

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*

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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

Mezzo-soprano *erie*

knock front of guitar with knuckles

Guitar *mf* quite slow
resonating strings

3 **A** ♩ = 84

M.S. *unvoiced, elfish!*
mf > p

||: ch-k-ch-k :||
(‘i’ mouth shape)

Gtr. *mp* lyrical

rapid trem. on front of guitar with fingers

mf > p

7

M.S. *spoken, delicately but pointedly*
mp

||: ch-k-ch-k :|| How much?

Gtr. *sim. mf > p*

11 **B** *mf* lyrical

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

Gtr. *mp* *sim.* *mp* *p*

15 *closed, pulsing* *molto vib.*

M-S. much shall I love her? For life, or not lo - ng

Gtr. *mf* *vib.*

19 *icy, thin, elfish* *p* *(unvoiced inbreath)* *spoken, as before*

M-S. Not long. ah Alas!

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

*Artificial harmonics and whistle written at sounding pitch

C

20 *mf* lyrical

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

Gtr. *as before* *mp* *p* guitar, finger-trem.

24

M-S. las! When for - get her? In years, or by Ju - ne?

Gtr. *sim.* *vib.* *sim.* ① *mf* ②

28 *icy, thin, elfish* *p* (unvoiced inbreath) spoken, as before

M-S. By June. ah And whom -

Gtr. *sim.* *p* whistle *p* 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

34

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

Gtr. *vib.*
mf

37 *icy, thin, elfish*
p

M-S. *A throng. ah Of these -*

Gtr. *whistle*
p
sim.
p

spoken, as before

38 **E** *mf lyrical*

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

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

42

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

Gtr. *vib.* ① *mf* ②

icy, thin, elfish

46 *p* *spoken*

M-S. , Quite soon. ah And which -

Gtr. *p* whistle

47 **F** *mf* lyrical

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

Gtr. guitar, finger-trem.
mp \rightarrow *p*

51

M-S. which_____ will my bride_ be?_ The right_____ or the wro - ng?_____

Gtr. *mf* *vib.*

55 *icy, thin, elfish* *p* *spoken, with more urgency*

M-S. The wrong. ah And my remedy -

Gtr. *p* whistle

* = optional higher part

G pushing on, more urgent, can be freer

unvoiced, elfish

M.S. *mf* > *p* *mf* *spoken*

56 *mf* > *p* *mf* *spoken*

||: ch-k-ch-k: || what kind? Wealth - wove or earth - hewn? And my remedy -

Gtr. guitar, finger-trem. *mf* > *p* *p*

M.S. *sim.* *mf* > *p* *mf*

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

||: ch-k-ch-k: || what kind? Wealth - wove, or earth -

Gtr. *mf* > *p* *p*

M.S. *icy* *p*

63 *icy* *p*

hew - - - n? Earth - - -

(hewn)

waiting

H a tempo

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

M.S. *mf* *a tempo*

66 *mf* *a tempo*

hewn, not long,

Gtr. *mp* rolling

72

M.S. by June, a

Gtr.

78

M.S. throng, quite soon,

Gtr.

84

M.S. earth - hewn, the

Gtr.

90

M.S. wro - - ng, the wro - - ng,

Gtr. *p* *dim.*

96

M.S. the wro - ng *pp* *molto vib.*

Gtr. *pp* *ppp* *let ring*