

The Amorous Earthworm

Rilla Paterson

*Written and performed for the
Stanmore Choral Society AGM
13th July 1998*

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Comparison between scores

Revision 7 - RP final draft VcePno 20/6/20

The Amorous Earthworm

Lumbricus terrestris libidinosus

One night, a little earthworm arose from his bed,
 He wriggled up to the surface and popped out his head,
 Regarding the world with a coelomate* grin,
 And a wrinkle of skin where his eyes should have "bin",
 This grateful little earthworm, content and replete,
 Whose clever sort was never short of something to eat,
 Thus lifted his voice to the moon,
 With this quaint, annelidical tune:
 "How wonderful to be a worm!
 So deep is the heap where I wriggle and squirm;
 I'm living in clover, going over,
 And under, it's a wonderful life as a worm!"

"And yet, as an earthworm, not having a wife,
 It can be rather a BORING hermaphrodite life,
 To spend ev'ry day digesting your way
 Through various stages of putrid decay.
 O send a Lumbricata for me to entwine,
 With well-rounded segments and bristles divine!
 If someone were yearning for me,
 How pleasant my churning and worming would be..."

Although for my bachelorhood I'm renowned,
 There are times when Helminthian hormones abound,
 And O, what a difference a mistress would make
 To the icing upon my vermicular cake!"

(*pronounced see-loh-mate)

Just then, a vibration was felt at his feet,
Disturbing the soliloquy he sought to complete;
He asked of the welcome intrusion, with glee:
"Ah, can this be love, that's been waiting for me?
Yes, yes! Another earthworm, O won't you come in?
I can tell that your chemistry's in tune with my skin!
If you will agree to be mine,
We'll be O so excited, united in slime!"

The earthworm directly made plain her reply:
"O thank you, kind Sir, but your love I deny;
You see, what you need is a wife and a lover,
And you are at one end and I'm at the other...
We never can marry; we're one and the same;
Alone we must tarry; there's no one to blame,
So take my advice, and remain on the shelf,
For you can't spend your life making love to yourself."

Distraught, our little earthworm, much wounded inside,
Returned to his burrow to attend to his pride.
She trailed off behind him, prostrate with despair,
For try as they might, they could not be a pair.
The five double hearts pounding in his small breast
Gave him ten times more misery to feed his distress;
No more would he sing to the moon...
He couldn't - or wouldn't - remember the tune.

His grief was cut short for without more ado,
The spade from a gardener had chopped him in two!
"O compost!" he cried, in invertebrate fright...
Till he saw possibilities for nuptial delight!
"What luck! For we're now independent", THEY said;
"As Lumbrici Liberati we're free to be wed!
Forever our sorrow is gone,
Together we'll burrow as one single furrow -
How wonderful to be a worm!
So deep is the heap where WE wriggle and squirm;
We'll be living in clover, going over,
And under, it's a wonderful life,
For a worm and his WIFE!
It's a wonderful life as a worm!"

The Amorous Earthworm

Lumbricus terrestris libidinosus

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♩ = 150

Voice

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

One

10

Voice

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

night, a lit-tle earth-worm a - rose from his bed; He wrig-gled up to the sur - face and popped out his head, Re-

18

Voice

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

gard - ing the world with a coe-lom - ate* grin, and a wrin - kle of skin where his eyes should have "bin", This grate - ful lit-tle

*pronounced "see-loh-mate"

27

Voice

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

earth-worm, con - tent and re - plete, whose cle - ver sort was ne - ver short of some - thing to eat thus lift - ed his voice to the

36

Voice

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

moon, with this quaint, an - ne - lid - i - cal tune: "How won - der - ful to be - a worm, so deep is the

47

Voice

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

heap where I wrig - gle and squirm; I'm liv - ing in clo - ver go - ing ov - er and un - der, it's a won - der - ful life as a worm!"

©

57

Voice

"And yet, as an earth-worm, not hav ing_ a wife, it can be rath-er a BOR-ING herm

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

66

Voice

a - phro-dite life, To spend ev'-ry day di - gest-ing your way through var - i-ous sta-ges of pu-trid de - cay; O

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

76

Voice

send a Lum-bri-ca - ta for me to en- twine, with well-round - ed seg-ments and brist les_ di - vine! If

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

84

Voice

someone were yearn-ing for me, _____ how pleas-ant my churn-ing and worm-ing would be! Al - though for my

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

93

Voice

bach - e - lor - hood I'm renowned, there are times when Hel - minth - i - an hor-mones a-bound, And O, What a

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

101

Voice

diff-rence a mis-tress would make to the ic - ing up - on my verm - i - cu - lar cake!" Just

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

108 **A tempo**

Voice

then, a vib - ra - tion was felt at his feet, Dis - turb - ing the so - li - lo - quy he sought to com - plete; He

Piano

Rev7 - RP

Final draft

mf

A tempo

116 *tenuto*

Voice

asked of the wel - come in - tru - sion, with glee, "Ah, can this be love that's been wait - ing _____ for

Piano

Rev7 - RP

Final draft

tenuto

126 *♩=100* **A tempo**

Voice

me? _____ Yes, yes! A - no - ther earth - worm, O won't you come in? I can tell that your chem - is - try's in

Piano

Rev7 - RP

Final draft

A tempo

134 *rit*

Voice

tune with my skin! If you will a - gree to be mine, _____ We'll be O so ex - ci - ted, un - i - ted in slime!"

Piano

Rev7 - RP

Final draft

rit

144 *accel*

Voice

The earth - worm dir - ect - ly made plain her re - ply: "O thank you, kind Sir, but your love I de -

Piano

Rev7 - RP

Final draft

accel

Ped.

152 *rit*

Voice

ny; You see, what you need is a wife and a lo - ver, And you are at one end and I'm at the

Piano

Rev7 - RP

Final draft

rit

161 *accel* *rit*

Voice
oth-er! We nev-er can mar-ry,we're one and the same; A - lone we must tar-ry; there's no-one to blame, So take my ad-

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft
accel *rit*

171 *espress.*

Voice
vice, and re - main on the shelf, For you can't spend your life mak-ing love to your-self." Distrught, our lit-tle earth-worm,much wound-ed in-

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft
espress.

181

Voice
side, re-turned to his bur row to at-tend to his pride; She trailed off be - hind him, pros-trate with des-pair, For try as they

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

191

Voice
might, they could not be a pair. The five dou-blehearts pound-ing in his small breast gave him ten times more mis-er-y to

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

200

Voice
feed his dis - tress; No more would he sing to the moon; *p* He could-n't, or would-n't re -

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft
p

208 *mf*

Voice
mem-ber the tune. His grief was cut

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft
f *p* *mf*

221

Voice

short, for with - out more a - do, the spade from a gard-en-er had chopped him in two! "O com- post!" he cried, in in-

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

230

Voice

vert - e-brate fright! Till he saw pos-si - bi-li-ties for nup-tial de - light! "What luck, for we're now in-dep - en - dent," THEY said, "As

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

240

Voice

Lum-bri-ci li-be - ra - ti we're free to be wed! For - ev-er_ our sor row is gone!

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

249

Voice

ge ther we'll bur row as one sin-gle fur-row! How won - der - ful to be a worm, so deep is the

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

258

Voice

heap where WE wrig gle_ and squirm, We'll be liv ing_ in clo - ver go-ing ov - er and un - der, It's a

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

265

Voice

won-der - ful life, for a worm and his wife, It's a won-der - ful life as a worm!

Piano Rev7 - RP Final draft

(Optional: "and his wife" and remaining harmony sung by female singer)