



THE HEIGHT OF THE RIDICULOUS

SONG FOR BARITONE

WORDS BY

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

MUSIC BY

CHARLES HENRY HART

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The Height of the Ridiculous

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

CHARLES HENRY HART

Lightly, with humor

Piano introduction in 2/4 time, marked *p* (piano). The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

First line of the song, marked *p with humor*. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

I wrote some lines once on a time In won-drous mer - ry mood, And

Second line of the song. The melody is in the right hand, starting with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

thought as u - sual men would say, They were ex - ceed - ing good.

p

They were so queer, so ver - y queer, I laughed as I would die, Al -

The first system of the musical score. The vocal line is in bass clef, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics are "They were so queer, so ver - y queer, I laughed as I would die, Al -". The piano accompaniment is in treble and bass clefs, with a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

be - it, in the gen - 'ral way, A so - ber man am I.

The second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "be - it, in the gen - 'ral way, A so - ber man am I.". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

I called my ser - vant, and he came; How kind it was of him, To

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "I called my ser - vant, and he came; How kind it was of him, To". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

rit

mind a slen - der man like me, He of the might - y limb.

rit *pp*

The fourth system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "mind a slen - der man like me, He of the might - y limb.". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The system ends with a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic marking.

A

Recit. ad lib

"These to the prin-ter;" I ex-claimed, And in my hum-'rous way, I add-ed, (as a

tri-ling jest) "There'll be the devil to pay". He took the pa-per, and I watched, And

a tempo

p a tempo

saw him peep with-in; At the first line he read, his face Was all up-on the

rit

f

rit

grin. He read the next; the grin grew broad, And

p a tempo

p a tempo

shot from ear to ear; He read the third; a chuck-ling noise I now be-gan to hear. The

fourth; he broke in - to a roar; The fifth; his waist-band split; The sixth; he burst five

marc. e rit.

Presto *lunga p* **Largo** *quasi doloroso*

but-tons off, And tum-bled in a fit. Ten days and nights, with sleep-less eye, I

lunga *lunga* *quasi doloroso*

a tempo *ad lib.*

watch'd that wretch-ed man, And since, I nev-er dare to write As fun-ny as I can.

f a tempo

*Reo. * Reo. * Reo. **