

Courtship

Another little bit of Brethren: the Opera, sung to the tune “When darkly looms the day” from the Finale Section of Act I of Iolanthe.

The words are by Ian C. McKay, and a full vocal and instrumental score, and a MIDI file, can be downloaded from <http://www.discourses.org.uk>

Young Brother to young Sister, *sotto voce*, in
hallway of meeting room:

Oh let it not be known
We chatted on our own
Without a chaperone,
Or we'll be done!

Priest (eavesdropping):

I think I heard him own
He has a mobile phone
That rings a worldly tone,
And just for fun!

Chorus *sotto voce*:

We think we heard him own
He's very, very prone
To things we can't condone,
And just for fun!

Young Sister:

If you want to keep things right,
Then for tomorrow night
I'll get you an invite
Back to our home.

Priest:

I heard her say she might
Arrange to meet by night
When moonlight's not too bright
And go and roam!

Young Brother:

I think it would be nice
To ask the Priest's advice;
I've told him once or twice
We'd like to meet.

Priest: He said it would be nice

To try a bit of vice;
He's done it once or twice,
And in the street!

Young Sister:

The priest's a prude: he'll rant
And tell us that we can't
And then, of course, we shan't
Or we'll get hell!

[ominous, deep gong sound below stage]

Priest:

She says I screwed her Aunt!
Oh God, forgiveness grant!
I was so sure she can't
Or would not tell!

[gong]

How could she tell him so?
However did she know?
Her Aunt would never go
And tell her this!

[gong]

Chorus, *forte*, pointing at the Priest:

Oh, horror, shame and woe!
Oh Agent of the Foe!
[vibrato]
Oh, tremble as you go,
To the Abyss!

[gong]

Priest: But this promiscuous fling
Was actually a sting;
A cunning plan to bring
My foes to light!

Chorus:

All right, we understand,
It was an ambush planned
To make them show their hand
So that's all right.

Priest: I think you will agree

It was the way to see
Who is my enemy
And who my friend!

Chorus:

Of course we all agree,
You're pure as pure can be!
We're glad that we can see
A happy end!
A happy end!