

The Wise Daughter

for narrator, violin and piano
commissioned by Talespin

based on a Jewish folktale, retold by Emily Doolittle

Emily Doolittle

$\text{♩} = 72$, with rubato

narrator

espressivo, with klezmer-style ornamentation (vary notated ornaments and articulation as desired)

violin

piano

5

9

Once upon a time there were two friends, a tailor and an inkeeper. They spent as much time together as they could, drinking tea, playing backgammon,

p *mp* *p* *tr* *mf* *mp* *pp* *mf*

13 accel.

and above all, talking. They talked about everything they could think of: news, weather, politics, town gossip, until one day they talked themselves

p *mf* *p*

17 ♩ = approx. 112

into a silly dispute over who was cleverest. Rather than ruin their friendship by arguing over this matter, they decided to ask the king for his opinion.

f *mf*

23 ♩ = 104

They mounted their horses and set off on the path through the woods, around the lake, and across the meadow. It was a clear, sunny day.

light, detached

p

28

In the distance, they could see the palace shimmering. As they approached the palace, the king's trumpeters heralded their

mf *mp* *p*

33

arrival.
triumphal

The king welcomed them, and plied them with fine food

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

f *mp* sub. *p* sub. *f* *p*

39

and drink as they told him of their problem. "I know what to do!" Said the king. "I'll give you three riddles. Three ancient riddles, with as many answers

mp *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp*

mp *mp* *mf* *mp*

♩ = 80

more rhythmic than in the opening etc.

45

as there are people in the world. By your answers, I'll know who is cleverest! What is the fastest thing in the world? What is the fattest?

mf *mp* *mf* *mp*

mp *mf* *mp*

50

And what is the sweetest?" "I know, I know, I know!" cried the tailor. "My horse is surely the fastest. Did you see how quickly I got here?"

p *p* *p*

short, a little agitated

♩ = 112

56 (♩ = ♩)

a little slower, with rubato

My donkey must be the fattest: he eats apples all day until he can't walk.

And there can be nothing sweeter

sweetly

p

sweetly

mp *mf* *p* *f* *p*

62 (♩ = ♩)

than the honey from the hive at the edge of my garden."

These were good answers.

p *mp* *p*

8va

p *mp* *p*

67 ♩ = 76

The innkeeper knew they'd be hard to beat.

He asked for a day to think, and headed towards home, turning the questions over and over

a bit percussive

p

73

in his mind.

Usually he felt himself to be pretty smart, but the answers to these questions eluded him.

The more he thought about them,

p *mp* *p*

mp *p*

79

the less he felt he could answer them His thoughts became a tangled, jumbled mess. And by the time he

mp *p* *mf* (loco) *mp*

84

arrived at home, he was grumpy and agitated. When his daughter

f *p* *agitated* *f* *p*

89 $\text{♩} = 76$

learned what was troubling him, she laughed. "Why does it matter who is cleverest? You're friends! Not rivals!

faster, lighter *pizz.* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

95 *poco rit.*

But if you really want to impress the king, you can bring him these answers.

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *mf*

♩ = 132

100

The fastest thing in the world is surely thought: for in the blink of an eye you can find yourself anywhere

arco

p *pp* *p* *mp*

pp *ppp* *pp* *p*

104

your imagination will take you.

p *mf*

pp *mp*

108

molto rit.

♩ = 66

p *warmly*

pp *p* *mp*

113

The fattest thing is the earth itself, since it holds everything that is on it.

warmly

p *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *p*

p *mp* *mp*

beginning to slow

2/4

119 *molto ritardando* ♩ = approx. 30 ♩ = 120

for nothing feels better than to lay your head down
at the end of a long day's work." The inkeeper

127

was delighted with these answers. He put on his shoes, and ran as fast as he could to the palace.

136

He arrived out of breath and panting, but was able to blurt out his answers to the king.

bright, energetic

f

145

sub. *p*

sub. *p*

154 $\text{♩} = 84$

The king was well pleased with the answers, but sensed that the innkeeper could not have thought of them himself.

162

He asked, and learned that it was not the innkeeper, but his daughter, who had come up with them.

The king thought the daughter was someone he'd like to meet.

168

He wanted to be sure.

173 $\text{♩} = 120$

So he devised a test.

He handed the innkeeper a dozen fresh-laid eggs.

playful, light

179

"Tell your daughter to hatch these eggs for me. Bring them to me tomorrow, a dozen healthy chicks, running around and pecking at the ground."

p *pp, cresc.*

pp *p* *pp, cresc.*

186

Now the innkeeper knew there'd be trouble. Eggs hatch in three weeks, not overnight! But when he gave them to his daughter, she just laughed

191

and cooked up a big omelet for dinner. After dinner she gave the innkeeper a handful of millet seeds. "Take them to the king," she said.

f *mp* *f*

f *mp* *f*

detached but not too short

196

etc. "Tell him to till the soil, plant the seeds, water them, etc."

mp *p*

mf *mp* *p*

202

and harvest the grain in the morning. Everyone knows that one-day chicks will eat only one-day grain!"

207

The king had a good laugh when he heard the daughter's response.

213 $\text{♩} = 88$

Now he knew she was someone he'd like to meet. He sent an invitation for her to

8va loco

219 *poco rit.* $\text{♩} = 104$

come to the palace the next day. She was to come neither walking nor riding; neither

225

naked nor clothed; neither empty-handed nor bearing a gift. Again the innkeeper was worried.

mf *f* *p*

231

How could his daughter possibly do all these impossible things? But the daughter slept peacefully that night.

pp *p*

short, a little awkward
(not too short)

239

In the morning she went to the market. She bought herself a fish net, a billy goat, and a dove. She wrapped herself in the fish net,

pp *pp*

247

sat herself upon the goat, and headed off towards the palace, her feet dragging and bumping along the ground as she went.

mf *f* *mf* *f*

254

When she saw the king she gave him the dove, which flew immediately up into the sky.

p *f* *p*

p *sub. f* *sub. p*

261

mf

pp *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf*

267 $\text{♩} = 120 (\text{♩} = 180)$

rhythmic, lively The king was so amazed with the daughter's solution to his request that he invited her to move to the palace and help him rule over the land.

pp *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

pp *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

274

She accepted, and there was much merry-making. The pair became renowned for their kindness and wisdom:

f *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

f *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

281

people from all over the country came to them for advice.

mf *f*

288

The innkeeper and the tailor never did figure out

ff *ff* *mf*

295

which one of them was cleverer. But that is of no matter!

a little slower

p *f* *mf* *mp* *p*