

The Echo Elf Answers

For mezzo-soprano and guitar

Kerry Andrew

*Commissioned by Arthur Keegan-Bole
and written for Lotte Betts-Dean and James Girling*

*First performed at Holy Trinity Church, Minchinton
on May 27th, 2022*

The Echo Elf Answers

How much shall I love her?
For life, or not long?
“Not long.”

Alas! When forget her?
In years, or by June?
“By June.”

And whom woo I after?
No one, or a throng?
“A throng.”

Of these shall I wed one
Long hence, or quite soon?
“Quite soon.”

And which will my bride be?
The right or the wrong?
“The wrong.”

And my remedy – what kind?
Wealth-wove, or earth-hewn?
“Earth-hewn.”

Thomas Hardy

The Echo Elf Answers

Thomas Hardy

Kerry Andrew

eerie

Mezzo-soprano

Guitar

mf quite slow

resonating strings

A $\text{J} = 84$

unvoiced, elfish!
mf > p

M-S.

rapid trem. on front of guitar with fingers

mf == p

Gtr.

mp lyrical

spoken, delicately but pointedly
mp

M-S.

sim. mf > p

How much?

Gtr.

B *mf lyrical*

M-S. shall I love her? For life, or not long? How

Gtr. *sim. mp — p*

15 *closed, pulsing molto vib.*
M-S. much shall I love her? For life, or not long

Gtr. *vib.* ① ② *mf*

19 *icy, thin, elfish*
M-S. Not long. (unvoiced inbreath) ah spoken, as before Alas!

Gtr. *whistle** *art. harmonics* let ring* *gt. strings beyond neck*

*Artificial harmonics and whistle written at sounding pitch

C

M-S. 20 ***mf*** *lyrical*

When for - get her? In years, or by June? A -

The musical score consists of a single staff in 4/4 time. The key signature changes from G major (no sharps or flats) to F# major (one sharp) at the beginning of the vocal line. The vocal line starts with a rest, followed by eighth-note patterns: a pair of eighth notes, a sixteenth note followed by a eighth note, a seven-beat measure starting with a eighth note, another sixteenth note followed by a eighth note, a eighth note followed by a eighth note, a eighth note followed by a eighth note, and a eighth note followed by a eighth note. The lyrics "When for - get her? In years, or by June? A -" are placed below the staff. The vocal line ends with a eighth note followed by a eighth note.

When for - get her? In years, or by June? A -

guitar, finger-trem.

Musical score for guitar (Gtr.) in 4/4 time. The first measure starts with a rest followed by a 7/8 time signature. The second measure begins with a 4/4 time signature. Measure 11 ends with a fermata over the 7/8 section. Measure 12 begins with a 4/4 time signature and ends with a 3/4 time signature. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *as before*. Fingerings are indicated above the notes.

las! _____ When for - get her? In years, _____ or by Ju - ne? _____

Musical score for guitar (Gtr.) in 4/4 time. The score consists of five measures. Measure 1: Treble clef, key signature of one flat. Measures 2-4: Key signature changes to 7 (two sharps), 4 (one sharp), and 4 (one sharp). Measure 5: Key signature changes to 2 (no sharps or flats). Measure 5 includes dynamics: *vib.*, *sim.* (with circled ①), and *mf* (with circled ②).

icy, thin, elfish

1

By

June.

*(unvoiced
inbreath)*

*spoken,
as before*

ah

And whom -

sim

whistle

二

gt. strings
beyond neck

D

29 *mf lyrical*

M-S. woo I af - ter? No one, or a throng? And whom woo I

Gtr. guitar, finger-trem.

mp > p

mp

34

M-S. af - ter? No - one, or a thro - ng?

Gtr. *vib.*

① *②*

mf

icy, thin, elfish

37 *p*

M-S. A throng. ah Of these -

*spoken,
as before*

Gtr. *whistle*

sim. *p*

p

38 **E** *mf lyrical*

M-S. shall I wed one Long hence, or quite soon? Of

Gtr. *guitar, finger-trem.*
mp $\overbrace{\quad}$ *p*

42

M-S. these shall I wed one Long hence, Or quite soon?

Gtr. *vib.*
mf $\overbrace{\quad}$ $\overbrace{\quad}$

icy, thin, elfish

46 *p*

M-S. Quite soon. ah And which -

Gtr. *whistle* *p*

47 **F** *mf lyrical*

M-S. shall my bride_ be? The right or the wrong? And

Gtr. *[guitar, finger-trem.]*
mp *p*

51

M-S. which will my bride_ be? The right or the wro - ng?

Gtr. *vib.*
mf

55 *icy, thin, elfish*

M-S. *p* The wrong. ah And my remedy - *spoken, with more urgency*

Gtr. *whistle*

p

* = optional higher part

G*pushing on, more urgent, can be freer**unvoiced, elfish*

56 *mf* > *p* *mf*

M-S. what kind? Wealth - wove or earth - hewn? And my remedy -

spoken

guitar, finger-trem.

Gtr. *mf* > *p*

p

60 *sim.* *mf* > *p* *mf*

M-S. ||: ch-k-ch-k :|| what kind? _____ Wealth - wove, _____ or earth -

Gtr. *mf* > *p*

p

63

M-S. hew - - - n? waiting icy

Earth

H*a tempo**-- a little warmer, more lyrical, but still something of the elf!*

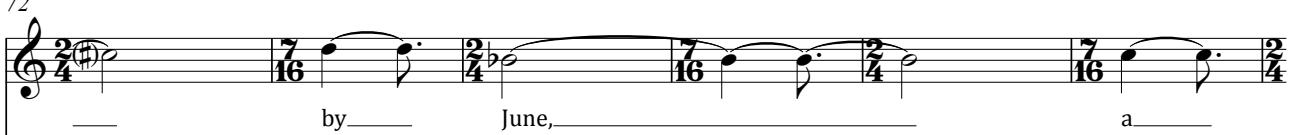
66 *mf*

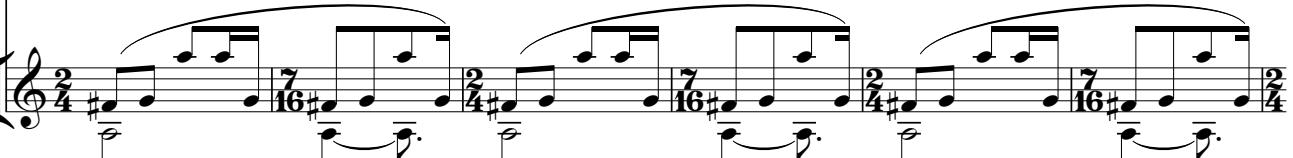
M-S. hewn, _____ not _____ long _____

Gtr. *a tempo*

mp rolling

72

M-S. 

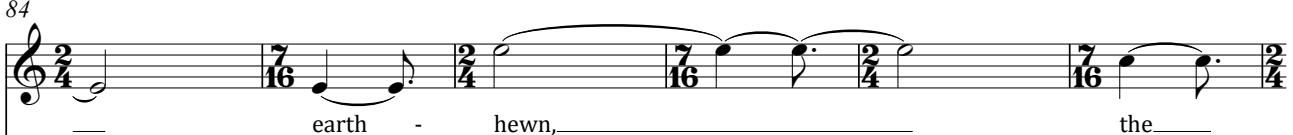
Gtr. 

78

M-S. 

Gtr. 

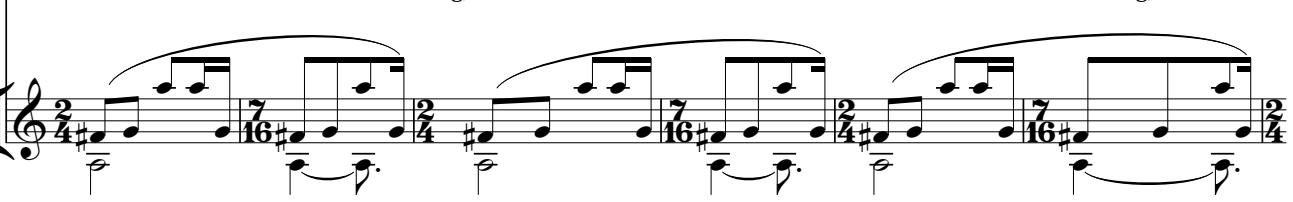
84

M-S. 

Gtr. 

90

M-S. 

Gtr. 

96

M-S. 

Gtr. 