

WITCHES' HEX

FOR
SSA CHORUS AND PIANO

ANDREW STEFFEN
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

Perusal Only

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

The witches from *Macbeth* are discussed as being seers of the future or sisters of fate. Their role throughout the play is not to create the future but to tell prophecies that tempt Macbeth into fulfilling his own prophecy of becoming king.

The hex or spell in this setting is sinister and frenetic. The opening is mysterious and mystical, while the remainder of the piece is frenzied with incantations.

Singers are cautioned to sing lightly as to avoid weighty tone that constricts the tempo. Additionally, experimentation with the character of the witches will create a spellbinding performance in conjunction with consonant energy to create momentum until the very end when the spell is complete.

- Andrew Steffen

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Dedicated to the Oak Creek High School Choirs,
Sam Wulterkens and Gillian Pacetti, directors

Witches' Hex

William Shakespeare
from *Macbeth*

Andrew Steffen

Sorcerously ♩ = 84

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system includes Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto, and Piano. The second system includes Soprano 1 (S 1), Soprano 2 (S 2), Alto (A), and Piano (Pno.).

System 1:

- Soprano 1:** Rests.
- Soprano 2:** *p sinister* Thrice and once, the hedge - pig whin'd. —
- Alto:** *p sinister* Thrice the brind-ed cat hath mew'd. —
- Piano:** *p* Accompaniment.

System 2:

- S 1:** *p sinister* Har - pier cries: - 'tis time! 'tis time! *sub. mf* *f* *mf* (2+2+3+2) round a - bout the cal - dron go; —
- S 2:** *sub. mf* 'tis time! 'tis time! *f* *mf* Round a - bout the cal - dron go; —
- A:** *sub. mf* 'tis time! 'tis time! *f* *mf* Round a - bout the cal - dron go; —
- Pno.:** Accompaniment.

2
9

molto rit. **a tempo** *p* whispered

S 1
round a - bout the cal - dron, cal - dron cal - dron bub - ble. —

S 2
round a - bout the cal - dron, cal - dron *p* whispered
toil and trou - ble; —

A
round a - bout the cal - dron, cal - dron *fp* go; —

Pno.

12 **Wickedly Bewitching** ♩ = 144

S 1

S 2

A

Pno.

mp *leggiero*

16 *mp* consonant energy!

S 1 Days and nights has thir - ty - one —

S 2 *mp* consonant energy! *p*
Toad, that un - der cold — stone, — Toil and trou - ble,

A *mp* consonant energy! *p*
In the poi-sond' en - trails throw. — Toil and trou - ble,

Pno.

19 *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

S 1 Swel-ter'd ven-om sleep-ing got Boil thou first i' the charmed pot — Dou-ble, dou-ble toil and trou-ble;

S 2 *cresc. poco a poco* *f*
Swel-ter'd ven-om sleep-ing got Boil thou first i' the charmed pot — Dou-ble dou-ble toil and tou-ble;

A *cresc. poco a poco* *f*
Swel-ter'd ven-om sleep-ing got Boil thou first i' the charmed pot — Dou-ble, dou-ble toil and trou-ble;

Pno.

S 1
Fire burn, and cal-dron bub-ble. dou-ble toil and trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal-dron

S 2
Fire burn, and cal-dron bub-ble. dou-ble toil and trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal-dron

A
Fire burn, and cal-dron bub-ble. Dou-ble, toil and trou-ble. Fire burn, and cal-dron

Pno.

S 1
p bub-ble.

S 2
p bub-ble.

A
p bub-ble. *mp* Fil-let of a fen - ny snake,

Pno.
p *sub. mp*

32 *mp* *sub. f*

S 1 Eye of newt, and toe of frog; Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,

S 2 *mp* *sub. f*
In the cal-dron boil and bake; Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,

A *sub. f*
Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,

Pno. *sub. f*

35 *mp* *sub. f* *sub. mp* *cresc.*

S 1 Ad-der's fork, and blind-worm's sting, Liz-ard's leg, and ow-let's wing, For a charm of pow'r-ful trou-ble,

S 2 *mp* *sub. f* *sub. mp* *cresc.*
Ad-der's fork, and blind-worm's sting, Liz-ard's leg, and ow-let's wing, For a charm of pow'r-ful trou-ble,

A *mp* *sub. f* *sub. mp* *cresc.*
Ad-der's fork, and blind-worm's sting, Liz-ard's leg, and ow-let's wing, For a charm of pow'r-ful trou-ble,

Pno. *sub. f* *sub. mp* *cresc.*

6
38

S 1
Like a hell-broth boil and bub-ble. Dou-ble, dou-ble toil and trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal-dron

S 2
Like a hell-broth boil and bub-ble. Dou-ble, dou-ble toil and trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal-dron

A
Like a hell-broth boil and bub-ble. Dou-ble, dou-ble toil and trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal-dron

Pno.

43

S 1
bub-ble. Dou-ble toil and trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal-dron bub-ble.

S 2
bub-ble. Dou-ble, dou-ble toil and trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal-dron bub-ble.

A
bub-ble. dou-ble toil and trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal-dron bub-ble.

Pno.

48

S 1 *f* Scale of dra - gon; tooth of wolf;

S 2 *f* Scale of dra - gon; tooth of wolf;

A *f* Scale of dra - gon; tooth of wolf;

Pno. *f* *gva*

51 *sub. mp* Wit - ches' mum - my; maw and gulf Of the ra - vin'd salt - sea shark; Add there - to a tig - er's chau - dron,

S 2 *sub. mp* Wit - ches' mum - my; maw and gulf Of the ra - vin'd salt - sea shark; Add there - to a tig - er's chau - dron,

A *sub. mp* Wit - ches' mum - my; maw and gulf Of the ra - vin'd salt - sea shark; Add there - to a tig - er's chau - dron,

Pno. *sub. mp*

8 (3+3+3)

54

S 1 *ff*
For the in - gre - di - ants of our cal - dron. Dou - ble, dou - ble toil and trou - ble;

S 2 *ff*
For the in - gre - di - ants of our cal - dron. Dou - ble, dou - ble toil and trou - ble;

A *ff*
For the in - gre - di - ants of our cal - dron. Dou - ble dou - ble toil and trou - ble;

Pno. *ff*

58

S 1
Fire burn, and cal - dron bub - ble. Dou - ble, dou - ble toil and

S 2
Fire burn, and cal - dron bub - ble. Dou - ble Dou - ble toil and

A
Fire burn, and cal - dron bub - ble. Dou - ble, dou - ble toil and

Pno.

61 *sub. mp*

S 1 trou-ble. Fire burn, and cal - dron bub - ble.

S 2 *sub. mp* trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal - dron bub - ble.

A *mf* trou-ble; Fire burn, and cal - dron, Cool it with a ba - boon's blood. Dou - ble, dou - ble toil and

Pno.

65 *mf* *ff*

S 1 Dou - ble toil and trou - ble, dou - ble toil and trou - ble Then the charm is firm and good.

S 2 *mf* *ff* Dou - ble toil and trou - ble, dou - ble toil and trou - ble Then the charm is firm and good.

A *ff* trou - ble dou - ble toil and trou - ble Then the charm is firm and good.

Pno.