

Ode to a Toad

for

Men's Choir

(TTBB)

Music by Robert S. Cohen

Poem by Thomas Patrick Seigenthaler

(2011)



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Toad, toad
There in the road
Burdened by your load
Of warts.

Eyes
Wide and watery
Cold blooded reptile
No bloody arteries
Or veins.

Toad legs
Muscled and strong
For jump propulsion
Over distances long
Or short.

Feet
Webbed for a swim
Above or below surface
As is your whim
Or yen.

Tongue
Long, slippery, sly
Quick as a laser flash
To shag unsuspecting flies
Or moths.

Spots, spots
Brown, green and beige
Balanced camouflage
Beneath the hedge
Or lily pad.

Ears
Absent, stone cold deaf
Hearing nothing
Right or left
Or cars

Splat!

Imagine that.

The end.

Ode to a Toad

Music by Robert S. Cohen
Poem by Thomas P. Seigenthaler

Tempo di ribbit (♩ = 108)

The musical score is written for four vocal parts and piano. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system includes Tenor I, Tenor II, Baritone, and Bass. The second system includes the piano accompaniment, marked with a brace and the instruction '*Piano'. The tempo is 'Tempo di ribbit' with a quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The piece concludes with a 2/4 time signature change in the final measure of each system. The lyrics are: Tenor II: 'bit! bit!'; Baritone: 'Rib! Rib - - bit!'; Bass: 'Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit!'. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes.

Tenor I

Tenor II

Baritone

Bass

*Piano

Tempo di ribbit (♩ = 108)

*May be performed a cappella

11

mf

T I Bur-dened by your load Of warts. Eyes Wide and wa-te-ry

T II Rib - - - bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Eyes Wide and wa-te-ry

Bari. Rib! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Eyes Wide and wa-te-ry

Bass Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Eyes

mf

14

T I Cold blood-ed rep - tile No blood-y ar-ter-ies Or

T II Cold blood-ed rep - tile No blood-y ar-ter-ies Or

Bari. Cold blood-ed rep - tile Rib-bit! No blood-y ar-ter-ies Or

Bass Rib-bit! Cold Cold blood-ed Rib-bit! No

f *mf* *f* *mf*

18 *mp* **B** *f*

T I
veins. Toad legs For jump pro -

T II
veins. Toad legs pro -

Bari.
veins. Toad legs Mus - cled and strong

Bass
veins. Dum dum dum dum dum dum Mus - cled and strong

mp *f*

21

T I
pul - sion Ov - er dis - tan - ces long Or short.

T II
pul - sion Ov - er dis - tan - ces long Or short.

Bari.
Ov - er dis - tan - ces long Or short.

Bass
dis - tan ces long Or Ov - er dis - tan - ces long Or short.

23 *mp*

T I
8 Feet Webbed for a swim A - bove or be - low

T II
8 Feet _____ Webbed Webbed for a swim _____ be - low

Bari.
mp Feet _____ Webbed or be - low

Bass
mp Feet _____ Webbed Webbed for a swim be - low

mp

26 *molto rit.*

T I
8 sur - face As is your whim Or yen. _____ //

T II
8 sur - face your whim Or yen. //

Bari.
sur - face whim Or yen. //

Bass
sur - face whim Or yen. //

molto rit.

C *Meno mosso misterioso* (♩ = 88)

29

T I *p*
Tongue Long, slip - p̄er - y, sly

T II *pp*
Rib-bit! Ribbit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit!

Bari. *p*
Tongue Long, slip - p̄er - y, sly

Bass *pp*
Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Ribbit! Rib-bit!

C *Meno mosso misterioso* (♩ = 88)

31

T I *sfz*
Quick as a las - er flash To shag moths.

T II *mp* *sfz*
Rib-bit! Ribbit! un - su-spect-ing flies Or moths.

Bari. *sfz*
Quick as a las - er flash To shag moths.

Bass *mp* *sfz*
Ribbit! Rib-bit! un - su-spect-ing flies Or moths.

33 **D** *p sub.*

T I Tongue Long, slip - per - y, sly

T II *p sub.* dum dum dum dum dum dum dum slip - p^{er} - y, sly

Bari. *pp* Rib-bit! Ribbit! Rib-bit!

Bass *pp sub.* Ribbit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib - bit! Rib - bit! *mp*

D *p sub.*

35 *mp*

T I Quick as a ___ rib-bit. rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit.

T II *mp* Quick as a ___ *p* rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit,

Bari. *mp* Quick as a ___ *pp sub.* rib-bit, ribbit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit,

Bass *mp* Quick as a rib-bit, rib-bit rib-bit, rib-bit

mp *pp sub.*

37

mf Quick as a _____ *mp* rib-bit. rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit.

mf Quick as a _____ *p* rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit,

mf Quick as a _____ *pp sub.* rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit, rib-bit,

mf Quick as a rib-bit, rib-bit rib-bit, rib-bit

39

f Quick as a Quick as a *ff* Quick as a las-er flash To shag un-su-spect-ing flies Or

f Quick as a Quick as a *ff* las-er flash To shag flies Or

f Quick as a Quick as a *ff* To shag flies Or

f Quick as a Quick as a *ff* flies Or

f *ff*

E Tempo primo

41

T I
8
moths. flies ³ Or moths.

T II
8
moths. flies Or moths. bit! Rib-bit!

Bari.
moths. flies ³ Or moths. Rib! Rib-bit! Rib-bit!

Bass
moths. flies Or moths. Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit!

Solo (freely) mf

Tutti

E Tempo primo

45

T I
8
Toad, toad There in the road Bur-dened by your load Of

T II
8
bit! Rib-bit! bit!

Bari.
Rib! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib!

Bass
Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Ribbit! Ribbit!

Tutti mp

mp

48

T I
warts. *mf* Eyes Wide and wa - te - ry

T II
Rib - bit! Rib - bit! *mf* Eyes Wide and wa - te - ry

Bari.
Rib - bit! Rib - bit! *mf* Eyes Wide and wa - te - ry

Bass
Rib-bit! Rib - bit! Rib - bit! *mf* Eyes *f* Rib-bit!

mf *f*

51

T I
Cold blood-ed rep - tile No blood - y ar - ter - ies Or

T II
Cold blood-ed rep - tile No blood - y ar - ter - ies Or

Bari.
Cold blood-ed rep - tile *f* Rib-bit! No blood - y ar - ter - ies Or

Bass
mf Cold Cold blood-ed *f* Rib-bit! *mf* No

mf *f* *mf*

54 *mp* **F** *f*

T I
8
veins. Spots, spots Brown, green and beige Ba - lanced

T II
8
veins. Spots, spots Brown, green and beige

Bari.
veins. Spots, spots Brown, green and beige

Bass
mp *f*
veins. Dum dum dum dum dum dum Brown, green and beige

F

57 *mp*

T I
8
cam - ou - flage Be - neath the hedge Or li - ly pad. Ears Ab - sent,

T II
8
Ba - lanced cam - ou - flage Be - neath the li - ly pad. Ears Ab - sent,

Bari.
cam - ou - flage Be - neath the li - ly pad. Ears Ab - sent,

Bass
mp
cam - ou - flage Be - neath the hedge Or li - ly pad. Ears Ab - sent,

mp

60

T I
stone cold deaf Hear - ing no - thing Right or left Or

T II
stone cold no - thing Right or left Or

Bari.
stone cold Right or left Or

Bass
stone cold deaf Hear - ing no - thing left

(like the sound of a car horn)

62

T I
cars cars

T II
bit! Rib-bit! bit!

Bari.
Rib! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib!

Bass
Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit!

mf *f* *simile*

65

T I *f* cars cars

T II Rib-bit! Rib-bit! *f* cars cars

Bari. *mf* Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit!

Bass *mf* Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit!

H

mp *simile*

68

T I cars cars Splat! (shouted) *ff* I-mag-ine *mf*

T II cars cars Splat! (shouted) *ff* I-mag-ine *mf*

Bari. Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Splat! (shouted) *ff*

Bass Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Rib-bit! Splat!

mf

72

T I *f* *mf* *f*
 that. dum dum dum dum dum dum dum The

T II *f* *mp* *f*
 that. dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum The

Bari. *f* *mp* *f* *ff*
 that. dum dum dum dum dum dum dum end.

Bass *p* *f* *ff*
 dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum end.

f *p sub.* *f* *ff*

(March 19, 2011)