dish-es or sea-son the pot.

**Saus.** be no food for bird or beast with - out the wood to fire the feast.

**Mice.** must have food to fill our dish-es with soup, bread, lamb, beans, clams and fish-es.

**Cl.** *f*

**Hn.** *f* *ff*

**Pno.** *ff* *fff*



123

**Cl.** *ff*

**Hn.**

**Pno.**

129 Defeated, the birds circle, crying[?]

Birds. Wah Wah Wah Wah Wah But it is-n't a-ny good co-

Cl. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Pno. *Ped.*

The birds fly off[?]  $\text{♩} = 72$

136 **M** 4. The Mice and the Sausages are Alone and Hungry

Birds. *v-v* lec-ting wood

Saus. *p*

Mice. *p*

All. *p*

Cl. *p*

Hn. *p*

Pno. *p* *Ped.*

143

Saus. *p*  
When oh when will the birds re - turn? With-out the wood the stove won't burn.

Cl. *pp*

Hn.

Pno.

Red.

152

Mic. **N** *p* *f* *ff*  
With-out a trace of a - ny food A sau-sage would taste\_\_ ve - ry good.

Cl.

Hn. *p* *f* *ff*

Pno. *p* *f* *ff*

Red.

♩ = 108

14

162 **O**

The mice pick up  
large knives and approach  
the sausages

Birds.

Saus.   
Li-ttle mice, Li-ttle mice, put down your knives, if you go-bble us up then you'll lose your lives.

Cl.   
Li-ttle mice, Li-ttle mice, put down your knives, if you go-bble us up then you'll lose your lives.

Hn.

Pno.



Saus.   
You've heard that sau-sa-ges go bang? There's rea-lly no-thing lou-der be-cause we're filled to thebrim With pre-mi-um gun

Cl.   
You've heard that sau-sa-ges go bang? There's rea-lly no-thing lou-der be-cause we're filled to thebrim With pre-mi-um gun

Hn.   
You've heard that sau-sa-ges go bang? There's rea-lly no-thing lou-der be-cause we're filled to thebrim With pre-mi-um gun

Pno.

**P** The mice eat all of the sausages  
and go to sleep.

179

Birds.

Saus. pow-der!

Mice. Gun-pow-der? Non sense!

Cl.

Hn.

Pno.

Q

5. The Birds Return

The birds return, laden with firewood,  
exhausted after three days of toil.

187

Birds. *Li-ttle mice, li-ttle mice how*

Saus.

Mice.

All.

Cl. *p < f > p*

Hn. *pp p*

Pno. *pp p*

196

Birds. *bad it looks To find you've ea-ten all the cooks. We toiled for days, we broke our beaks. Co-llec-ting wood to*

Cl. *f > p f > p*

Hn. *p f p*

Pno.



**R** The birds tie napkins around  
their necks and approach the mice.

204

Birds. *f* fire the feast, We'll starve un-less we get a bite Li-ttle mice say nigh-ty night!

Cl. *p* *f* *p*

Hn. *p* *f*

Pno. *p*

213

Mice. *p* Naugh-ty birds, naugh-ty birds, put down your knives, If you go-bble us up then you'll lose your lives. You've heard that sau-sa

Cl. *f* *p*

Hn. *p*

Pno.

220

Birds. Gun-pow-der?

Mice. *f* *ff*  
 ges go bang. There's rea lly no-thing lou-der, And now we're filled to the brim With pre-mi-um gun pow-der.

Cl. *f* *ff*

Hn. *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *ff*



229

Birds. The birds eat all of the mice and go to sleep  
 Non-sense!

Cl. *ff* *p* *ff*

Hn. *ff* *p* *ff*

Pno. *fff*

*8va* *8va*

*Ped.* *Ped.*

**S** 6. Epilogue: Mouse,  
Bird, Sausage

236

Birds. *p*  
We se-ttle down and go to

Cl. *pp* *p*

Hn. *pp*

Pno. *ppp* *pp* *p*

247

Birds. *f* *p*  
sleep ex-haus-ted from our gree-dy feast.

All. *f*  
We did not heed the sau-sa-ges ad-vice We mice filled with sau-sa-ges and

Cl. *f* *p*

Hn. *p* *f*

Pno. *pp*

258

All. *p* *f*  
birds filled with mice. Birds filled with mice filled with sau-sa-ges filled with pre - mi - um gun-pow-der!

Cl. *f*

Hn. *p* *f*

Pno. *p* *f*



269 **T**

Saus. Hiss - pop! Hiss - - pop! Hiss - pop!

Mice. Cla - tter-cla-tter! Cla-tter-cla-tter!

Cl. *f* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Hn. *f* *fp*

Pno. *f* *pp*

*Red.*

274

Birds. Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah!

Saus. Hiss - - - pop! Hiss - - - pop! Hiss - - - pop!

Mics. Cla - tter - cla - tter! Cla - tter - cla - tter! Cla - tter - cla - tter! Cla - tter - cla - tter! Cla - tter - cla - tter! Cla - tter - cla - tter!

Cl. *fp*

Hn. *fp*

Pno. *fp*

277

Birds. Wah! Wah! Wah! Wah! BANG!

Saus. Hiss - - - pop! Hiss - - - pop! BANG!

Mics. Cla - tter - cla - tter! Cla - tter - cla - tter! Cla - tter - cla - tter! Cla - tter - cla - tter! BANG!

Cl. *fp*

Hn. *fp* nat.

Pno. *fp*

The birds explode with a tremendous noise and a shower of feathers.

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*

*fff*