

David Feurzeig

## Three Mnemonics

*for female chorus*

Months	2' 00
Music	4' 00
Monarchs	1' 30

texts traditional, adapted by the composer

total duration ca. 7' 30

In “Months” the utilitarian doggerel of a familiar calendar rhyme serves as the basis for a haunting bipolar expressionist fantasy, achieved through a sort of musical surrealism.

“Music” (subtitled “First Lessons”) begins as a simple primer on the note names of the treble staff, gradually unraveling as it devolves into a tirade against the insidious sexist “lessons” embedded in language and culture—even in a seemingly innocuous pedagogical mnemonic. Though the text strays from the lesson plan, the lyrics maintain the alphabetic scheme of the mnemonic throughout: the first letter of each word matches the pitch being sung, as in “**Every Good Boy Does Fine**” .

“Monarchs” is a cheekily deranged setting of a schoolroom verse that rattles off in order the occupants of the English throne, with a brief interlude for a couplet memorializing the fates of Henry VIII’s wives. No offense is meant to HRH Queen Elizabeth II, long may she reign.

### **Months**

Thirty days hath November,  
April, June, and September.  
Of twenty-eight there is but one,  
All the remnant thirty-one.

### **Music**

F-A-C-E: “face.”  
Every Good Boy Does Fine...

### **Monarchs**

The Monarchs of England:  
Willie, Willie, Harry, Stee,  
Harry, Dick, John, Harry Three;  
One, two, three Neds, Richard Two,  
Harrys Four, Five, Six...then who?  
Edwards Four, Five, Dick the Bad,  
Harrys twain, Ned Six (the Lad),  
Mary, Bessie, James the Vain,  
Charlie, Charlie, James again,  
Will and Mary, Anna Gloria,  
Georges four, Will Four, Victoria,  
Edward Seven, George and Ted,  
George the Sixth, Liz till she’s...

### The Six Wives of Henry VIII:

Divorced, beheaded, died,  
Divorced, beheaded, survived.

## Three Mnemonics

David Feurzeig  
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### I. Months

for Dawn Willis and Bella Voce

Flexibly, with exaggerated expression ♩ ca. 63

Soprano\* *f* *molto p*  
Thir - ty days hath No - vem - ber, No - vem - ber No - vem - ber

Alto 1\* *f* *molto p*  
Thir - ty days hath No - vem - ber, No - vem - ber No -

Alto 2 *f* *p* (slightly in relief)  
Thir - ty days hath No - vem - ber,  
(altos quasi legato—"portamento")

S *poco cresc.*  
No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber

A1 *poco cresc.*  
vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No -

A2 *poco cresc.*  
No - vem - ber hath

S *poco rall.* *mf* *decresc.* *mp* *p*  
No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber

A1 *mf* *decresc.* *mp* *p*  
vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No -

A2 *mf* *mp* *p*  
No - vem - ber hath

\* in 3-part passages, adjust divisi as needed for balance

16

*poco riten.* *molto ff*

S No-vem-ber No-vem - ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber A - pril,

A1 vem-ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber A - pril,

A2 No - No-vem - ber No vem-ber No-vem-ber A - pril,

**Bright and articulated**

22

*mp cresc.* *div.* *fff non dim.!*

S1 G.P. June June Ju - Ju- June and! (d)

S2 G.P. June June June f

A1 G.P. June June Ju - Ju - Ju - Ju-

A2 G.P. June June Ju - Ju- June f

**Poco meno mosso**

27

*unis. pp* *più pp* *rit.*

S Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem - ber, *div.*

A1 *pp* *più pp* Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem - ber,

A2 *pp* *più pp* Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem - ber,

4 **Tempo I**  $\text{ca. } 63$  **accel.** *pp* *misterioso* *cresc.* **ff**

S1 Of twen - ty - eight there is, of twen - ty - eight there is but one! **ff**

S2 *misterioso pp* *cresc.* Of twen - ty - eight there is but one, there is but one! **ff**

A1 *misterioso p* *cresc.* Of twen - ty - eight there is, there is but one! **ff**

A2 *misterioso mp* *cresc.* Of twen - ty - eight there is but but

**A tempo poco meno,**  $\text{♩} = 66$   
*optionally solo* *p possibile* *p cresc.*

S1 All the rest, all the rem - nant

S2 all the rest, all the

A1 *p cresc.* (the) rem - nant thir - ty -

A2 *ff* *a piacere* *optionally solo* *p* *p cresc.* one! All the rem - nant thir - ty -

**rall.**

S1 *mf* *pp* thir - ty -, thir - ty - - one. (n)

S2 *mf* *p* *pp* rem - nant thir - ty -, thir - ty - one. (n)

A1 *pp* one, - ty

A2 *pp* one. thir -

## II. Music or First Lessons

**Semplice** ♩ = 72

**Soprano 1**  
E \_\_\_\_\_ face... G. P. *legato*  
E flat E \_\_\_\_\_ flat E \_\_\_\_\_

**Soprano 2**  
C \_\_\_\_\_ face... *legato*

**Alto 1**  
A \_\_\_\_\_ face... A sharp A sharp

**Alto 2**  
F \_\_\_\_\_ face...

**Pitch Pipes**  
*pp* G. P. *p*

8

**S1**  
\_\_\_\_\_ flat sharp E \_\_\_\_\_ sharp flat E E \_\_\_\_\_ sharp flat E \_\_\_\_\_ sharp flat E \_\_\_\_\_

**S2**  
*p legato*  
C \_\_\_\_\_ flat C C \_\_\_\_\_ flat sharp C flat

**A1**  
A sharp flat A A \_\_\_\_\_ flat sharp A flat sharp A \_\_\_\_\_

**A2**  
*p legato*  
F \_\_\_\_\_ sharp F F \_\_\_\_\_ sharp flat F \_\_\_\_\_

**PP**  
*p* (catch breath as needed)

14

S1  
— sharp flat E — flat sharp E — sharp flat E — sharp

S2  
sharp C — flat sharp C — sharp — flat C — sharp

A1  
— flat sharp A — sharp flat sharp —

A2  
— F — flat sharp — F — flat sharp —

PP  
*p* (*p*)

21

S1  
flat — E flat — E — G. P.

S2  
— C —

A1  
— A — sharp — A —

A2  
— F —

PP



Poco più vivo, ca 88

28 *with wonder* *p* *f* *G. P.* *mf* *fp* *G. P.*

S1 *with wonder* *p* *f* *G. P.* *mf* *fp* *G. P.*

S2 *with wonder* *p* *f* *G. P.* *mf* *fp* *G. P.*

A1 *p with wonder* *f* *mp* *mfp*

A2 *p with wonder* *f* *mp* *mfp*

F (f) F (f) G (f) E (f)

Boy Does Fine Boy Does Ev-'ry Good Ev-'ry

Allegro = 144

34 *mf*

S *mf*

A *mf*

Do Fine, Do Good, Do Fine, Does Fine, Fine Boys Do Good, Fine

Boys Boys Good Boys Ev-'ry Boy Ev-'ry Boy Does!

40

S

A

Boys All Boys Do Fine, Fine Boys All Boys Do Fine, Do Fine, *più f*

Good Boys Boys Do Fine, Ev-'ry Boy Good Boys Good Boys All Boys Do Fine, Ev-'ry

46 *più f*

S

A

Fine, Do Fine, Fine, Does Fine,

Do-Good Boy's Good Boys Ev-'ry Do-Good Boy's Ev-'ry Dog-Gone Boy Ev-'ry

8 **50**

*f* *ff* *f cresc.*

S Fine Boys Do Fine, Dog-Gone Boy, F-ing Boy, All Boys, Boys Boys

*f* *ff* *f cresc.*

A Boy Dog-Gone Boys Ev'-ry Boy Dog-Gone Boy All Boys, Boys Boys

**55**

*f subito* *ff*

S Boys Boys Boys Boys Boys Boys Boys! God Dam-mit!\* F\_

*p nasal, sarcastic* *f subito* *ff*

A Boys Boys Boys Boys Boys Boys Boys! Boys Do Good, God Dam-mit!\* F\_

**Risoluto** ♩ = 126

**60**

G. P. *ff* *mf*

S — that! Girls! Girls! Fine Girls Do Fine, Fine Girls

*ff*

A — that! Girls! Girls! Good Girls

**67**

S Do Fine, Girls Do Fine, Does Fine, Do Fine! Does Fine,

*mf*

A Girls! Ev'ry Girl Bet-ter Do Ev'ry Girl

**72**

S Are Fine, Do Fine! Are Fine, Do Fine! *div.*

A Girls Girls Bet-ter Do Girls Girls Bet-ter Do Ev'-ry *div.*

\*Depending on singer and audience sensibilities, may be changed to “G. D. it,” “Gol-Dangit,” or the like.

76 *cresc.* *ff*

S1 Girls Are Fine! Girls Are Fine! Does Bet-ter!

S2 Does Fine! Does Fine! Does Bet-ter Does Bet-ter!

A1 Girl Bet-ter Do (Fine) Bet-ter Do (Fine) Does Bet-ter Does Bet-ter!

A2 Girl Ev'-ry Girl Ev'-ry Girl Does Bet-ter Does Bet-ter!

80 *mf* *f* *ff*

S Girls Do Bet-ter, Girl Does Bet-ter, Girls Do Bet-ter, Girl Does Bet-ter, Does Fine! E-ven Bett-ter,

A Ev'ry Girl Ev'-ry Girl Ev'-ry Girl Girls Do

85

S Ev'-ry-thing Bett-ter, Far Bett-ter, Girls Do Fine! Girls Are Fine!

A Girls Do Girls Do Ev' - ry Girl! Ev' - ry

88 *f cresc.* *ff* *broadening* *fff*

S Ev'ry Girl Bet-ter Do *ff* (unis.) Girls Are Bet-ter!

A Girl Bet-ter *ff* (unis.) Girls Are Bet-ter!

94 **G. P.** **Tempo I**

S1 *p neutral, demure* **pp**  
E \_\_\_\_\_ face...

S2 *p neutral, demure* **pp**  
C \_\_\_\_\_ face...

A1 *p neutral, demure* **pp**  
A \_\_\_\_\_ face...

A2 *p neutral, demure* **pp**  
F \_\_\_\_\_ face...

PP **Tempo I**  
**pp**

### III. Monarchs

**1 Strongly rhythmic and slightly deranged** ♩ = 108 *mp*

Soprano\* *mp* Wil - lie, Wil - lie,

Alto 1\* *p deciso* Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie,

Alto 2 *p deciso* Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie,

6 (div.) (unis.)

S Har - ry, Stee, Har - ry, Dick, John, Har - ry Three, one two three Neds, Rich - ard Two,

A1 Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee,

A2 Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee,

**11 poco riten. A Tempo** *mf*

S Har - rys Four, Five, Six... then who? Ed - wards Four, Five, Dick the Bad, Har - rys Sev'n, Eight,

A1 *mf* Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, who? Ed - wards Four, Five, Dick the Bad, Har - rys Sev'n, Eight,

A2 *mf* Wil - lie, Har - ry, who? Ed - wards Four, Five, Dick the Bad, Har - rys Sev'n, Eight,

\* in 3-part passages, adjust divisi as needed for balance

12 *solo (interrupting)* **Slightly slower and less strict** **Maestoso** *ca. 92*

*f* *brightly* *tutti* *solo 1* *f*

S *16* *f* *3*  
 Ned the... Hen-ry the Eighth? I know one a-bout his wives! Let's hear it! Di-

A Ned the... Let's hear it! Di-

*21* *solo 2* *mp* *solo 3* *p* *solo 1* *f* *solo 2* *mp* *tutti* *f* *ff* *accel...*

S vorced, Be-head-ed, Died, Di - vorced, Be - head-ed, Sur - vived!

A *solo 2* *mp* *solo 3* *p* *solo 1* *f* *solo 2* *mp* *tutti* *f* *ffp*  
 vorced, Be-head-ed, Died, Di - vorced, Be - head-ed, Sur - vived!—

**Tempo I, again strictly rhythmic**

*28* *mf*

S Ed - wards Four, Five, Dick the Bad, Har-rys twain, Ned

A1 *f* *mp*  
 Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie,

A2 *f* *mp*  
 Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie,

*33* **poco riten.**

S Six (the Lad), Ma-ry, Bes-sie, James the Vain, Char-lie, Char lie, James a - gain,

A1  
 Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har-ry, gain,

A2  
 Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har-ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har-ry, gain,

A Tempo ma poco meno mosso ♩ ca. 100

38 *mf*

S Will and Mar - y, An - na Glo - ria, Geor - ges four, Will Four, Vic - to - ria,

A Will and Mar - y, An - na Glo - ria, Geor - ges four, Will Four, Vic - to - ria,

42 *poco a poco più animato e cresc.* *f* *riten.* G.P.

S Ed - ward Sev - en, George and Ted, George the Sixth, Liz till she's... \*

A Ed - ward Sev - en, George and Ted, George the Sixth, Liz till she's... \*

47 **Tempo I** *p*

S1 Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee

S2 Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee

A1 *mp* Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry,

A2 *mp* Wil - lie, Har - ry,

50 *fp* *sfpp*

S Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee...

A Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee...

\* If this offends, "now Liz in-...." or "E-liz-a-..." may be substituted for the last three syllables.