

text :  
W. Shakespeare  
King Lear

# Lear Summaries

# The Worst and the Laughter

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Edgar's monologue, IV,1

The score is presented in a grid format, allowing for horizontal, diagonal, or vertical reading. Each cell contains a musical staff with lyrics and performance markings. The lyrics are: "Yet better thus, and known to be contemned than h h h still contemned h h h h and fla h(a) ttered. To be worst the low est and h h h most re jec ted th thing o of fo or tu ne Stands sti ill in es pe rance leaves h h h n no nnot in fear. change is h h h from the best; h the worst re turns h t to spoken lau ghter welcome, then, That th i em brace have blown on to the worst blasts. Thou art sub stantial h air The wretch Owes no thing". Performance instructions include "slow and loud", "fast, mezzo forte", "whispered", "soft, intense, dark", and "fast and light, soft".

The score can be read either horizontally, in diagonals, which follows the original text, or vertically, by columns. These are defined by their beginning position on the page. In the two last cases, the reading can be either from bottom to top, or from top to bottom. In any case, spaces DON'T signify silences. The general tendency, reading the score in diagonal, is to go from long groups, slow and loud in the high register, to short groups, in the low register, soft and fast. Of course, this tendency will change by different readings, but in any case a tendency, or tendencies should be hearable. Groups shouldn't be cut. The indications given on each first group is still valid for the other appearances of the same group. The voices can be the following : solo (soprano or mezzo), duet (by sharing columns), trio by doubling and sharing.