

What do you see, butterfly?

Different Parts of the spectrum seen by different animals

*commissioned by
North Cambridge Family Opera
for the Cambridge Science Festival 2015*

music by Michael Ching
lyrics by Jennifer L. Knox

Two part
octave
ad lib

Deciso ♩=144

What do you see,

6

A Gently ♩=69

but-ter-fly? What do you see? My eyes can see more col - ors

mp legato

Ped. *

11

than all oth - er crea-tures. Stripes and spots on the wing of my

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

What do you see, butterfly?

15 B

sis - ters and my bro - thers. Glow like stained glass win - dows

15

Ped. * *Ped.* *

mf

20 *optional breath before "halos"*

ringed in ul - tra - vio - let ha - los. _____

20

3/4

C **Deciso** ♩=144

What do you see,

26

f

3/4

What do you see, butterfly?

D **Faster than before** $\text{♩}=80$
optional batty character voice

31

lit - tle bat? What do you see? Who said that

31

8va

mf

35

I am blind? Why that is quite a lie! My trus - ty

35

8va

39

divide Bzz

39

eyes, they gath - er light from night when there is none!

39

8va

mp

What do you see, butterfly?

43

Bzz Bzz Bzz Bzz

The mi - cro - scop - ic wings of gnats?

47

Bzz Bzz Bzz tutti

I swoop on their an - noy - ing swarms! Bzz

f



What do you see, butterfly?

(if possible, do with a breath IN)

F Deciso $\text{♩} = 144$

51

Bzz _____

Eeeee!

8va -----

optional comment:
"Mmmm... very tasty!" or
"Mmmm... delicious!" etc.

ff *f*

56

What do you see, cut-tle fish? What do you see?

56

G Much Slower $\text{♩} = 90$ with slow motion diction

61

My eyes see three six - ty de - grees of sea a -

mp legato

3 *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

ped. *ped.* *ped.*

64

round me. Though my skin twirls and swirls through the

64

67

po - lar - ized spec - trum like a twink - ling car - ni - val ride,

67

70

H

f My sal - ty

Mm Mm

70

f

73

world is veiled in grey Ah mm

77

I Deciso $\text{♩} = 144$

ah mm Ah

8^{va} 15^{ma}

freely

f

81

What do you see, kit-ty cat?

What do you see, butterfly?

J

Jaunty, playful $\text{♩} = 132$

86

What do you see? I laugh at

mf

89

you when you are stum - bling in the dark! Ow!

mocking

92

The dim - mest light still makes the night shine bright to

95 **K** **Faster** ♩=148

me! My eyes all black un -

98 *Grrrs pitched or not...
Up to you.*

der the couch... Grrrrrrrrrr! Grrrrrrrrrr! **f** Just

101 *Definitely pitched*

like a leo - pard rea - dy to pounce! Grrrrrrrrrr!

What do you see, butterfly?

104 *suddenly sweet*

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system is for a vocal line, starting at measure 104. It begins with a rest, followed by a series of notes: a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note B4. The notes are marked with a dynamic of *mp*. The lyrics 'Grrrrrrrrrr!' are written below the first measure, and 'Me-ow!' is written below the notes from G4 to C5. The second system is for a piano accompaniment, also starting at measure 104. The right hand plays a series of notes: a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note B4. The notes are marked with a dynamic of *mp*. The left hand plays a series of notes: a half note G3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, and a quarter note B2. The notes are marked with a dynamic of *f*. The score ends with a double bar line.

Grrrrrrrrrr! *mp* Me-ow!

mp *f*

Michael Ching is a composer and conductor. His most recent opera is SPEED DATING TONIGHT! His 2011 opera, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, opera a cappella has just been released on Albany Records. He is music director of Nickel City Opera in Buffalo, NY. Michael lives in Iowa and would enjoy hearing from you about this piece at MrBillow@juno.com

Jennifer L. Knox's new book of poems, Days of Shame and Failure, will be published by Bloof Books in fall of 2015. Her poems have appeared four times in the Best American Poetry series (1997, 2003, 2006, and 2011) as well as in such publications as The New York Times and The New Yorker. She currently teaches at Iowa State University.

Want to perform this somewhere not associated with the commission, North Cambridge Family Opera, or the Cambridge Science Festival?

Please contact Michael Ching at MrBillow@juno.com