

**Three Mnemonics for mixed chorus**  
by David Feurzeig

Texts traditional, adapted by the composer

Program note

In “Months,” a mundane calendar rhyme gets an incongruously expressive setting. “Music” imparts two lessons: one on the notes of the treble staff, the other on the sexism embedded in the innocuous mnemonic. As the lyrics digress from the traditional backronym “Every Good Boy Does Fine”, they continue the alphabetic scheme, so that the initial letter of each word is always the pitch being sung. “Monarchs” sets to music a schoolroom verse that rattles off the occupants of the English throne, interrupted by a terse couplet memorializing the fates of Henry VIII’s wives.

**I. Months**

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

**II. Music (First Lessons)**

F-A-C-E: “face”

Every Good Boy Does Fine...

*Boys Do Fine, Boys Do Good*

*Good Boys Do Fine, Every Boy Does Fine*

*Fine Boys, Dull Boys, Good-ol’ Boys, All Boys!*

*Boys Do Fine, All Boys Do Fine*

*Every Do-Good Boy’s Fine, Good Boys Do Fine, All Boys Do Fine*

*Every Do-Good Boy, Every Dog-Gone Boy*

*Always Boys! Boys! Boys!*

*...God Dammit: Girls!*

*Fine Girls*

*Girls Do Fine, Every Girl Does Fine*

*Girls Better Do Fine, Girls Are Fine!*

*Every Girl Does Better, Girls Do Even Better, Girls Do Everything Better*

*Every Girl Better Do Fine*

*Girls Are Better!*

...F-A-C-E: “face”

**III. 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 dead.

The Six Wives of Henry VIII:

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

# I. Months

Flowing, with great expression ♩ = 63

1

*f* *p legato*

Soprano  
Thir - ty days hath No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No -

Alto  
Thir - ty days hath No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber

Tenor  
Thir - ty days hath No - vem - ber

Bass  
Thir - ty days

Keyboard (for rehearsal)  
*f* *p*

keyboard reduction may be played lightly in performance

4

S  
vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No -

A  
No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber No - vem - ber

T  
hath No - vem - ber No -

B  
*mp*  
hath No - vem - ber No -

rit. -----

8

S  
vem-ber No-vem-ber No - vem-ber No-vem - ber No-vem - ber, No - vem-ber No-vem-ber,

A  
No-vem - ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber, No - vem-ber No-vem-ber No-vem-ber,

T  
*mf* *mp* *p*  
vem - ber No-vem - ber, No - vem-ber No-vem-ber,

B  
*mf* *mp*  
vem - ber

With oomph ♩ = 80

Marcato ♩ = 60

12 *ff* *p* but energetic *sfz*

S  
A - - - pril, Ju - ju - ju - ju - ju - ju - June June June and!

A  
*ff* *p* but energetic *sfz*  
- pril, A - pril, Ju - ju - ju - ju - June ju - ju - ju and!

T  
*ff* *p* but energetic *sfz*  
A - - - pril, Ju - ju - ju - ju - ju - June ju - ju - ju and!

B  
*ff* *mp* energetic  
A - - - pril, A - pril, Ju - ju - ju - ju - ju - June June

As at the start ♩ = 60

♩ = 66

16

S (d) *pp* Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem - - ber *p misterioso* Of

A (d) *pp* Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem - - ber

T (d) *pp* Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem-ber, Sep-tem - - ber

B *p* Sep-tem - ber

*pp* *pp* *p*

accel. . . . .

Flowing, ♩ = 80

21

S *cresc.* *f* twen - ty - eight there is, of twen - ty - eight there is but one!\_\_\_\_\_

A *p misterioso cresc.* *f* *p* Of twen - ty - eight there is, there is but one! All the

T *p misterioso cresc.* *f* *ad lib.* *p* Of twen - ty - eight there is but one, there is but but one!\_\_\_\_\_

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

*cresc.* *f* *p* *p*

suddenly  
held back

Slow ♩ = 58

27 *p* all the rest *mf* *p*

S all the rest, all the rem-nant, all the rem-nant thir - ty, thir - ty - one. (nə)

A rest, all the rem-nant all the rem-nant thir - ty - one - one. (nə)

T *tutti* *p* *mf* *p*  
all the rem-nant thir - ty - one - ty

B *p* *mf* *p*  
all the rem-nant thir - ty - one thir-

## II. Music (or First Lessons)

Simply  $\text{ca. } 72$

Soprano *p* *legato* *G.P.*  
 E face... face... E flat E flat E flat sharp E

Alto *p* *legato*  
 F A face... face... A sharp A sharp A sharp

Tenor

Bass

pitch pipes *pp* *G.P.*

9

S *poco riten.* *A tempo*  
 sharp flat E E sharp flat E flat sharp E sharp flat E flat sharp E

A *p legato*  
 flat A A flat sharp A flat sharp A flat sharp C

T *p legato*  
 C flat C C flat sharp C flat sharp C flat

B *p legato*  
 F sharp F F sharp flat F F

18

S *poco riten.* *G.P.*  
 sharp flat E sharp flat E flat E

A sharp flat C sharp C

T sharp A sharp flat sharp A sharp A

B flat sharp F flat sharp F

**Moving** ♩ ca 80 **Faster** ♩ ca 96 **Fast** ♩ = 160

*p marcato* *f* *mf* *mf*

S 26 *p marcato* *f* *mf* *mf*

A *p marcato* *f* *mf* *mf*

T 8 *p marcato* *f* *mf* *mf*

B *p marcato* *f* *mf* *mf*

G.P. G.P.

Ev' ry Good Boy Does Fine (nə)  
Ev'-ry Good Boy Done (nə) Boys Do Fine

Ev' ry Good Boy  
Ev'-ry Goon (nə)

Ev'-ry Good Boy

Ev'-ry

33

S Good Boys Do Fine Fine Boys Good ol' Boys Boys Do Fine, All Boys Do Fine, Ev'ry

A Boys Do Good Ev'ry Boy Does Fine Dull Boys All Boys! All Boys Do Fine,

T All Boys!

B All Boys!

40

S Do Good Boy's Fine Ev' ry Do Good Boy's Fine Ev' ry Do Good Boy Ev' ry Dog Gone Boy Always Boys

A Good Boys Do Fine, All Boys Do Fine, Ev' ry Dog Gone Boy Always Boys

T Dog Gone Boy Boys

B Boys

8 47 (if necessary, set a slightly slower tempo at m. 48 to facilitate the declamation in m. 51)

*mp cresc.* *ff* solo, slower, ad lib. *mp* nasal, sarcastic

S Boys! Boys Boys Boys Boys Boys Boy Boy bu-bu-bu-bu-Boys! Boys Do

A Boys! Boys Boys Boys Boys Boys Boy Boy bu-bu-Boys!

T Boys

53 *tutti f* **Resolved** ♩ = 152 *ff*

S Good... God Dam-mit! Eff (f) that! Girls! Girls! Fine Girls

A God Dam-mit! *ff* Eff (f) that! Girls! Girls! Girls Girls

T God Dam-mit! *f* Eff (f) that! Girls! Girls! Good Girls

B

Girls! Girls!

62 *poco accel.*

S Do Fine, Does Fine, Do Fine, Does Fine, Are Fine, Do Fine! Are Fine,

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

T Ev'ry Girl Ev'ry Girl Ev'ry Girl Ev'ry

B All Girls All Girls

69 *ff*

S Do Fine! Girls Are Fine! Girls Are Fine! Does Bet-ter, Does Bet-ter!

A Bet-ter Do Ev'ry Girl Bet-ter Do Bet-ter Do *ff* Does Bet-ter, Does Bet-ter!

T Girl Ev'ry Girl Ev'ry Girl Fine! Ev'ry Girl Fine! *ff* Does Bet-ter Does Bet-ter!

B Ev'ry Girl All Girls Do Ev'ry Girl Does *ff* Ev'ry Girl Does Bet-ter Does Bet-ter!



74  $\text{♩} = 84$  *mf* **più accel.** *cresc.*  $\text{♩} = 90$  *f*

S Girls Do Bet-ter, Does Bet-ter, Girls Do Bet-ter, Does Bet-ter, Does Fine! E-ven Bet-ter Ev'-ry-thing Bet-ter

A *mf* *cresc.* *f*  
Ev'ry Girl Ev'ry Girl Ev'ry Girl Ev'ry Girl Girls Do Girls Do

T Girls

80 *rit.* *f* *ff* **Tempo II**  $\text{♩} = 72$  *fff*

S Far Bet-ter, Girls Are Fine! Ev'-ry Girl Bet-ter Do Fine! Girls Are Bet-ter!...

A *mf* *cresc.* *div.* *ff* *fff*  
Girls Do Ev'-ry Girl! Ev'-ry Girl Girls Are Bet-ter!...

T *mf* *fff*  
Girls E G B Girls Are Bet-ter!...

B *mf* *fff*  
Girls E Girls Are Bet-ter!...

86 **Tempo I**  $\text{♩} = 69$  *p* *p demure* *pp*

S *p* *p demure* *pp*  
innocently, hands clasped like angelic choristers C face...

A *p* *p demure* *pp*  
F A face...

T *p*

B *p*

pipes *pp*

## III. Monarchs

**1** Rhythmic and energetic, slightly manic ♩ = 116

*mp* *marcato*

Sopr. Wil - lie, Wil - lie Har - ry, Stee, Har - ry, Dick, John,

Alto *mp* *marcato*

Wil - lie, Wil - lie Har - ry, Stee, Har - ry, Dick, John,

Tenor *p marcato*

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

Bass *p marcato*

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

*p marcato*

keyboard reduction may be played lightly in performance, except for solo passages

**8** one, two, three *poco riten.* **A Tempo**

S Har - ry Three, one three Neds Rich - ard Two, Har - rys Four, Five, Six... then who?

A Har - ry Three One, two, three Neds Rich - ard Two, Har - rys Four, Five, Six... then who?

T Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, who? Edwards Four, Five,

B Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har - ry, who? Edwards Four, Five,

*mf*

14

*mf* *f* (solo interrupting) *brightly* *tutti f*

S Har-rys Sev'n, Eight, Ned the... Hen-ry the Eighth? I know one about his wives! Let's

A Sev'n, Eight, Ned the... Let's

T Dick the Bad, Har-rys Sev'n, Eight, Ned the... Let's

B Dick the Bad, Har-rys Sev'n, Eight, Ned the... Let's

22

*solo f* *trumpet-like, slightly nasal* *f* *tutti mf* *broadly f*

S hear it! Divorced Di - vorced Sur - vived!

A hear it! Divorced Di - vorced Sur - vived!

T hear it! Be - head-ed Be - head-ed ah

B hear it! Be - head-ed Died. Be - head-ed ah

*solo mf deliberately* *p* *mf deliberately* *tutti p molto*

*soli* *deliberately mf* *p* *f* *deliberately mf* *tutti mf* *p*

30 **A Tempo**

*mf*

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

*f* *mf*

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

*f* *mp*

T Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil - lie,

*f* *mp*

B Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Har - ry, Stee, Wil - lie,

*tutti* *f* *dim.* *mp*

37 *riten.* **A Tempo**

*mf*

S Six (the Lad), Ma - ry, Bes - sie James the Vain, Charlie, Charlie James a - gain, Will and Mary, An na Gloria

*mf*

A Six (the Lad), Ma - ry, Bes - sie James the Vain, Charlie, Charlie James a - gain, Will and Mary, An na Gloria

T Har ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Wil lie, Har ry, Stee, Wil - lie, Willie, Har ry, gain,

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

*mf*

soprano, alto: take lower pitches only as needed

44

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

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

T *mf* Geor-ges four, Will Four, Vic-to-ria, Ed-ward Sev-en, George and Ted, George the Sixth, Liz till she's... \* G.P.

B *mf* Geor-ges four, Will Four, Vic-to-ria, Ed-ward Sev-en, George and Ted, George the Sixth, Liz till she's... \* G.P.

\* Alternatively, the last three syllables above may be sung "now Liz in-..." or "E-liz-a-..."

51

S *p* Wil-lie, Wil-lie, Har-ry, *sfz* Stee Stee

A *p* Wil-lie, Har-ry *sfzmp* Wil-lie, Wil-lie, Har-ry, Stee

T *sfzmp* Wil-lie, Har-ry, *fmp* Wil-lie, Wil-lie, Har-ry, *div. fp* Stee

B *fmp* Wil-lie, Har-ry, *div. pp* (S)tee