

Ben Morris

Commissioned by Sohap Ensemble

My First Drawing



for soprano and violoncello

text from *The Little Prince*

by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, trans. Katherine Woods

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My First Drawing

for soprano and violoncello

Total Duration: ca. 5'20"

Text

After some work with a colored pencil
I succeeded in making my first drawing.
My Drawing Number One.
It looked like this:

I showed my masterpiece to the grown-ups,
and asked them whether the drawing frightened them.
But they answered: "Frightened?
Why should anyone be frightened by a hat?"

My drawing was not a picture of a hat.
It was a picture of a boa constrictor digesting an elephant.

But since the grown-ups were not able to understand it,
I made another drawing:
I drew the inside of the boa constrictor, so that the grown-ups could see it clearly.
They always need to have things explained.
My Drawing Number Two looked like this:

The grown-ups' response, this time,
was to advise me to lay aside my drawings of boa constrictors,
whether from the inside or the outside,
and devote myself instead to geography,
history,
arithmetic
and grammar.
That is why,
At the age of six,
I gave up what might have been a magnificent career as a painter.

Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves,
and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to
them.

2 14 *poco rit.* *mf* calculated

I suc-cee - ded in ma - king my first draw - ing My
 col legno batt., half wood (ric.)

mp

arco (ord.),
 harm. gliss up
 IV.

n

17 *approximate pitch, proud theatrical speaking*

dra - wing nu - mber one it looked like this:

pizz. (con vib.)

f

B *project drawing* *accel.* *rit.*

pp *f* 6 6

pizz. (hammer-on/pull-off) arco

20 *rit.* *mf* **C** *mf*

pizz. (hammer-on/pull-off) con vib. arco (ric.) arco (ord.) *sim.*

pp *mf*

22 *mp*

I showed my mas - ter - piece to the grown ups and asked them whe - ther the

mp

25 *rit.* *poco accel.* *f* *gliss.* *gliss.*

draw - ing fright - end them

ord. sul pont.

fp *f* *theatrically frightening*

5

28 **D** poco rit. . . ♩ = 72

but they an - swered: "Frigh - tened? why would a - ny - one be

s.p. → ord. pizz. *p* *mf* derpy

32 approximate pitch, proud theatrical speaking rit. . . .

frigh-tened of a hat?" My draw-ing was not a pic-ture of a hat. It was a pic-ture of a

arco *fp* < *fp* < *fp*

35 **E** Dramatic ♩ = 60

bo - a con - stric - tor di - ges - ting an el - e - phant

f poco rit. . . . molto rit. . . .

38 **F** ♩ = 84

But since the grown ups were not a - ble to un - der - stand

pizz. *sub p* *mp*

41 *mf* poco rit. . . .

it I made a - no - ther draw - ing I drew the in - side of the

arco, s.p. *fp*

45 **poco rit.** . . . ♩ = 72 **p** *annoyed, soto voce*

bo-a con-stric-tor_ so that grown-ups can see it clearly they al-ways need to have

ord. s.p.

<fp *fp*

48 **poco rit.** . . . **G** ♩ = 80 **mf** *approximate pitch, proud theatrical speaking*

things_ ex - plained My dra-wing nu-mber two looked like this:

pizz.

< f

52 **H** ♩ = 92 **accel.** . . .

arco

pp *cresc.*

3

54 ♩ = 120 **molto rit.** . . .

ff *con forza*

6 6 6 6

56 ♩ = 52 **accel.** . . . ♩ = 76

s.p.

ffp

59 **I** *mf* **Mournful**

The grown ups re - sponse this time

ord. *fp* *f* plodding

63

was to ad - vise me to lay a - side my dra - wings of bo - a con - struc - tors

67 *poco rit.*

whe - ther from the out - side or the in side and de - vote my - self in - stead to ge

71 **J** *sub p* *mf* oh, the horror *accel.*

o - gra - phy his - tor - y a - rith - ma - tic and gram mar

sub p *fp* *ffp*

75 *f* **K** *Più mosso* *port.* *f*

That is why at the

78

age of six I gave up what might have been a mag -

81

ni - fi - cent mag - ni - fi - cent mag -

15mb

molto rit.

83

ni - fi - cent car -

8vb

ff

$\text{♩} = 46$

rit. *p* *n*

85

eer as a pain - ter

s.p. flaut.

ffp *n*

88 **L** Delicate $\text{♩} = 80$

col legno batt., half wood (ric.)

Grown-ups ne-ver un-der-stand

p fiddle "chop"

91

an - y - thing by them - selves and it is ti - re - some for chil - dren

arco (ord.), harm. gliss up III.

col legno batt., half wood (ric.)

rit. *n* *mp*

mf = 60

94

to be al - ways and for - e - ver ex - plain - ing things to them.

arco, harm. gliss up II.

sim. III.

IV.

mp *n* *mp* *n* *fp*

project drawing

M ♩ = 52 ♩ = 72
 accel. molto rit.

97

pizz. (hammer-on/pull-off) arco

6 6 s.p. ord., ric.

f *pp* *ff* *ffp* *ff*