Some Ill Planet

For double choir

© Stef Conner 2008
There’s some ill planet reigns.
I must be patient till the heavens look
With an aspect more favorable...
Adieu, my Lord.
I never wished to see you sorry; now
I trust I shall...

Stef Conner

**Some Ill Planet** (2008)

Text: William Shakespeare

For double SATB choir


Duration c. 8 minutes
Notes on the Text

The text in this piece is taken from Shakespeare’s King Lear, with an additional line from his erotic narrative poem The Rape of Lucrece. Most of the text is taken from the first half of King Lear’s ‘storm’ soliloquy at the beginning of scene nine:

**King Lear - Scene 9; lines 1 – 9 (edited):**

LEAR

Blow, wind and crack your cheeks! Rage, blow,
You cataracts and hurricanoes, spout
Till you have drenched the steeples, drowned the cocks!
You sulphurous (...) [sheets of fire]
Singe my white head; and thou all-shaking thunder,
Smite flat the (...) the world,
Crack nature’s mould (...)

Cuts have been made to the text for musical reasons. In line 4, Lear’s ‘and thought executing fires’ is replaced with the Duke of Kent’s phrase ‘sheets of fire’ (King Lear, Scene 9, line 46). The following additional lines from King Lear are also included:

**King Lear - Sc. 9; line 14:**

LEAR

‘Rumble thy bellyful; spit, fire; spout, rain.’

**King Lear - Sc. 9; lines 75 – 78:**

FOOL [sings]

He that has a little tiny wit,
    With heigh-ho, the wind and the rain,
Must make content with his fortunes fit,
    For the rain it raineth every day.

**King Lear - Sc. 4; line 212:**

FOOL [sings]

So out went the candle and we were left darkling

**King Lear - Sc. 7; line 465:**

CORNWALL

Shut up your doors, my lord. ‘Tis a wild night.

As well as text from King Lear, an additional half-line from the Rape of Lucrece is included:

**The Rape of Lucrece - line 190:**

Fair torch, burn out thy light...
Pronunciation of Phonetic Symbols

All phonetic sounds are represented by IPA symbols. The guide to reading them below uses Received Pronunciation, with a few exceptions for sounds not usually used in RP English. They are shown in square brackets in the score, to differentiate them from normal text. Phonemes that should smoothly merge into one another are linked with hyphens (e.g. ‘[a] -[u] - [o]’).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPA Symbol</th>
<th>Example of RP Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vowels, diphthongs and semi-vowels</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>‘ä’ as in the French ‘pâtes’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æ</td>
<td>‘æ’ as in ‘father’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ö</td>
<td>‘ö’ as in ‘not’</td>
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<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>‘o’ as in ‘not’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ö</td>
<td>Not really used in RP English. ‘ö’ as in 'bode’ in American English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>œ</td>
<td>‘aw’ as in ‘law’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ə</td>
<td>‘a’ as in ‘comma’</td>
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<td>i</td>
<td>‘i’ as in ‘sit’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ī</td>
<td>‘ee’ as in ‘see’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ei</td>
<td>‘ey’ as in ‘day’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ε</td>
<td>‘e’ as in ‘bed’</td>
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<td>ʌ</td>
<td>‘u’ as in ‘run’</td>
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<td>u</td>
<td>‘oo’ as in ‘soon’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ai</td>
<td>‘i’ as in ‘wise’</td>
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<td>ou</td>
<td>‘oa’ as in ‘goat’</td>
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<td>ao</td>
<td>‘ow’ as in ‘now’</td>
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<td>w</td>
<td>‘w’ as in ‘weather’</td>
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<td><strong>Consonants</strong></td>
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<td>t</td>
<td>‘t’ as in ‘bet’</td>
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<td>d</td>
<td>‘d’ as in ‘do’</td>
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<td>ʧ</td>
<td>‘ch’ as in ‘chair’</td>
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<td>k</td>
<td>‘k’ as in ‘kill’</td>
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<td>s</td>
<td>‘s’ as in ‘see’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ʃ</td>
<td>‘sh’ as in ‘share’</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>‘ch’ as in the Scottish ‘Loch’</td>
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<td>m</td>
<td>‘m’ as in ‘man’</td>
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<td>n</td>
<td>‘n’ as in ‘no’</td>
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<td>l</td>
<td>‘l’ as in ‘left’</td>
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<tr>
<td>ɬ</td>
<td>‘l’ as in ‘bell’</td>
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<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>Rolled r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>‘y’ as in ‘yes’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ø</td>
<td>Not really used in English; like an ‘f’ but with lips pursed and teeth not touching lips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‿</td>
<td>Glottal stop, e.g. ‘uh-(?)oh’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key to non-standard notation

Whispered. Pitch inflections are indicated by vertical position of notes and glissandi between words or phonemes.

Spoken. Pitch inflections are indicated by vertical position of notes glissandi between words or phonemes.

Pitched, breathy whistle.

Breathy whistle of indeterminate pitch. General tessitura and pitch inflection is indicated by the vertical position of notes and glissandi.

As high/low as possible.

Sung with extremely breathy tone.

Dotted left arrow: sound is produced using an ingressive air-flow (e.g. breathing in). Dotted right arrow: sound is produced using an egressive (normal) air-flow.

Controlled transition from normal vibrato to very exaggerated vibrato and back.

Tremolo produced by alternating between the given phonemes.

Tremolo produced by repeating the given phoneme.

Tremolo is irregular and variable.
Tremolo is metric, but duration of values is at individual performers' discretion and can be varied.

The direction ‘ad lib.’ with a bracketed accent over a tremolo indicates that it should be punctuated with sporadic accents.

Clap, on the beat above which the symbol appears.

As above, but stamp.
Some Ill Planet

William Shakespeare

Stef Conner

Dark, cold and embittered \( \dot{=} 90 \)

imitating the sound of the wind

Blow wind and

imitating the sound of the wind

[bl] [c]

imitating the sound of the wind

Blow wind and

imitating the sound of the wind

mf

Soprano 1

Alto 1

Tenor 1

Bass 1

imitating the sound of the wind

Blow wind and crack your cheeks

Soprano 2

Alto 2

Tenor 2

Bass 2
crack your cheeks blow wind rage

UNIS.

SOLO ppp UNIS.
p f p

[A] [a] [i] [n]

UNIS.

SOLO ppp UNIS.
p f p

[B] crack blow wind blow rage blow

UNIS.

SOLO ppp UNIS.
p f p

[A] [a] [i] [n]

UNIS.

SOLO ppp UNIS.
p f p

[B] crack blow wind blow rage blow

and crack your cheeks blow blow [e] and hur-ri-ca-noes

[A] crack [w] [i] [n]

UNIS.

SOLO ppp UNIS.
p f p

[B] crack blow wind rage blow you ca-ta-racts and hur-ri-ca-noes

T. 2

crack your cheeks blow wind rage you ca-ta-racts and hur-ri-ca-noes

B. 2

crack blow wind rage blow you ca-ta-racts and hur-ri-ca-noes
Blow wind and crack your cheeks

Rage blow you
S. 2

A. 1

T. 2

B. 2

UNIS.

HALF

ALL

aghast

p 3

Rum-thy bel-ly-ful Oh_

spiteful

hur-ri-canesthes

you have drenched the stee-ples

Rum-thy bel-ly-ful Oh_

spiteful

hur-ri-canesthes

the steeples rum-ble

(r生活ed r)

mp

fp

sft

smooth; ominous

ca-ta-racts and hur-ri-ca-noes spout till you have drenched the stee-ples

Rum-thy bel-ly-ful

ca-ta-racts and hur-ri-ca-noes spout till you have drenched the stee-ples

Rum-thy bel-ly-ful

ca-ta-racts and hur-ri-ca-noes spout till you have drenched the stee-ples

whistling wind

attack with venom

[Don't worry if change of consonant alters pitch slightly]
*Place notes freely within given time duration, roughly corresponding to placement within bar. Performers on the same part should not deliberately coordinate.
till you have drenched the stee-ples

spout drenched the stee-ples

you have drenched the stee-ples
drowned the cocks

drenched the stee-ples

drowned the stee-ples

spout drenched

drown
C

S. 1

[35]

ff

[m]m

Rum - ble thy bel-ly-ful

T. 1

[exaggerated rolled r]

f

Rum - ble rum-bles thy bel-ly-ful

threatening

ff

[exaggerated rolled r]

spit s-pout rain

A. 1

[exaggerated rolled r]

ff

[m\textsuperscript{3}m\textsuperscript{4}t]\textsuperscript{3}

Rum - ble rum-bles thy bel-ly-ful

B. 1

[exaggerated rolled r]

fp

[m\textsuperscript{3}m\textsuperscript{4}t]\textsuperscript{3}

spit s-pout rain

S. 2

fp

[a] [m\textsuperscript{3}m\textsuperscript{4}t] [m]

Oh spout rain

A. 2

[m\textsuperscript{3}m\textsuperscript{4}t]

Oh spout rain

T. 2

[a]

rum - ble thy bel-ly-ful

B. 2

[exaggerated rolled r]

fp

[m\textsuperscript{3}m\textsuperscript{4}t]

fire rain
SOLO
disturbed
*Tis a wild
Blow wind
and crack your cheeks
SOLO

Tis a wild

out went the can-dle out went the can-dle

night

Rage you ca-ta-racts and hur-ni-ca-noes spout

Rage and hur-ni-ca-noes spout

Rage you ca-ta-racts and hur-ni-ca-noes spout

Rage

blow

blow
So out went the candle out went the candle and we were.

So sinister.

Till you have drenched the steeple.

Till you have drenched the steeple, drowned the cocks.
(SOLO)

You sulph'rous sheets of fire

wildly tormented

You sulph'rous sheets of fire

embittered hiss

You sulph'rous sheets of fire

singe my white head

exaggerated rolled 'r'

* freely within given duration; not deliberately coordinated
and crack your cheeks
Rage you ca-ta-rects hur-ri-canes

and crack your cheeks
Rage you ca-ta-rects hur-ri-canes

crack your cheeks
Rage blow and hur-ri-canes

your cheeks
Rage blow and hur-ri-canes

hey ho the wind and rain make his for-tune for the rain it rain-eth

hey ho the wind and rain make his for-tune for the rain it rain-eth

must make con-tent his for-tunes fit

hey must make con-tent his for-tunes fit rain rain-eth
S. 1
spout till you have drenched the stee-ples

A. 1
spout till you have drenched the stee-ples

T. 1
spout you have drenched drowned the cocks

B. 1
spout you have drenched drowned the cocks

S. 2
ev-ry day hey ho the wind and the rai-

A. 2
ev-ry day hey ho the wind and the rai-

T. 2
ev-ry day with hey ho [n]

B. 2
ev-ry day with hey [n]
You sulph'rous sheets of fire!

Singe my white...
he that has a little wit with hey ho the wind and the rain make his fortunes for the

he that has a little wit with hey ho the wind and rain make his fortunes for the

he that has a little wit hey make content his fortunes for the

he that has a little wit hey make his fortunes for the

he that has a little wit must make his fortunes fit

he that has a little wit must make his fortunes fit

he that has a little wit must make content his fortunes fit

he that has a little wit must make his fortunes fit
and crack your cheeks

Blow wind crack your cheeks

Blow wind and crack your cheeks

and crack your cheeks

Blow wind and crack your cheeks

Blow wind and crack your cheeks

Blow wind and crack your cheeks
molto rall. . . . .

cata-racts and hur-ri-ca-noes spout!

hur-ri-ca-noes spout! till you have drenched the stee-ples drenched_

[du]- [n]

[ou] spout! [c:∞~∞]

ca-mf
tacts-
and hur-
ri-
ca-
noes-
spout!
till you have drenched the ste-
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Smouldering; $j = 64$

the stee-ples

drowned the cocks
rolled 'r' on every 'rum(ble)'

rolled 'r' on every 'rum(ble)'

immediate close to 'm'

rolled 'r' on every 'rum(ble)'

head thou all-shaking thunder

S. 1

head thou all-shaking thunder

A. 1

all-shaking thunder

S. 2

thunder

A. 2

thou

T. 2

and thou

B. 2

rumble Oh

Smite

Crack

nature's

Smite

Crack

nature's

Smite

Crack

nature's

Smite

Crack

nature's