## HE GOT DICTATORS

Soprano, Piano, and Bass Lyrics by Stevie Smith

Duration: circa 4 minutes

Lyrics from Stevie Smith's "Novel on Yellow Paper" Used by permission of Virago Press and the Stevie Smith Estate

Commissioned by The Bermuda Triangle



MARY JANE LEACH

Ariadne Press 93020

## **Vocal range:**



Now when a people has dictators, that is a symptom that they are running mad. They should then be watched. I think they should be watched very closely. And later they should be prevented. Now think it is not a nation but an individual, now see, this is like he had a disease.

Why see, what is the matter with that poor Mr. Brown that has been looking so funny, he certainly looks queer, he looks a sick man? Oh yes, where is that Mr. Brown that we don't see now, it is a long time, that was sick? Oh yes he was sick. Oh yes he got dictators, it turned out afterwards. That's what he got. Oh certainly he was bad, very phony very queer, but he got dictators like the doctor said. Ya, that's what he got, he been put away mister this long time now. Put away, locked up and prevented.

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The bass part should be plucked - with the image of a beating heart in mind, alternating between emulating a heartbeat and cardiac arrest, until m. 42.

The piano alternates between smooth and propulsive to martial.

Both the bass and piano parts mirror sickness musically when it is sung in the text.



He Got Dictators -2 -





He Got Dictators - 4 -

