

Text of
PRAGENSIA

PROLOGUE

Tutti

This fountain, begun in the Prague castle in 1554 - and completed in 1559.

Soprano solo

This fountain, begun in the Prague castle in 1554 - and completed in 1559;
The maker being Tomáš the gunsmith -

Bass duet

Myself Vavřinec Křička from Bitýška who alone the figures moulded and into form
definitive with Tomas Wolf casted.

Tutti as above

HOW FIRE BALLS ARE MADE

Tenor solo

Whoever so wishes to make fireballs for fields and towns -

Basses and soloist

Take balls of iron and around each wind six metal strips; resin and gunpowder
dissolve, to this add sulphur and saltpeter

Female voices

Sulphur and saltpeter

Tenor and others

And what you will - and see how thus it burns!

INTERLUDE

Tutti

In a cauldron this mixture repeat, all the while over ironballs you pour, and
each enclose in hemp, and on a wooden slab, the balls thus rolled and sulphur
sprinkled until each its form derives (sound of shooting).

Tenor alternating with the chorus

The sooner you may shoot, the better! And wherever you shall shoot . . .

All

Damage and fire shall you cause (sound of shooting).

HOW BELLS ARE MADE

Alto solo

Whosoever wishes to make bells, into moulds of wood or iron press clay and take
them to the firer.

Continues with male voices

On straw thus place the mould, and with a bludgeon the cover pierce, until the
wax by fire is melted, into the clay is drawn, once more to be fired.

INTERLUDE

Meanwhile the chorus sings

Give peace unto our days, for that which our lives most need is peace.

Soprano continues with the preparation

If so you wish between the bell covers molten liquid pour - Then in a cavity
upon crosses so fix the bells and immovably enclose them, engrave them. Into
ashes burn grapevines, and with this ash mix salt, vinegar, chalk and oxes bile.
If so you wish, add bones from a calf's head, burnt and ground.

INTERLUDE

Female voices

Into the oven with the bells must be, one pound of earth and seven pounds of copper.

Male voices

To perfect the substance add to ten pounds, three pounds of pewter.

Female voices

Once all is poured and cooled, so from the cavity withdraw, and pound the mould, thereby removing the encased bell.

Meanwhile male voices repeat

Give peace unto our days . . .

Female voices continue

Take out the bells and with sandstone so clean.

Alto solo

Thus finished, the bell is formed.

(this is repeated in Tutti and simultaneously the prayer for peace is sung)

THE STONE OF WISDOM

Baritone solo and basses

He, who the wisdom-stone possesses, is able to perceive the wisdom of the whole world, as reflected by a mirror. His power is thus enormous. All metals to gold can he change, and retain youth and health in all people.

Bass solo and chorus

In the beginning, the stone is as potent as poison, killing all. Its progression is akin to a spirit, strong, forceful and penetrating. At the end -

Chorus

The most perfect medicinal remedy.

Baritone solo and chorus

And here begins the composition of the stone. It comprises four substances - water, so named sage's mercury - earth, so called gold - fire, meaning sulphur - air, meaning ammonia. These four elements are one.

Tutti

Vitriol, saltpeter and salt of ammonia shall you distill in a glass. First gently, then the fire explodes, and finally, when nothing remains for distillation, burn it up. At the end, with a quick fire burn it up again - the ghosts shall pass through the smoke and remain in the glass (noise - INTERLUDE).

Bass - declaiming alternately with the chorus

Take up sixteen parts of mercury, two parts of sulphur, one or one-and-a-half parts of gold, mix all together in a stone vessel and grind for three hours. Put all in a glass, called Phiole. This glass has a long, thin neck, is rounded at the base; so let it stand three days and nights, the stone coagulates, absorbing the body, the soul and the spirit.

Female voices

The fire is stimulated by a white dress, with three strands of thread it burns but lightly and stays as a gleam of moonlight. The dress of the stone shall be made of four strips and from the beginning, as a red light burning in candles.

Male voices

And now stable is the wisdom-stone - created is the elixir, the living, lovely child.

Tutti

Sleep, death and anxiety, sleep sadness and poverty, sleep - all is attained what was lost.

More and more forbidding voices increase in volume

"Futility upon futility. Found what was lost, and the secret is obtained, great and complete."