

# Yomer Vokhets

*being a Yiddish version  
of Lewis Carroll's*

# Jabberwocky



*Translated by*  
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*And cunningly set to Music by*  
**DAVID MILLARD**

Leybl Karol (Lewis Carroll)  
Yidishe iberzetsung: Raphael Finkel

# Yomer Vokhets

*To the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir*

David Millard

*I. Introduction*

$\text{♩} = 80$

*p*      *mp*

6

11

Tenor solo

S'iz

17

bri - lik ge - ven, di shlikh - tin - ke to - ves ho - bn ge -

23

S'iz bri - lik ge - ven, di  
S'iz bri - lik ge - ven, di  
(Tutti)  
virt un ge - vi - mlt in vo - bn. S'iz bri - lik ge - ven,  
S'iz bri - lik ge - ven,

30

shlikh - tin-ke to - ves ho - bn ge - virt un ge - vi - mlt in vo - bn.  
 shlikh - tin-ke to - ves ho - bn ge - virt un ge - vi - mlt in vo - bn.  
 — di shlikh - tin-ke to - ves ge - virt un ge - vi - mlt in vo - bn.

37

Tenor solo  
 Gants mim - zish ge-

43

ven di bo - ro - go - ves, di mo - me - ret hot

49

Gants mim - zish ge - ven di bo - ro -

Gants mim - zish ge - ven di bo - ro -

(Tutti)

oys - ge - gro - bn. Gants mim - zish ge - ven di

Gants mim - zish ge - ven di

56

-go - ves, di mo - me - ret hot oys - ge - gro - bn.  
 -go - ves, di mo - me - ret hot oys - ge - gro - bn.  
 bo - ro - go - ves, di ret hot oys - ge - gro - bn.

62

Silence for most of the measure, then vocal entries at the end.

## II. Recitative

$\text{♩} = 84$

*f*

8 "Dokh hit zikh fa-rn Yo-mer-vokh! Tseyen vos zey kha-pn, vos zey kha-pn;

6 *mp* *p*

8 kre - ln - shpits! Fa - rn Yub - yub foy - gl hit zikh; vaykht fun

12 *sempre f*

8 froym di - kn Ban - der - shnits!"

## III. Ostinato\*

$\text{♩} = 112$

\* An ostinato is a musical figure (e.g. a bass line or a harmonic pattern) that repeats over and over and provides a foundation for variations. (The Pachelbel Canon is built over an ostinato). It comes from the same root as “obstinate”, and is the musical equivalent of a *nudnik*.

4

**f marcato**

Er nemt in hant dem vor-plen shverd, er nemt in hant dem

**f marcato**

Er nemt in hant dem vor-plen shverd, er nemt in hant dem

**f marcato**

Er nemt in hant dem vor-plen shverd, er

**f marcato**

Er nemt in hant dem vor-plen shverd, er

8

**f**

vor - plen shverd, dem soy - ne hot er lang ge - zukht, dem

**f**

vor - plen shverd, dem soy - ne hot er lang ge - zukht, dem

**f**

nemt in hant dem vor - plen shverd, dem soy - ne hot er

**f**

nemt in hant dem vor - plen shverd, dem soy - ne hot er

11

*mp dolce*

soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht.

Ge - rut a -

*mp dolce*

soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht.

Ge - rut a -

*mp dolce*

lang ge-zukht dem soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht.

Ge -

*mp dolce*

lang ge-zukht dem soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht.

Ge -

15

rum an eyts - tum - tum, ge - rut a - rum an

*p*

rum an eyts - tum - tum, ge - rut a - rum an

*p*

*p*

rut a - rum an eyts - tum - tum, ge - rut a -

*p*

*p*

rut a - rum an eyts - tum - tum, ge - rut a -

*p*

19

*f marcato*

eyts - tum - tum. Er

*f marcato*

eyts - tum - tum. Er

rum an eyts - tum - tum.

*f*

23

*mp*

nemt in hant dem vor - plen shverd, er nemt in hant dem

*mp*

nemt in hant dem vor - plen shverd, er nemt in hant dem

*f marcato*

*mp*

Er nemt in hant dem vor - plen shverd, er

*f marcato*

Er nemt in hant dem vor - plen shverd, er

26

vor-plen shverd, dem soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht, dem soy - ne hot er  
vor-plen shverd, dem soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht, dem soy - ne hot er  
nem in hant dem vor-plen shverd, dem soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht, dem  
nemt in hant dem vor-plen shverd, dem soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht, dem

30

lang ge- zukht. Ge - rut a - rum an  
lang ge- zukht. Ge - rut a - rum an  
soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht. Ge - rut a -  
soy - ne hot er lang ge- zukht. Ge - rut a -

34

eyts - tum - tum, far - trakht, far - trakht hot es ge - dukht.  
 eyts - tum - tum, far - trakht, far - trakht hot es ge - dukht.  
 rum an eyts - tum - tum, far - trakht, far - trakht hot  
 rum an eyts - tum - tum, far - trakht, far - trakht hot

38

es ge - dukht.  
 es ge - dukht.

41

*rit.*

 $\text{♩} = 88$ 

## IV. Rhapsodie

\* The middle notes in the right hand of the piano outline the opening of *Tum Balalyka*—“Shteyt a bokher un er trakht, trakht un trakht a gantse nakht”. This is either a clever allusion or a stupid musical pun.

8

*mp*

Beys shteyt er in ge - dan - ken oyf,

*mp*

Beys shteyt er in ge - dan - ken oyf,

*mp*

Beys shteyt er in ge - dan - ken oyf,

*mp*

Beys shteyt er in ge - dan - ken oyf,

15

*crescendo e accelerando*

*crescendo e accelerando*

*pp*

20

Der Yo - mer-  
*ff*

Der Yo - mer-  
*ff*

Der Yo - mer-  
*ff*

Der Yo - mer-

26

vokh, mit fay-er - oy- gn,\_\_\_ mit vi - fek kumt durkh tul-gi-kn vald..

vokh, mit fay-er - oy- gn,\_\_\_ mit vi - fek kumt durkh tul-gi-kn vald..

vokh, mit fay-er - oy- gn,\_\_\_ mit vi - fek kumt durkh tul-gi-kn vald..

vokh, mit fay-er - oy- gn,\_\_\_ mit vi - fek kumt durkh tul-gi-kn vald..

32

Der Yo - mer- vokh, mit fay - er - oy - gn, ge - bur - blt beys ge-

Der Yo - mer- vokh, mit fay - er - oy - gn, ge - bur - blt beys ge-

Der Yo - mer- vokh, mit fay - er - oy - gn, ge - bur - blt beys ge-

Der Yo - mer- vokh, mit fay - er - oy - gn, ge - bur - blt beys ge-

ff

38       $\text{♩} = 116$

floy - gn.

floy - gn.

floy - gn.

floy - gn.

ff

\* The bottom note is the lowest note on the piano keyboard (unless you have a Bösendorfer). It occurs twice previously in this piece. Tori Amos plays a Bösendorfer. Isn't that interesting?

42

Eyns, tsvey! eyns tsvey! Mit

Eyns, tsvey! eyns tsvey!\_

Eyns, tsvey! eyns tsvey! Mit

Eyns, tsvey! eyns tsvey!\_

45

vey, mit vey! Eyns, tsvey! eyns, tsvey! Mit

Mit vey, mit vey! Eyns, tsvey! eyns, tsvey!\_

vey, mit vey! Eyns, tsvey! eyns, tsvey! Mit

Mit vey, mit vey! Eyns, tsvey! eyns, tsvey!\_

47

vey, mit vey!  
Der vor - pler kling makht shno - ker - shnik.  
Mit vey, mit vey!  
Der vor - pler kling makht shno - ker - shnik.  
vey, mit vey!  
Der vor - pler kling makht shno - ker - shnik.  
Mit vey, mit vey!  
Der vor - pler kling makht shno - ker - shnik.

50 *solemnly* ***pp***      *poco acclerando*      *a tempo* ***f***

Er shekht im op, un mit zayn kop ge - lom -  
Er shekht im op, un mit zayn kop ge - lom -  
Er shekht im op, un mit zayn kop ge - lom -  
Er shekht im op, un mit zayn kop ge - lom -

*solemnly* ***p***      *poco acclerando*      *a tempo* ***mf***

54

- pik geyt tsu - rik.  
- pik geyt tsu - rik.  
- pik geyt tsu - rik.  
pik geyt tsu - rik.

 $\text{♩} = 92$ 

## V. Réjouissance

Tenor Solo

$\frac{6}{8}$  | - | - |  $\frac{9}{8}$  | - | - |

5

Ge - teyt hos-

8

tu dem Yo - mer - vokh? nem mikh a - rum, mayn bey - mish

11

kind, O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys! O yon - tev

14

groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys. Nem mikh a - rum, mayn bey - mish

Ge - teyt hot er dem Yo- mer-vokh!

Ge - teyt hot er dem Yo- mer-vokh!

Choir Tenors with Basses

Ge - teyt hot er dem Yo- mer-vokh!

18

kind,  
O yon - tev groys, kha -

O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys! O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys!

O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys! O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys!

O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys! O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys!

22

leyn, kha - loys.  
Nem mikh a - rum, mayn bey - mish

25

kind, O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys!

O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys! Er tshor - tlt

O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys! Er tshor - tlt

O yon - tev groys, kha - leyn, kha - loys! Er tshor - tlt

28

Kha - leyn, kha - loys,

un er zingt. Ge - zingt.

un er zingt, er tshor - tlt un zingt. Ge - zingt.

un er zingt, er tshor - tlt un zingt. Ge - zingt.

1.\*      2.

**Piano accompaniment details:**

- Measures 25-28: The bass line consists of sustained chords in the right hand and eighth-note patterns in the left hand.
- Measure 28: The bass line features eighth-note patterns in both hands.
- Rehearsal marks 1.\* and 2. appear above the vocal line in measure 28, indicating a repeat section.

\* This repeat may be omitted if desired.

## VI. Conclusion

$\text{♩} = 80$

**mp**

**p**

S'iz bri-lik ge - ven, di shlikh - tin-ke to - ves ho - bn ge -

S'iz bri-lik ge - ven, di shlikh - tin-ke to - ves ho - bn ge -

S'iz bri-lik ge - ven, di shlikh - tin-ke to - ves ge -

S'iz bri-lik ge - ven, di shlikh - tin - ke to - ves ge -

13

virt un ge - vi - mlt in vo - bn.  
virt un ge - vi - mlt in vo - bn.  
virt un ge - vi - mlt in vo - bn.  
virt un ge - vi - mlt in vo - bn.

20

Gants mim-zish ge - ven di bo - ro -  
Gants mim-zish ge - ven di bo - ro -  
Gants mim-zish ge - ven di  
Gants mim-zish ge - ven di

26

-go - ves, di mo - me - ret hot oys - ge - gro - bn.  
 -go - ves, di mo - me - ret hot oys - ge - gro - bn.  
 bo - ro - go - ves, di ret hot oys - ge - gro - bn.  
 bo - ro - go - ves, di ret hot oys - ge - gro - bn.

S'iz brilik geven, di shlikhtinke toves  
 hobn gevirt un gevimplt in vobn.  
 Gants mimzish geven di borogoves;  
 di mome-ret hot oysgegrobn.

“Dokh hit zikh farn Yomervokh!  
 Tseyn vos zey khapn; kreln-shpits!  
 Farn Yubyub foyg! hit zikh; vaykht  
 fun froymdikn Bandershnits.”

Er nemt in hant dem vorplen shverd.  
 Dem soyne hot er lang gezukht,  
 gerut arum an Eysts-tumtum,  
 fartrakht, hot es gedukht.

Beys shteyt er in gedanken oyf,  
 der Yomervokh, mit fayer-oyn,  
 mit vifek kumt durkh tulgikn vald,  
 geburblt beys gefloygn.

Eyns, tsvey! eyns tsvey! Mit vej, mit vej,  
 der vorpler kling makht shnoker-shnik.  
 Er shekht im op, un mit zayn kop  
 gelompik geyt tsurik.

“Geteyt hostu dem Yomervokh?  
 Nem mikh arum, mayn beynish kind.  
 O yontev groys! Khaleyn, khaloys!”  
 Er tshortlt un er zingt.

S'iz brilik geven, *etc.*

‘Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
 Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
 All mimsy were the borogoves,  
 And the mome raths outgrabe.

“Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
 The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!  
 Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
 The frumious Bandersnatch!”

He took his vorpal sword in hand:  
 Long time the manxome foe he sought—  
 So rested he by the Tumtum tree,  
 And stood awhile in thought.

And as in uffish thought he stood,  
 The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
 Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,  
 And burbled as it came!

One two! One two! And through and through  
 The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!  
 He left it dead, and with its head  
 He went galumphing back.

“And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?  
 Come to my arms, my beamish boy!  
 O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!”  
 He chortled in his joy.

‘Twas brillig, *etc.*